



## Report to Council

Department: Office of the CAO  
Division: Legal and Legislative Services  
Date: November 3, 2025  
Prepared by: Cory Simard, Manager, Legal, Licensing & Enforcement  
Report Number: Legal and Legislative Services-2025-23  
Subject: Taxicab Licensing  
Number of Pages: 5 plus attachments

### Recommendation(s)

**That** Legal and Legislative Services Report 2025-23 entitled, “Taxicab Licensing” prepared by Cory Simard, Manager, Legal, Licensing & Enforcement dated November 3, 2025, be received; and

**That** By-Law 2486, being a By-Law to amend By-Law 1052 being a By-Law to provide for licensing, regulating and governing of taxicabs and taxicab drivers in the Town of Essex effective from December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026, be read for a first and second time and provisionally adopted on November 3, 2025.

### Purpose

The purpose of this report is to recommend an amendment to By-Law 1052 (the “**Current By-Law**”) to remove the licensing fees for taxicabs in their entirety on a 13-month trial period for the remainder of 2025, as well as 2026. It is also to provide Council with a summary of research related to the proposed amendments as well as the process for implementation of the proposed amendments.

## **Background and Discussion**

At its Regular Meeting on December 2, 2024, Council carried the following:

Moved by Mayor Bondy

Seconded by Councillor Allard

### **R24-12-550**

**That** Council direct Administration to investigate and propose options to waive taxicab licensing fees for the 2025 calendar year.

This concern stems from the discussion to increase the transportation options in the Town, based on a Police Service Board meeting that reported drinking and driving had increased. Following a meeting with MADD it was recommended to increase the transportation options in Town, specifically taxicabs, as rideshare companies like Uber and Lyft are not always accessible due to limited demand and availability.

The Town of Essex only had one (1) licensed taxicab registration for 2023 and 2024, and zero (0) licensed taxicab registrations for 2025.

### **Current By-Law**

The Current By-Law requires the annual payment of taxicab owner fees as well as individual driver fees under Schedule "1". The licensing fees are currently set at \$300 for the Taxicab Owner Licence and \$170 for the Taxicab Driver's Licence, with both fees requiring annual renewal at the same rate. The Current By-Law also has several requirements in place to create additional safety protocols for residents and visitors who utilize taxicab services. The Current By-Law was originally enacted to ensure public safety, ensure qualified drivers, and consumer protection.

## **Research and Explanation**

Section 156 of the *Municipal Act, 2001* provides the Town the authority to regulate taxicabs. The Town is also able to provide for a system of licences with respect to businesses under Section 151 of the *Municipal Act, 2001*.

The Current By-Law governs the licensing, regulation, and operation of taxicab and drivers, primarily to ensure public safety, health, and consumer protection. It mandates that both taxicab owners and drivers obtain valid taxicab licences from the Town to operate. We understand that the recurring licence fees may contribute to limited or no taxicab services in the Town and create an uneven competitive playing field with unregulated rideshare services.

In conducting research to better understand the scope of the taxicab industry, there has been significant change to the industry since the Current By-Law was enacted. The rideshare company market share has increased year-over-year throughout all of North America, and future forecasts anticipate that companies like Uber and Lyft will garner an even larger share of the market by 2028. This has led some local municipalities to de-regulate their taxicab licensing program as the benefits of licensing taxicabs have been outweighed by the costs associated. Both LaSalle and Tecumseh have repealed their taxicab licensing By-Law as their programs were not feasible nor beneficial in today's current landscape.

The proposed amendment of the Current By-Law would remove the fees associated with licensing taxicabs. This approach would allow for the Current By-Law to remain in place as it pertains to safety for residents and visitors, while removing the fees that taxicab owners and drivers pay.

## **Implementation in the Town of Essex**

Administration's recommendation is to amend the Current By-Law to remove the taxicab licensing fees for the remainder of 2025 and entirety of 2026. This creates the greatest balance between trying to increase the number of available taxicabs for Town residents and visitors, alongside providing safety and consumer protection for those who use taxicab services within

the Town. Administration recommends doing this on a 13-month trial basis from December 1, 2025 to December 31, 2026, after which time another review can be completed to investigate the results of removing licensing fees.

Advertisements would be posted to encourage licence applications to be submitted immediately and reviewed by administration as early as December 1, 2025.

To ensure clarity, administration recommends that Schedule “1” of By-Law 1052 be deleted in its entirety and be replaced with the following:

**SCHEDULE “1” TO BY-LAW NO. 1052 LICENSING FEES**

<b>1. LICENSE (NEW OR RENEWAL)</b>	<b>ANNUAL FEE<sup>1</sup></b>
a) Taxicab License	
i) New License Issued by Licensing Manager before July 31 <sup>st</sup> in any given year	\$0.00
ii) New License Issued by Licensing Manager after July 31 <sup>st</sup> in any given year	\$0.00
iii) Taxicab License Renewal	\$0.00
b) Taxicab Driver’s License	
i) New License Issued by Licensing Manager before September 30th in any given year	\$0.00
ii) New License Issued by Licensing Manager after September 30th in any given year	\$0.00
iii) Taxicab Driver’s License Renewal	\$0.00
 <b>2. TRANSFER OF LICENSE</b>	 <b>FEE<sup>1</sup></b>
a) Taxicab License	\$0.00
b) Taxicab Driver’s License	\$0.00
 <b>3. FILING AN APPEAL TO THE APPEAL TRIBUNAL</b>	 As per Fees and Charges By-Law
 <b>4. REPLACEMENT LICENSES</b>	
a) Taxicab Owner’s Plate	\$25.00

b) Taxicab Driver's License

\$20.00

<sup>1</sup> Annual and other fees are non-refundable

### **Financial Impact**

The exact financial impact of this report is dependent upon the number of taxicab licence applications received during this 13-month period of fees being waived. In the future, the fee will be analyzed should there be a sudden uptake in applications and the requirement for a more significant amount of administrative time. In the meantime, the cost of processing taxicab licence applications will be absorbed in the Operating Budget. However, there will likely be minimal financial impact as a result of this report, as there are currently no taxicab services licenced within the Town for the 2025 year, with only one licence being issued in 2023 and 2024.

### **Consultations**

Joe Malandrucolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk

Shelley Brown, Deputy Clerk

Teresa Piane, Legal Intern

## **Link to Strategic Priorities**

- Embrace asset management best practices to build, maintain, and continuously improve our municipally owned infrastructure.
- Leverage our Town's competitive advantages to promote jobs and economic investment.
- Take care of our natural environment and strengthen the sense of belonging to everyone who makes Essex "home".
- Deliver friendly customer service in an efficient, effective, and transparent manner while providing an exceptional working environment for our employees.
- Build corporate-level and community-level climate resilience through community engagement and partnership and corporate objectives.

## Report Approval Details

Document Title:	Taxicab Licensing - Legal and Legislative Services-2025-23.docx
Attachments:	- By-Law No. 1052 - Taxicab Licensing.doc - By-Law No. 2486 - Waive Taxicab Licensing Fees.pdf
Final Approval Date:	Oct 29, 2025

This report and all of its attachments were approved and signed as outlined below:



**Joseph Malandrucolo, Director, Legal and Legislative Services/Clerk - Oct 29, 2025 - 12:53 PM**



**Kate Giurissevich, Chief Administrative Officer - Oct 29, 2025 - 3:57 PM**