

MEMO / NOTE DE SERVICE

This memorandum responds to the Direction to Staff, given at the Special Joint Emergency Preparedness and Protective Services and Public Works and Infrastructure Committee meeting of May 15 and 16, to provide information on the relevant impacts of deferring the preliminary planning and research work for the Vehicle-for Hire By-law review until next Term of Council.

Staff assess that delaying the preliminary work for the Vehicle-For-Hire By-law review is necessary to provide staff capacity to undertake the development of a Vulnerable Social Infrastructure By-law by the end of Term, if directed by Council. Staff do not anticipate that the delay will have a significant impact on the overall review of the Vehicle-For-Hire By-law. The entire review of the Vehicle-for Hire By-law could be accommodated next Term, as described below.

Background:

The 2023 – 2026 By-law Review Work Plan was approved by Council on June 28, 2023 (ACS-2023-EPS-PPD-0001) and sets out the regulatory by-laws that will be reviewed or developed by City departments over this Term of Council. The approval of a work plan at the beginning of each Term of Council is a key requirement of the City's By-law Review Framework that was approved by Council in 2019, ensuring that the City's regulatory by-laws are reviewed by the appropriate department regularly and at a minimum every 10 years. The work plan also ensures that by-law reviews are prioritized based on Council input and that the work is planned strategically over the four-year term.

The By-law Review Work Plan for this Term of Council sets out 35 reviews and projects to be undertaken by the department having oversight of the by-law or matter in question. As noted in the June 2023 report, once Council approves the work plan any new requests for reviews may require a motion to remove or delay existing reviews to ensure sufficient staff capacity. Further information on the Work Plan and the status of the individual projects is available on the By-law Review Webpage.

Relevant Impacts:

As noted in the June 2023 report, the Vehicle-for-Hire By-law is due for a full review in 2026, namely 10 years following its enactment. Due to other reviews and projects prioritized on the work plan as well as the anticipated scope of this review, a full review of this by-law could not be accommodated during this Term. Rather, Council approved that staff undertake preliminary planning and research work in Q2 2025 to launch the beginning of the Vehicle for Hire By-law review, with the full review continuing into next Term of Council. The preliminary work was to include the identification of stakeholders as well as issues and areas for research and review, developing a consultation and engagement plan, and identifying the internal and external resources that may be required to carry out the full review.

Subsequent to Council approving the review of a Vulnerable Social Infrastructure By-law - in 2025-2026, the preliminary work on the Vehicle-For-Hire By-law would be delayed. Despite this, staff do not anticipate a significant impact on the overall review of the Vehicle-For-Hire By-law. The entire review of the Vehicle-for Hire By-law could be accommodated next Term. While the full scope of that work is not yet determined, staff anticipate that the review would take approximately 18 to 24 months. Preliminary work could begin as soon as Q3 2026 and could continue into the next Term on the assumption that Council will approve this review in next Term's work plan.

Next Steps:

Should Council approve the Vulnerable Social Infrastructure By-law review on May 28, staff will postpone the preliminary planning and research work for the Vehicle for Hire By-law to accommodate this work. Staff expect to be able to begin the preliminary planning and research work in Q3 2026 when the legislative agenda for this Term of Council is completed. Staff will also include the full Vehicle For Hire By-law Review on the 2027-2030 By-law Review Work Plan which will be brought forward for Council approval as soon as possible next Term.

Respectfully,

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cc:

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