

INDUSTRY ADVISORY

April 21, 2021

Board to Conduct Investigation on the Impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic on the BC Passenger Transportation Industry.

The Passenger Transportation Board recognizes the significant impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on British Columbia's economy, and the resulting challenges facing the province's passenger transportation industry.

To help protect the industry's long-term well-being, and to fulfil the Board's mandate under the *Passenger Transportation Act*, the Board must ensure it has access to current economic data and analysis, so it may render sound, objective evidence-based decisions.

To better understand the new economic landscape and its effects on the BC passenger transportation industry, the Board has decided to conduct an investigation on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the BC passenger transportation industry, pursuant to section 27(3)(b) of the Act.

The Board will retain Hara Associates, a professional economist, to conduct the investigation. This Investigator possesses the requisite expertise in economics and in the BC passenger transportation industry to render a valuable report.

With the information from the investigation, the Board will have the objective data decision-makers need when applying the three factors outlined in section 28 of the Act: there is a public need for service the applicant proposes to provide; that applicant is fit, proper and capable of providing the service; and the application would promote sound economic conditions in the passenger transportation business in BC.

This investigation will be undertaken in the context of relevant applications currently before the Board. These include the applications of Uber Canada Inc. (#10268-20TNS) and Facedrive Inc. (#10149-20TNS). The related Preliminary Decisions can be reviewed on the Board's April 21, 2021 Bulletin. The Board has adjourned these proceedings pending the completion of the investigation.

The Board is committed to completing the investigation without delay so Board members can render decisions on affected applications as soon as possible. The investigation is expected to take 3-6 months, barring any unforeseen circumstances.

The Board encourages the passenger transportation organizations contacted by Hara Associates to cooperate by providing relevant data and information. Getting a clear picture of current economic conditions is in the best interests of the industry as a whole.

We encourage the public and members of the industry to continue to consult the Board's website for any updates.