



**MINISTERIAL STATEMENT
To the House of Assembly**

**by
The Hon. Owen K. Darrell, JP, MP
Minister of Tourism & Transport, Culture & Sport**

Ridesharing in Bermuda - Implementation Update

Friday 15th May 2026

Mr. Speaker,

Today I rise to provide this Honourable House with a clear update on the Government's progress in implementing ridesharing in Bermuda—and to reaffirm the disciplined, balanced approach we are taking to strengthen transportation access for residents and visitors alike.

This initiative is part of the Government's broader, measured plan to modernise Bermuda's public transportation system—grounded in evidence, responsive to demand, and carefully structured to support, not destabilise, the existing taxi industry.

Mr. Speaker,

The guiding principle remains clear and unchanged: **taxi first**; rideshare when needed.

Ridesharing is not intended to replace taxis. It will complement the existing system by adding capacity when demand outstrips supply, particularly late at night, on weekends, and during peak visitor periods. In other words, this rollout is deliberate, controlled, and focused on service reliability.

Mr. Speaker,

Following the passage of the relevant legislative framework, the Government opened the ridesharing application process on 30 April 2026. The application window was initially scheduled to close on 14 May 2026.

As of 14 May, 50 applications were received—an encouraging response that demonstrates public interest.

Mr. Speaker,

This Honourable House is reminded that ridesharing permits are capped at 150 to ensure a controlled rollout and to maintain balance within Bermuda's wider transport system. Where applications exceed 150 by the specified deadline, a third-party randomisation process will be used to ensure selection is fair and unbiased.

Because the cap has not been reached, selection will proceed on a first-come, first-served basis.

Mr. Speaker,

Participation in the ridesharing programme requires that all operators are properly licensed. Applicants must hold a valid Public Service Vehicle (PSV) Licence. To date, 30 applications have been received from individuals seeking to obtain or renew a PSV Licence. The majority are from those interested in applying for a ridesharing permit. The Department is actively supporting these applicants to complete the required steps so they can qualify and apply.

Mr. Speaker,

Given the level of interest to date, I am pleased to report that the application process will remain open beyond 14 May 2026 until the full allocation of 150 ridesharing permits have been issued. This extension provides eligible applicants additional time to complete PSV licensing requirements and submit their permit applications, while ensuring that all interested persons have a fair opportunity to apply.

Mr. Speaker,

In addition to licensing requirements, applicants must meet all relevant safety, vetting, and vehicle standards. For clarity and to protect the integrity of this

programme, persons who hold a licence to operate a heavy truck or other commercial vehicle are not eligible to apply for a ridesharing permit or to operate an approved ridesharing vehicle.

Mr. Speaker,

Passenger trips will be facilitated through licensed dispatch companies, and ridesharing services will operate within Bermuda's existing regulatory framework, with clear accountability for compliance and enforcement.

This initiative is one part of a broader transportation modernisation programme already underway, including:

- The introduction of digital fare payments through the Shorelink platform
- Real-time tracking of buses and ferries, providing the public with improved visibility and reliability
- Continued investment in the public bus and ferry fleet
- The advancement of enforcement and compliance measures across the sector

Together, these efforts are improving the overall customer experience and strengthening the resilience of Bermuda's public transport system.

Mr. Speaker,

We recognise the taxi industry as a cornerstone of Bermuda’s transportation system and an important part of our economy.

That is precisely why this model has been designed to support—not undermine—the existing industry. The “taxi first” approach, the permit cap, and strong regulatory safeguards ensure a balanced implementation that prioritises service, safety, and fairness.

Mr. Speaker,

Ultimately, this work is about delivering practical results: shorter wait times when demand spikes, more certainty for residents trying to get home safely at night, and a more reliable experience for visitors—while maintaining a controlled system that respects the role of taxis.

Subject to final operational readiness, the Government is targeting the launch of ridesharing services with the first group of approved operators on or around 10 June 2026.

As we move into the next phase, this Honourable House and the public will receive further updates on permit allocation, operational milestones, and the commencement of service.

Our focus remains on delivering a system that is safe, fair, and responsive— one that improves access, strengthens confidence in public transportation, and meets the needs of Bermuda’s residents and visitors.

Thank you, **Mr. Speaker.**