



This is to inform and update everyone on what is happening as it pertains to Riide and our dealings/service at the Saskatoon Airport.

Riide, previously United Cabs has serviced the Saskatoon Airport (SKYXE) for over 50 years, nearly all these years has been the exclusive taxi and ground transportation provider under contract. In 2019 SKYXE chose to move to an “open license” model for taxi and other ground service providers. This change is something we perceived as problematic, it came with pay-per-use fees and is difficult to manage, as well we were faced with added costs for our customers and drivers along with high administration costs. SKYXE chose to **add \$2.60 to every trip coming from and going to the airport**. This change led to us being caught in the middle of a dispute between the City of Saskatoon and SKYXE, this cost us several thousand dollars in fines and legal fees, subsequently, the City of Saskatoon has allowed part of this fee to be added to the taxi fare and paid by the riding customer. We understand that the airport has expenses and bills to pay and look for ways to generate revenues for these costs. We don't believe these fees should be incurred by the service providers.

We chose not to participate in the “Open License” program as we did not see much if any value in it. Covid further proved that there was no value in this, however, we continued to service the airport when there were no other services available. We do not solicit trips from the airport or use the commercial curb. We do drop off our customers at the public curb and if called will pick-up at the public curb along with the rest of the public. There are many times when the “Licensed” service providers are not available, where we get called to the airport to pick up passengers.

In the last several months, passenger volume has increased as the airport has begun to recover from the effects of Covid. SKYXE instructed Riide to cease bringing our customers to the airport and to stop picking up passengers at the airport. If we were to do this, it would leave several thousand Riide customers and passengers each month without a ground transportation alternative, who would also likely be stranded when needing to go to or to leave from the airport.



As our multiple efforts to find a resolution have been met with the full resistance of SKYXE, they have recently sent invoices, that were arbitrarily calculated, to fine us for servicing the airport. While SKYXE is a privately run airport, it is a public facility and allows public access, which we continued to use. We chose not to participate in the commercial curb program at that time.

SKYXE launched legal action against Riide seeking an injunction to prevent Riide from picking up and dropping off passengers at the airport. In addition, SKYXE is also seeking payment for the use of their commercial curb, which Riide has never utilized. We do not have the means to pay these fines and continue exhausting all legal efforts to fight this tactic.

Recently the City of Saskatoon allowed a fee to be added to the fare for airport trips and we begrudgingly began charging our customers the \$2.00 fee. We attempted to submit a payment to SKYXE; however, the payment was returned to Riide.

We've defended our position vigorously, however, a recent judgment sided with SKYXE. We're extremely disappointed in this ruling. Effective immediately Riide will no longer legally be able to pick up any passengers from SKYXE. Riide is also not able to knowingly drop off passengers at the Airport. Many times, it's unknown to our drivers where the final destination is until after pick-up. This could potentially cause conflict in the taxi as we are sure the customer will expect to be taken to their destination. This undoubtedly will have a negative impact on ground transportation for business travelers, visitors, events, and of course the citizens of the city. It is also well known that we heavily service the airport between Midnight and 8am when the other "Licensed" providers are unavailable.

We are working to find alternative solutions for our customers who want to continue to utilize our services. Riide is Saskatoon's largest taxi transportation provider, we will continue to fight for the rights of all our customers and visitors of our great city, including those with mobility issues and disabilities.

All inquiries can be directed to ray.bourner@riide.ca