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Item No. 9.3.2

**Transportation Standing Committee
June 25, 2015**

TO: Chair and Members of the Transportation Standing Committee

Original Signed

SUBMITTED BY:

Patricia Gates, Chair, HRM Accessibility Advisory Committee

DATE: June 1, 2015

SUBJECT: Use of Accessible Taxi Service to Supplement Access-A-Bus Service

ORIGIN

Presentation made by Gerry Post at the April 20, 2015 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

Motion approved at the May 25, 2015 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

The main responsibility of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, according to its Terms of Reference, is to advise Halifax Regional Council, through the Transportation Standing Committee, on the impact of Municipal policies, programs and services on persons with disabilities.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report in regard to conducting an assessment to examine the use of an accessible taxi service to supplement the Access-A-Bus service.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION

At the April 20, 2015 meeting of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, Committee member Gerry Post made a presentation to the Committee with a proposal for an alternative business model for Halifax Transit Access-a-Bus service. A copy of Mr. Post's presentation is included as Attachment 1 to this report.

Mr. Post indicated that the disabled community needs 24/7 transport service that is safe, convenient, affordable, on demand, and flexible. In contrast, he indicated that the Access-a-Bus service requires registered users to provide 7 days' notice for bookings and is costly to the Municipality at approximately \$34 per trip (excluding capital costs). He suggested that the current service model is not sustainable with an aging population and growing demand (noting that there are already about 700 people on the Access-a-Bus waiting list). Mr. Post discussed the increase in the number of accessible taxis in Halifax over the last few years, and suggested a potential outsourcing partnership with the taxi industry to supplement or replace the current Access-a-Bus service model. Mr. Post indicated possible benefits of such a partnership, including:

- Potential cost savings
- 24/7 flexible, on-demand service
- Supports private sector
- Prepares for anticipated transformative technologies

The Committee discussed the presentation with Mr. Post, noting that consultation with regard to proposed changes to taxi and limousine regulation is currently underway, and this is a timely discussion.

The Committee approved a motion, which was clarified at their May 25, 2015 meeting, recommending that the Transportation Standing Committee request a staff report in regard to conducting an assessment to examine the use of an accessible taxi service to supplement the Access-A-Bus service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications of conducting an assessment (with internal or external resources) would be provided in the recommended staff report.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The Accessibility Advisory Committee (AAC) is comprised of eight volunteer citizen members and two members of Regional Council, plus staff liaison members from a number of HRM business units. Meetings are held monthly and are open to the public. Minutes, agendas, reports and other information on the AAC are posted on the HRM website.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

None identified.

ALTERNATIVES

None identified.

ATTACHMENTS

Attachment 1 Presentation by Gerry Post “Alternative Business Model for Halifax Transit Access-a-Bus”
from the April 20, 2015 Accessibility Advisory Committee meeting.

A copy of this report can be obtained online at <http://www.halifax.ca/council/agendasc/cagenda.html> then choose the appropriate meeting date, or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 490-4210, or Fax 490-4208.

Report Prepared by: Jennifer Weagle, Legislative Assistant, 902-490-6517



An Alternative Business Model for **HALIFAX TRANSIT** Access-a-Bus (AaB)

20 April 2015 gerrypost@gmail.com

What do we Need?

24/7 transport service that is....

- Safe, convenient and affordable
- On demand
- Flexible

Impossible?

We may be able to do it
For less

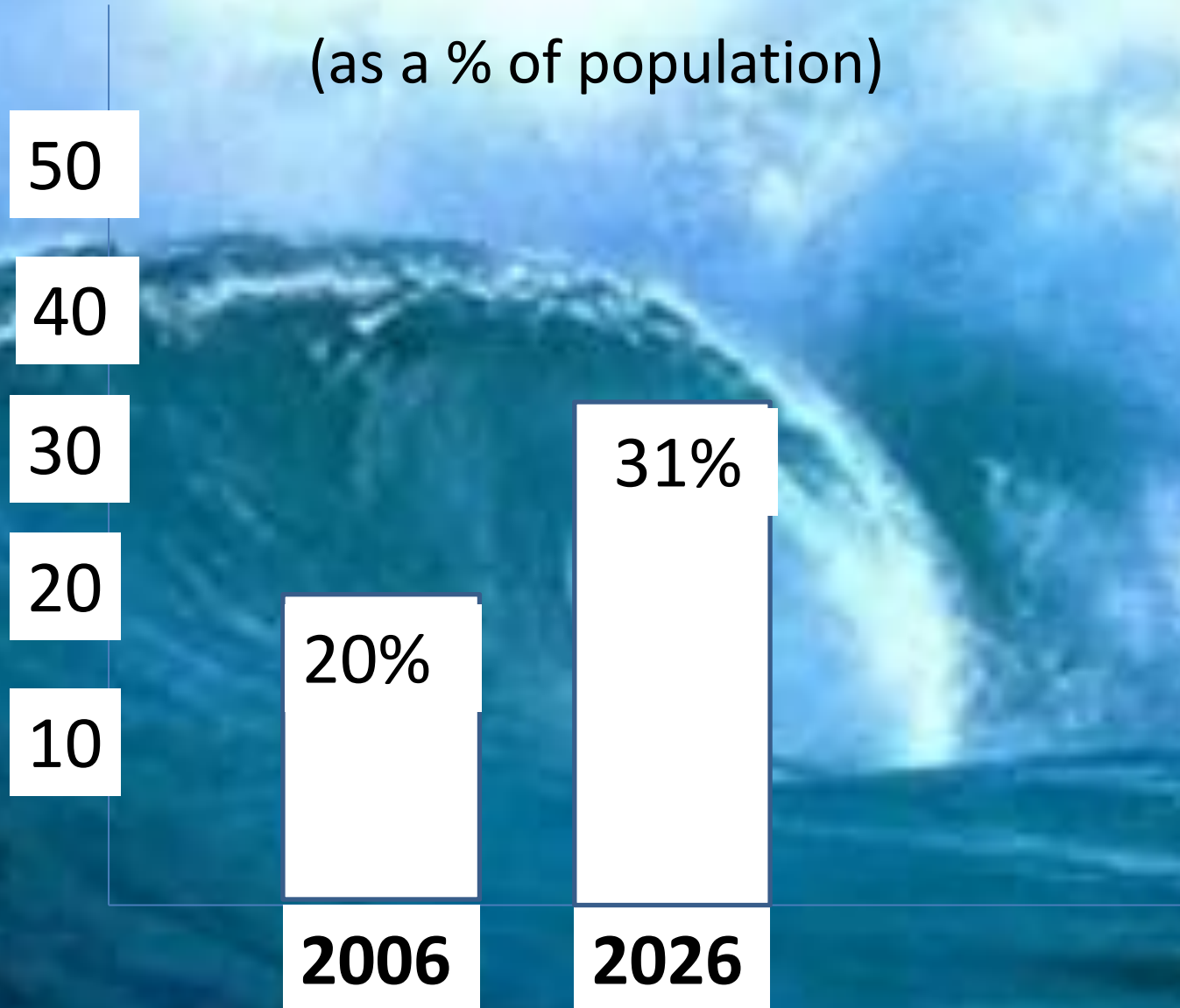


AaB Cost per Trip



Disabled Tsunami

(as a % of population)



**Disruptive
Technologies**

**New
Business
Models**



CONVERGENCE**E**

**Shared
Economy
Movement**

**Public
Awareness
Activism**



The Transformative Game Changer



Google



U B E R

Budget®

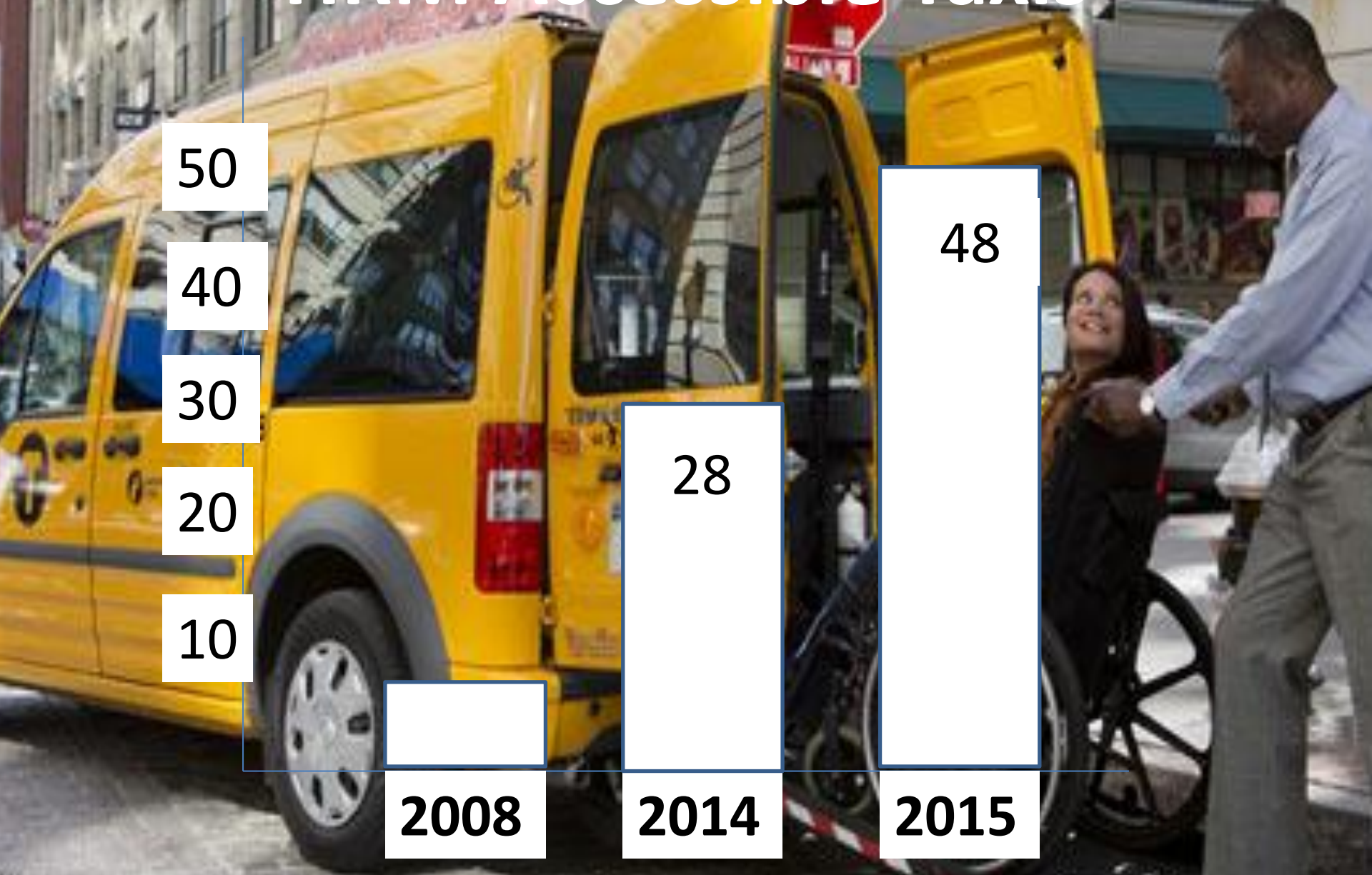


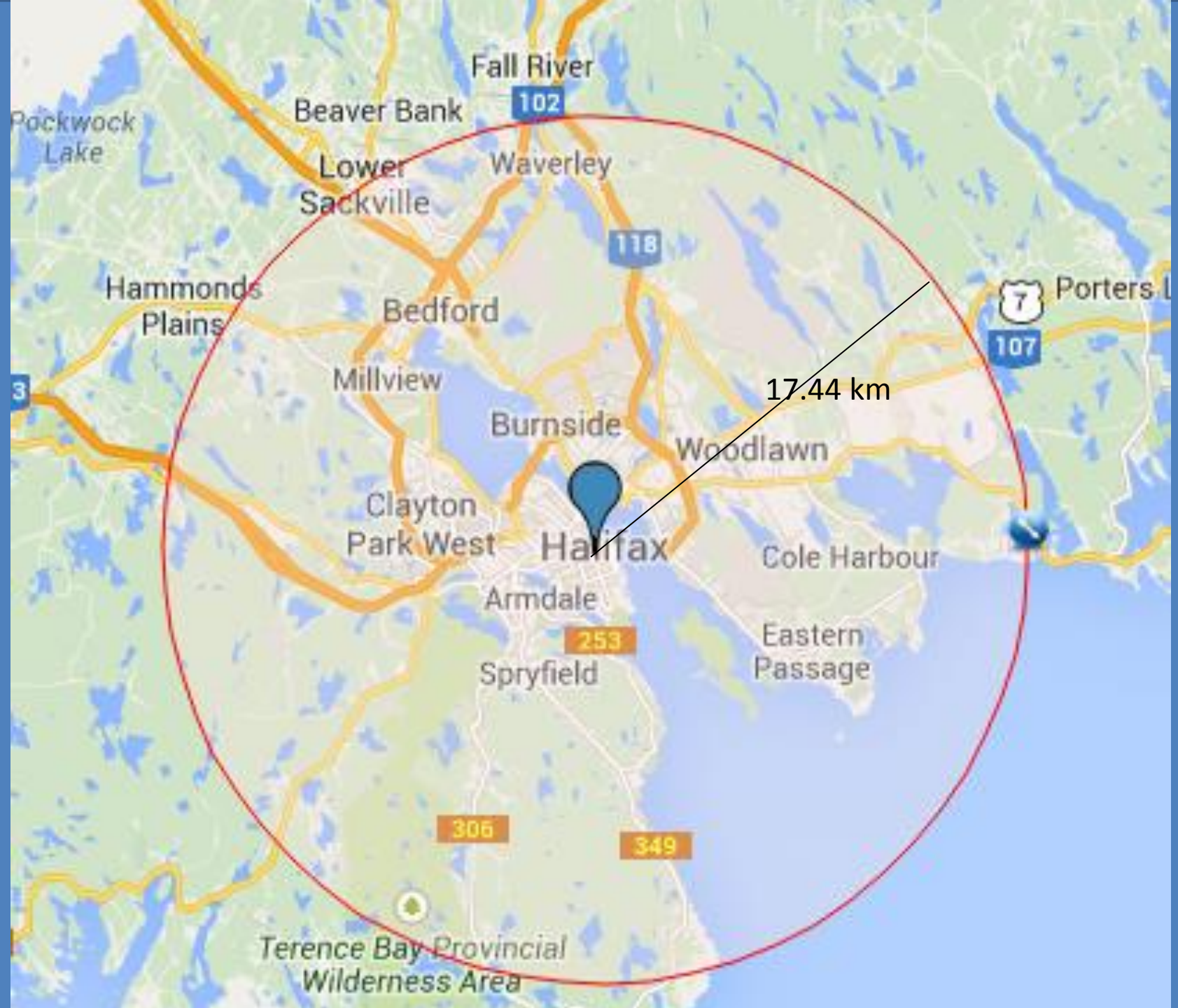
zipcar®



TomTom®
Navigation

HRM Accessible Taxis





2 Proposals

- 1. Deflect Clients into Conventional System**
- 2. Develop Outsourcing Partnership with Taxi Industry, as a Supplemental Service initially**

Deflection

- **Tighten AaB Eligibility, BUT make improvements first...**
- **Many Unware of Excellent Service of Conventional Transit**
 - **Marketing Campaign Required**
 - **Volunteer Ambassador/Buddy System**
 - **Snow Clearance at Stops a Major Issue**
 - **Driver Training & Standard Tie-Down System**
 - **Do a Free Tuesday, as with Seniors**

Taxi Industry Partnership

- **Undertake an Independent Business Case Assessment on a Potential Partnership, if favourable:**
- **Negotiate a Master Service Agreement with Taxi Industry**
- **Develop an honest and transparent voucher system**
- **Develop a central booking for accessible cabs – consider an Uber type of technology**

Benefits

- Potential Cost Savings
- 24/7 Flexible On-Demand Service
- Supports Private Sector
- Prepares for Anticipated Transformation



Thank You!

A Special Thanks to
Gus Reed!