Taxicab Ordinance Proposed Amendments

Mobility Committee

Austin Transportation Department

April 8, 2015

Summary of Staff Recommendations

- **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)**
  - 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%.

- **Credit Card Acceptance (New Code Language)**
  This method of accepted payment should be mandatory.

- **Green Vehicle Incentives (New Code Language)**
  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 determining the annual increase or decrease in the number of necessary taxicab franchise permits by assessing performance measures reviewed and approved by City Council, instead of using "The Formula."

- **Need for Additional or Specialized Taxicab Permits**

  - Staff recommends increasing the number of permits issued to each taxicab franchise by 100.

  - Staff recommends an additional franchise opportunity exclusively for accessible vehicles.

What's Next?

- April 23, 2015: Mayor and Council will take action on proposed ordinance and amendments.

Questions?