

Taxicab Ordinance Proposed Amendments

Mobility Committee
Austin Transportation Department
March 25, 2015





Background

Austin Taxicab Task Force

- City staff
- Aviation Department
- Airport Commission
- Urban Transportation Commission
- Taxicab franchises
- Taxi Drivers Association of Austin
- At-large taxi driver
- At-large citizen
- Austin Hotel & Lodging Association
- Austin Convention and Visitors Bureau
- ADAPT of Texas

A photograph of a street scene. In the foreground, there is a paved road and a concrete curb. A large, leafy tree stands on the right side of the road. To the left of the tree, there is a road sign with three black chevrons pointing right. Further left, there is a green street sign that reads "10th". In the background, there are more trees and a building. The sky is blue with some clouds.

Staff Recommendations (Amendments to Existing Code)

- **Hours on Duty (Recommended Amendment)**

A driver who operates a ground transportation service vehicle may only operate the ground transportation service vehicle for a total of 12 cumulative hours within a 24-hour period.

- **Dispatch Acceptance (Recommended Amendment)**

While in service, a taxicab driver shall affirmatively respond to service requests from the driver's dispatch terminal when the taxicab has been determined to be closest to the location of pick-up by GPS.

- **Accessible Service Performance Measures
(Recommended Amendment)**

For a franchise holder to qualify for special franchise permits, each modified ground transportation service vehicle for which a special permit was issued shall:

- Maintain an average response time to requests for accessible service within seven minutes of the franchise's average response time for non-accessible service requests;
- Provide service to a minimum of three percent of the total dispatched accessible trips completed by the franchise each month;
- All future allocated special franchise permits be utilized on company-owned wheelchair accessible vehicles operated by employee drivers; and
- Increasing accessible fleet requirement from 6.5% to 10%.



Staff Recommendations (New Code Language)

- **Credit Card Acceptance**

This method of accepted payment should be mandatory.

- **Green Vehicle Incentives**

Staff recommends the 8-year service life of “green” vehicles utilized as taxis be increased to 10 years, with the potential of a longer term should the vehicle continue to successfully pass the required vehicle safety inspections.

- **Calculation of Necessary Franchise Permits
or “The Formula”**

Staff recommends changing the existing system used to determine the number of permits allocated. Staff recommends determining the annual increase or decrease in the number of necessary taxicab franchise permits by assessing performance measures reviewed and approved by City Council

- Recommendation based on the recent approval of TNCs and the current levels of local taxicab service
- Current taxicab permits: 712 + 44 wheelchair-accessible permits; Total: 756

How the City Calculates the Number of Taxicab Permits

$$\boxed{\text{Previous year's \# of permits}} \times \left(\begin{array}{cc} \boxed{\text{Average Sum of Change}} & \\ \text{ATX Population} & + & \text{\# of taxicab} \\ & & \text{departures} \\ & & \text{from ABIA} \end{array} \right)$$

Average Sum of Change

.83%

2013 Permits

709



$$\left(\begin{array}{cc} \begin{array}{l} 2012 \text{ Population: } 833,476 \\ 2013 \text{ Population: } 859,814 \\ \hline \% \text{ Change: } 3.16\% \end{array} & + & \begin{array}{l} 2012 \text{ Departures: } 343,150 \\ 2013 \text{ Departures: } 337,980 \\ \hline \% \text{ Change: } -1.51\% \end{array} \end{array} \right)$$

2014 Permits: **714**

- **Need for Specialized or Additional Taxicab Permits
(Recommended amendment)**

- Staff recommends increasing the number of permits issued to each taxicab franchise by 100, bringing the local taxicab fleet to a total of 1,056 taxicabs.

- Staff recommends an additional franchise opportunity, which will be addressed in the franchise renewal briefing.

What's Next?

- April 1, 2015: Mobility committee briefing and opportunity for additional public input
- April 23, 2015: Mayor and Council will take action on proposed ordinance and amendments.



Questions?