

## INTEROFFICE MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeff Gushue, CAO

FROM: Natalie Smith, Director of Planning and Economic Development

SUBJECT: **Taxi Rates Increase Investigation Request**

DATE: January 25, 2022

**ORIGIN:**

At the December 09, 2021, meeting of Council, staff was directed to investigate a rate increase in the Taxi Bylaw. (Ref TOY-2021-12-9-007)

**RECOMMENDATION:**

Staff recommend no increase to the base taxi fare rate and recommend that incremental rates be added for each additional passenger, 12 years of age and older, in increments of \$0.50 per passenger.

**BACKGROUND/DISCUSSION:**

The last review of taxi rates was completed in June 2017 (Town of Yarmouth's Taxi Bylaw No.32). Taxi rates were increased to reflect the current economic conditions and length of time since the previous review of rates. The amendment saw the 06:00a.m. to 12:00 Midnight taxi rate increased by 23% from \$6.50 to \$8.00, and the 12:00 Midnight to 06:00a.m. taxi rate increase by 20% from \$7.50 to \$9.00

Table 1: Town of Yarmouth Taxi Rates comparison (Pre 2017 Amendment/Current)

	<b>Pre 2017 Amendment – Taxi Fare Rates*</b>	<b>Current Taxi Fare Rates (Approved June 2017) *</b>
06:00 a.m. to 12:00 Midnight	\$6.50 (HST included)	\$8.00 (HST included)
12:00 Midnight to 06:00 a.m.	\$7.50 (HST included)	\$9.00 (HST included)
Each Stop After the First Stop	\$1.00 per stop	\$1.00 per stop
Package Delivery	Regular fare plus \$2.00	Regular fare plus \$2.00
Cruising or waiting	\$45.00 per hour or \$0.75 each minute	\$45.00 per hour or \$0.75 each minute

‘\*’ No rates identified for multiple passengers

In this investigation to determine a rate increase, staff identified rates that are established in other Nova Scotia towns for comparative analysis. Staff identified the current taxi bylaw rates (2018-2020) used in the Town of Bridgewater, Town of Digby, Town of Truro, and Town of Antigonish (Table 2).

In Table 2, comparison of rates amongst these towns we have determined the following:

- Bridgewater, Digby, and Truro have the same fixed rate for 06:00am-12:00 midnight at \$8.00 per passenger (pax) as Yarmouth with Antigonish at \$7.00 for any time of day and Truro a base fee of \$3.10 plus \$2.50 per mile.
- Yarmouth's fixed rate for 12:00 midnight – 06:00am is the highest fixed rate in comparison to Bridgewater, Digby, and Antigonish.
- Bridgewater and Digby have increments in the fixed rate fees based on the number of passengers, the Town has one rate and does not identify incremental rate if more than additional passenger.
- Yarmouth's Taxi rates for other charges such as per stop and package delivery are comparable to the to other towns identified in table 2.

Table 2: Taxi Rates comparison Nova Scotia Town's (HST included in fares)

	Yarmouth (2017)	Bridgewater (2020)	Digby (2018)	Truro (2018)	Antigonish (2018)
06:00 a.m. to 12:00 Midnight	\$8.00	\$8.00: 1 pax \$8.50: 2 pax \$9.00: 3 pax \$9.50: 4 pax \$10.00: 5 pax Rate double for return trip.	\$8.00: 1-2 pax \$1.00 each over 2 pax to vehicle capacity	\$3.10 drop rate, plus \$2.50 per mile. At discretion of driver plus \$0.25 per additional pax	Flat rate \$7 maximum within town limits
12:00 Midnight to 06:00 a.m.	\$9.00	\$8.50: 1 pax \$10.00: 2 pax \$11.00: 3 pax \$12.00: 4 pax \$13.00: 5 pax Rate double return trip.		\$0.25 surcharge for all fares between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.	
Each Stop After the First Stop	\$1.00 per stop	\$1.50 per stop	\$1.00 per stop and \$2.00 per stop if off direct route.	\$1.00 per stop	
Package Delivery	Regular fare plus \$2.00	Regular fare plus \$2.50	Regular fare plus \$4.00	-	-
Cruising or waiting	\$45.00 per hour or \$0.75 each minute	\$30.00 per hour or \$0.50/minute	\$50.00 per hour	Waiting time 5 minutes grace to be allowed on pick-ups, and then \$0.10 for each 16.4 seconds or \$22.00 per hour	-
	Discounted fares for the conveyance of children to and from	Children under the age of twelve (12) years of age are not		Children under five years of age shall be carried free when	

	school may be made by private arrangement with the owner or driver of the licensed vehicles;	considered additional passengers.		accompanied by an adult	
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