

MEETING DATE: JUNE 22, 2005

SUBJECT: Contract Extension For Wheel-Trans Accessible Distance Based Taxi Service Providers

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Commission approve:

1. exercising the one (1) year option to extend the six accessible taxi service contracts for the existing six service providers from July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2006;
2. the resultant increase in the accessible taxi service contracts total upset limit amount by \$15,800,000 from \$45,564,800 to \$61,364,800 for the contract extension period to June 30, 2006 with the allocation of increased authorized funds to the six existing accessible taxi service contractors as outlined below:

Able Atlantic:	\$ 2,400,000 increase,	from \$ 7,270,800 to	\$ 9,670,800
Beeline Taxi:	\$ 2,200,000 increase,	from \$ 4,217,400 to	\$ 6,417,400
Celebrity Taxi:	\$ 3,250,000 increase,	from \$11,100,200 to	\$14,350,200
Royal Taxi:	\$ 3,250,000 increase,	from \$ 9,888,100 to	\$13,138,100
Scarborough City Cab:	\$ 2,100,000 increase,	from \$ 5,962,200 to	\$ 8,062,200
Toronto Para Transit:	\$ 2,600,000 increase,	from \$ 7,126,100 to	\$ 9,726,100

FUNDING

Sufficient funds for the accessible taxi service have been provided in the approved 2005 Wheel-Trans Operating Budget. Future funding for accessible taxi service will be provided in subsequent Wheel-Trans Operating Budgets.

DISCUSSION

In spring of 2000, an RFP was developed for the supply of licensed accessible taxi service for specialised transportation on behalf of Wheel-Trans Operations. These contracts were awarded to the following companies: Able Atlantic Taxi, Beeline Taxi, Dignity Transportation (Celebrity Taxi), Royal Taxi, Scarborough City Cab and Toronto Para Transit for a five year period commencing July 1, 2000 to June 30, 2005 in the total upset limit amount of \$22,667,000. An option for two, one year extensions under the same terms and conditions is available under these contracts.

At the May 14, 2003 Commission Meeting, authority was received to increase the total upset limit by \$22,897,800, for service up to June 30, 2005 bringing the total upset limit amount to \$45,564,800.

These recommendations will allow Wheel-Trans to continue providing 35% of total demand on accessible taxis for the balance of the contract period to June 30, 2006.

The approved 2005 Wheel-Trans Operating Budget provides for an increase in Accessible Taxi fleet from 79 to 89 vehicles to accommodate the increasing Wheel-Trans customer demand. Service providers within the taxi industry have expressed interest in supplying service on behalf of Wheel-Trans. Therefore, staff is preparing an RFP for the provision of up to ten (10) additional accessible taxis. If a successful contract is awarded, the funds will be re-allocated from the existing six (6) accessible taxi service providers to reflect the new service levels.

Wheel-Trans continue to be concerned about the quality of service provided by these accessible taxi service contractors. In order to address the fundamental issues, Wheel-Trans has been invited by the City of Toronto's Planning and Transportation Committee to join a working group with other members of the transportation industry including industry stakeholders and the Municipal Licensing and Standards (MLS) to study the issue of accessible transportation in the City of Toronto and the increased opportunity for on-demand service to persons with mobility restrictions. New standards for driver training and vehicle specifications which will raise the quality of accessible taxi service are being considered.

Any improvements will be included in the next Request for Proposals for the provision of accessible taxi service.

JUSTIFICATION

Accessible taxi based service is an integral part of the overall Wheel-Trans service plan, providing approximately 35% of all customer trips. While offering a lower cost alternative to buses during off-peak periods, accessible taxis also provide Wheel-Trans substantial service during the peak hours. The requests set forth in this report remain consistent with the 2005 Wheel-Trans Operating Budget and projected fleet requirements, and will provide sufficient service to the end of the extended contract period of June 30, 2006.

June 8, 2005
18-41-41
Attachments