

December 17, 2001

Report on Taxi Supply in the Lower Mainland

On March 5, 2001, the Commission published a "Notice to Industry" regarding the Commission's moratorium on applications for taxis in the Lower Mainland. This notice stated that over the next six months to a year, the Commission would be undertaking further consultations with industry, stakeholders, municipalities and other agencies to get a better understanding of perceptions about the supply of taxis in the lower mainland and to identify factors that influence the supply of taxis in this area.

To assist the Commission in this consultation process, the Commission engaged Bonnie Evans and John Webb to undertake a literature review, consult with key stakeholders and prepare a report for the Commission that summarizes the results of the consultations.

This report, *An Examination of the Taxi Supply in the Lower Mainland*, is now complete and is available on the Commission's website at: <http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/mcc/mcc.htm>. The Report provides an overview of the state of the industry and regulation; summarizes stakeholder observations, comments on regulation in other jurisdictions, enumerates factors affecting taxi supply in other jurisdictions and sets out options for regulating supply. The options were grouped into three categories: supply; criteria and boundaries.

The report noted that it is extremely difficult to know which, among the various options open to regulators of the taxi industry, will lead to a stable, efficient and quality service for the public. No two jurisdictions regulate or even define their taxi industry in quite the same way.

If there is any lesson to be learned from the experience of other jurisdictions, it is that no reform of the industry should be undertaken without careful assessment of local conditions, continued dialogue with stakeholders and ongoing assessment of the results.

NEXT STEPS

1. The MCC has shared this report with its Taxi Advisory Committee members, comprised of industry representatives, municipalities, consumer groups, public transportation providers, and other government agencies. The Commission will be arranging a further meeting with a sub-group of TAC members, with representation that mirrors the broader group, to review the options to identify solutions regarding the issue of taxi supply.
2. After these discussions are concluded, the Commission will make its decision with regard to the moratorium and the issue of taxi supply in the Lower Mainland. The decision will be published in the "Green Sheets".
3. The Commission welcomes written comments on this report. If you would like to provide a comment, please write or email the Commission at the following addresses:
Mailing Address: Motor Carrier Commission, PO BOX 9850 STN PROV GOVT, VICTORIA, BC V8W 9T5, Fax: 250-953-3788; Email: motorcarriercommission@gems8.gov.bc.ca.

Please provide any comments by **January 31, 2002**.

Short cut to the report: <http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/mcc/Studies.htm>