



City of Richmond

Report to Committee

To: Public Works and Transportation Committee

Date: June 4, 2019

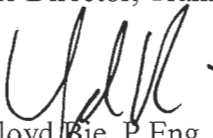
From: Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation

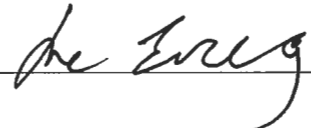
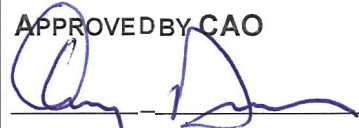
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Re: **Multi-Passenger Bicycle Business Proposal**

Staff Recommendation

That a sole business licence for a quadricycle to be operated by Brew Bike Tours as a pilot program in Steveston Village be issued subject to the terms and conditions outlined in the attached staff report titled "Multi-Passenger Bicycle Business Proposal" dated June 4, 2019 from the Director, Transportation.


Lloyd Bie, P.Eng.
Director, Transportation
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REPORT CONCURRENCE		
ROUTED TO:	CONCURRENCE	CONCURRENCE OF GENERAL MANAGER
Economic Development	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Law	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Risk Management	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Parks Services	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Business Licences	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Community Bylaws	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
RCMP	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
REVIEWED BY STAFF REPORT / AGENDA REVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE	INITIALS: CS	APPROVED BY CAO 

Staff Report

Origin

The City has received a business licence request from Brew Bike Tours Ltd. to provide guided tours using a multi-person quadricycle in the Steveston Village area from July to October 2019. This report outlines the necessary terms and conditions required of the proponent in order to grant a business license for this service as a pilot program in Richmond.

Findings of Fact

What is a Quadricycle?

The BC *Bicycle Safety Helmet Exemption Regulation* that is part of the BC *Motor Vehicle Act* defines a quadricycle (Figure 1) as a cycle that:

- (a) has a track width of not less than 1 metre,
- (b) has a rear track width that is greater than the height of the seat frame as measured from level ground to the seat frame,
- (c) is equipped with at least 2 sets of pedals for motive power,
- (d) is equipped with disc or drum brakes, and
- (e) is controlled by a single operator.



Figure 1: 15-person Quadricycle

Per the Regulation, the operator of, and each passenger carried by, a quadricycle is exempt from the requirement to wear a bicycle helmet.

A quadricycle typically has a wooden, rectangular shaped central counter around which guests sit facing each other. For a 15-person unit, there are six seats on either side, five of them having pedals and two non-pedal seats located above the rear wheels. There is also a three-person bench on the rear of the quadricycle.

Operation of the quadricycle involves a driver who sits in the front middle section and controls the brakes and steering. Passengers provide the energy to move the bike by pedalling simultaneously. The travel speed of the quadricycle is typically eight to twelve kilometres per hour.

Analysis

Brew Bike Tours

Brew Bike Tours has been providing guided tours using a quadricycle as Smile Cycle Tours in Kelowna (since Spring 2017) and Penticton (since Spring 2018). Similar businesses operate in Victoria, North Vancouver, Kelowna, and Calgary. Prospective guests book their tours online or in person. A typical tour is two hours with guests riding for 5-10 minutes at a time between multiple stops. The business will not be serving, providing or allowing customers to drink alcoholic beverages on board.

The proposed quadricycle will accommodate up to 15 passengers; a minimum of six passengers are required to propel the bike but the recommended number is eight to 10 passengers. The driver/tour guide will be a Brew Bike Tours employee and must have a driver's licence. The unit will include storage for repair tools, first-aid kit and a fire extinguisher. The driver has a brake near the right foot and there is a handbrake to the right of the driver's seat. The unit has LED turn-signals and running lights to provide enhance visibility for motorists. Helmets are mandatory for guests 16 years of age or younger and optional for those over 16 years of age.

Proposal for Steveston Village

Brew Bike Tours is proposing three themed guided tours in the Steveston Village area with various stops including both private businesses and tourist sites (e.g., Gulf of Georgia Cannery, Steveston Tram Barn). At each stop, passengers will disembark for 20-25 minutes and the driver will remain with the unit at all times. The service will operate seven days per week from 9:00 am to early evening (typically 8:00 pm). The business will not operate at night. The quadricycle will operate only in vehicle lanes and driveways (i.e., no use of off-street pathways or sidewalks).

Staff met with Brew Bike Tours to confirm the prescribed routes for each tour and the parking spaces for the unit while on tour and when not in service. The routes are confined to the Steveston Village area and designed to minimize travel on those roads with relatively higher traffic volumes and avoid sections with relatively higher levels of bus activity (Attachment 1). The business will operate completely within the area where the speed limit is restricted to 30 km/h. All stops must be accommodated either off-street or, if on-street, cannot impact any existing vehicle parking spaces.

Stakeholder Consultation

Brew Bike Tours has established relationships with some businesses in Steveston as they will be stops on the tours. The company discussed its proposed business with the Steveston Merchants Association on May 2, 2019 and has received a letter of support. The operators also met with the Steveston 20/20 Group on May 23, 2019 who are supportive and did not identify any concerns. The company has additional letters of support from Tourism Richmond and the Gulf of Georgia Cannery.

Proposed Conditions of Business Licence

The City's *Business Licence Bylaw* and *Business Regulation – Vehicle for Hire Bylaw* currently do not define Brew Bike Tour's proposed business. To facilitate the timely operation of the service for the coming Summer season, staff propose that a sole business licence be issued to Brew Bike Tours as a pilot program subject to the following terms and conditions:

- License valid from July 2, 2019 to October 1, 2019;
- Compliance with all City bylaws and provincial regulations pertaining to the operation of this business;
- Mandatory helmets for passengers 16 years of age or younger and optional for passengers over 16 years of age;
- No alcohol or cannabis to be consumed on the quadricycle;
- No use of transit stops, taxi/tour bus stops, loading zones/bays, or vehicle, motorcycle or accessible parking spaces;
- Operation in the vehicle lane and driveway only;
- Hours of operation from 9:00 am to 7:00 pm;
- Operation restricted to Steveston Village only on routes approved by the City;
- Any deviation from the approved routes or stop-over locations to be approved by the City;
- Minimum driver age of 19 years;
- \$10 million liability insurance with City named as additional insured; and
- City's ability to terminate the pilot at any time should the conditions of the licence not be fulfilled by the operator.

Should the pilot program be successful, staff would bring forth the required amendments to the *Business Licence Bylaw* and *Business Regulation – Vehicle for Hire Bylaw*, which would allow other operators to provide a similar service.

Financial Impact

None.

Conclusion

Brew Bike Tours' proposal offers an interactive and environmentally friendly means of touring Steveston Village and learning about the history, culture and heritage of the area. Staff recommend that a sole business licence with conditions be issued to Brew Bike Tours as a pilot program for 2019 only.



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Att. 1: Streets in Steveston Permitted to be Used by Quadricycle

Steveston Quadricycle Permitted Streets

