

To: Thalia Hibbs
Cc: Council
From: Matthew Goudy, CAO
Date: November 8, 2019

Reference: 11/154/2019-223

RE: Barriers to Ride Sharing

Thank you for your request for information related to ride sharing services and if there are barriers to the operations of this type of service.

Taxi services are regulated by Bylaw 178 – The Taxi-Business Bylaw. This bylaw was created in 1993 and was last updated in 2003. The bylaw does not contemplate ride sharing services.

A new draft of a Taxi Bylaw is being created. Research has begun to look at various communities that have a ride sharing service. Most communities include this service within their Taxi Bylaw.

Lacombe does not appear to have consistent taxi service. Over the last year, Bylaw Enforcement Services have seen four taxi companies either start or renew their business license in 2019, however there appear to be only two companies left in service at the present time. A ride sharing business would be welcomed to carve a niche in Lacombe.

One of the goals of administration is to review any process that creates a barrier, is an encumbrance to navigate or has a considerable amount of “red tape” to complete a goal; and then make it more streamlined or easier. The Taxi-Business Bylaw is a prime example of a process that requires a review.

Currently the process to create a new taxi service or business in Lacombe is multi-layered. The business itself requires a business license, the Taxi Business owner requires a broker’s license, each vehicle must have a taxi license plate and each individual driver must have a taxi driver’s license. There are multiple forms, driver’s abstracts and mechanical checks that must be submitted for this process as well.

If a ride sharing company is interested in starting a business in Lacombe, the current Taxi Bylaw process would likely carry over to the start-up business, unless the Taxi Bylaw is reviewed and updated.

At a future Council Meeting, Administration will present the Taxi Bylaw with the inclusion of Ride Sharing regulation and recommendations to improve the licensing process.

We trust this letter satisfactorily addresses your questions.

Sincerely,



Matthew Goudy, P.Eng
Chief Administrative Officer

