



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT

MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Date: April 29, 2015

Agenda Item #: 11

11. Consider and develop recommendations regarding an ordinance on second reading relating to the Lone Star Cab Company taxicab franchise. Related to Items #9 and #10.

Sponsors/Department: Austin Transportation Department

Summary of Discussion: Committee discussed proposed taxicab franchise renewal options.

Public Comments:

- Joseph Ivey, Resident: Opposes any taxicab renewal and any new permits for taxicabs.
- Michael Elder, Resident: Opposes staff recommendation for taxicab renewals.
- David Passmore, President, Taxi Drivers Association: Opposes additional permits, allocations; supports driver-owned co-op.
- Antonio Rojas: Opposes additional permit allocations; supports driver-owned co-op.
- Hassan Arurie: Opposes additional permit allocations.
- James Dogale: Opposes additional permit allocations.
- Angelo Atem: Supports driver-owned co-op.
- Joan Khabele: Encouraged committee to pass staff recommendations.
- Altaf Hussain: Said the taxi companies treat the drivers unfairly.
- Ali Khair: Supports driver-owned co-op.
- Biju Mathew: Supports driver-owned co-op.
- Ed Kargbo (asked to speak by Council Member Greg Casar): Requested a 10-year term for taxicab franchise renewals.

Direction: N/A

Recommendation: On a 4-0 vote, the committee voted to forward the items to Council with the following recommendations:

Terms of Agreement:

- 1 year with no reapplication process absent material changes in application
- Authority for the City to amend without reapplication process, should there be changes in ordinance before the end of the term to meet council principles

Agreement Provisions / Ordinance Provisions:

- Revise the Franchise permit formula: Staff to determine the annual increase or decrease in the number of necessary taxicab franchise permits by assessing performance measure reviewed or approved by City Council
- Extend usable life of the vehicle to be used as a taxicab, so long as it meets existing inspection requirements
- Chauffeur license held in the name of the Driver, no sponsor required
- And a request from the committee to staff to provide clarification if these additional provisions could be captured in these current agreements or if they would require additional ordinances to initiate code amendments

In a separate action, the committee moved to recommend Council instruct City staff begin the process of creating a fourth, driver-owned franchise, modeled after a co-op.