SUBJECT: Re-establishment of the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee (PED09014)  
(City Wide)

RECOMMENDATION:

a) That five members of City Council be appointed to the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee.

b) That the Terms of Reference for the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee, attached as Appendix “A” to Report PED09014, be approved.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY:

On October 15, 2008, Council approved Item 19 of Economic Development and Planning Committee Report 08-019, which reads as follows:

19.  Re-Establishment of the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee

(a) That the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee be re-established to review the taxicab by-law provisions under current context, and to undertake a review of some of the emerging issues facing Hamilton’s taxicab industry;
(b) That staff be directed to prepare formal Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee, including membership composition and report back to the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

This report recommends membership composition and a formal Terms of Reference for the Sub-Committee.

**BACKGROUND:**

On July 10, 2001, City Council approved the formation of a Taxi Reform Sub-Committee to deal with issues relating to municipal amalgamation and proposed reforms to the taxi industry. The Taxi Reform Sub-Committee met eight times, including two public meetings, and at the direction of the Sub-Committee staff consulted with industry stakeholders on major amalgamation and reform issues.

As a result, a harmonized by-law was enacted which included a number of taxi reforms related to operating borders, owner operated taxis and leasing, taxi plate priority list, inactive taxi plates, customer service, quality of vehicles, driver training and safety and increased municipal enforcement.

Some of the recommendations related to cameras and Global Positioning System (GPS) devices in taxis, driver training and owner operated taxis and leasing were approved, but were not to come into effect until five years after the passing and enactment of the by-law on May 28, 2003. The delay was to allow the taxi industry adequate time to prepare financially and operationally. However, concerns from the industry were received when many of the by-law requirements came into effect on May 28, 2008. Previous Council decisions such as the requirement for cameras in taxis instead of shields are currently under review by the Economic Development and Planning Committee due to increased concerns about driver safety.

At its meeting of October 15, 2004, Council approved Item 20 of Committee of the Whole Report (Governance Review Task Force Report 03-003), which transferred the mandate of the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee to the Planning and Economic Development Committee. However, on October 15, 2008, Council approved the re-establishment of the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee to review previous decisions under current context, as well as new and emerging issues facing the taxi industry.

In addition to a general review of the 2003 Council approved taxi reforms it is proposed that the re-established Sub-Committee deal with current and emerging issues such as, but not limited to:

- assuming the Economic Development and Planning Committee’s review of taxi shields and the undertaking of “passenger” consultation;
- conducting a review of the Passenger Bill of Rights; and,
- pending Provincial regulations regarding Accessible Transportation Standards.
ANALYSIS/RATIONALE

As many new issues are currently facing the taxi industry, it is recommended that the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee be re-established to effectively address those issues under current conditions in addition to previous City Council decisions regarding the taxi industry.

ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES: n/a

FINANCIAL/STAFFING/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

The Legislative support and Operating Budget for this Sub-Committee will handled by the City Clerk.

POLICIES AFFECTING PROPOSAL:

City of Hamilton Licensing Code By-law 07-170.

CONSULTATION WITH RELEVANT DEPARTMENTS/AGENCIES:

The City Clerk was consulted with respect to Legislative support and Operating Budget for this Sub-Committee.

The City’s Taxi Advisory Committee supports the re-establishment of the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee to review the multitude of issues currently facing the taxi industry.

CITY STRATEGIC COMMITMENT:

By evaluating the “Triple Bottom Line”, (community, environment, economic implications) we can make choices that create value across all three bottom lines, moving us closer to our vision for a sustainable community, and Provincial interests.

Community Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

Municipal regulations are intended to ensure that taxi services are delivered in an equitable manner, coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

Environmental Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

Municipal regulations are intended to ensure that a sustainable taxi industry operates for the City as part of a comprehensive transportation service.

Economic Well-Being is enhanced. ☑ Yes ☐ No

The City’s economic development goals are enhanced through the delivery of effective business and taxi licensing programs.
Does the option you are recommending create value across all three bottom lines?  
☑ Yes  ☐ No

Do the options you are recommending make Hamilton a City of choice for high performance public servants?  
☐ Yes  ☑ No

MH/dt
Attach. (1)
Terms of Reference
Taxi Reform Sub-Committee

PURPOSE

1. To review the taxicab by-law provisions enacted by City Council in 2003 under current context, and to review current issues and emerging taxi industry trends and make recommendations to the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

MEMBERSHIP COMPOSITION

2. The Taxi Reform Sub-Committee shall be composed of three members of the Economic Development and Planning Committee.

SUPPORT SERVICES

3. The City Clerk shall provide for the administrative costs and legislative Support of operating the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee.

4. Technical support will be provided by staff of the Parking and By-Law Services Division, with advice by Legal Services staff as required.

MEETINGS AND AGENDA

5. The Taxi Reform Sub-Committee shall meet as necessary at the call of the Chair.

6. The meetings shall be open to the public, and shall be advertised one week in advance of a scheduled meeting.

7. The Taxi Reform Sub-Committee Chair shall propose the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee agenda. The Chair may grant requests for discussion of items not on the Agenda.

8. The Minutes of the Taxi Reform Sub-Committee meetings shall be prepared and distributed by the Legislative Assistant.

AMENDMENTS TO THE TERMS OF REFERENCE

9. Any amendment(s) to these Terms of Reference shall be forwarded to the Economic Development and Planning Committee for consideration.