



Council Direction

Explore Feasibility of a fourth Taxicab Franchise

On May 21, 2015, Austin Mayor & Council adopted resolution 20150521-034 directing the City Manager to initiate the process of creating a fourth, driver-owned franchise modeled after a cooperative model.

- Anticipated timeline
- Scope
- Number of permits



Council Direction

Anticipated Timeline

- The Austin Transportation Department will submit for Council approval a set of application evaluation criteria. November 2015
- Advertise the franchise opportunity in a local publication. November – December 2015
- ATD will accept franchise applications for a period of 45 days. Mid-January 2016
- Once that period expires, Applications will be evaluated according to the Council approved criteria. February 2015
- Submit a ranked list of submittals for Council consideration. First Reading – March/April 2016

Council Direction

Scope

Considering Council's desire to explore a franchise opportunity for a driver-owned cooperative, a co-op is considered to be an organization which is owned and its interests are held by its members (drivers). All bids will be evaluated on this framework as a cooperative.

Council Direction

Number of Permits

- During the franchise renewal process, ATD evaluated the supply/demand within the local taxicab industry and determined that the supply of taxicabs did not sufficiently address the unmet demand.
- Adding an additional 300 taxicabs would address a significant amount of unmet demand for taxicab service. ATD recommended allocating 100 additional permits to each of the three franchises.
- Council approved an allocation of 50 permits to each franchise.
- ATD recommends utilizing the remaining 150 permits for a new franchise opportunity.

141 - taxi permits 9 - wheelchair permits

MOVING FORWARD

Report to the Mobility Committee

Staff will move forward with updating the Mobility Committee on these recommendations at an upcoming committee meeting. Staff would like to ask the UTC if it wishes to provide input.