



BOARD/COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

Urban Transportation Commission

Recommendation Number: 20160510-03C: Process to allow consideration of applications for additional taxicab franchises

WHEREAS, the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC) Goals and Objectives for 2014 included, "Work towards promoting an increase in environmentally friendly taxi cab"; and

WHEREAS, City Council Resolution #20100527-055 directed the City Manager to work with the UTC to specifically explore "USE OF BIOFUEL, RENEWABLE FUEL, OR HYBRID TECHNOLOGY IN FRANCHISE FLEETS"; and

WHEREAS, the current City of Austin taxi cab franchise ordinance permits a total of five franchises; and

WHEREAS, the current City of Austin taxi cab franchise ordinance also permits the City Council to grant one or two additional taxicab franchises if there have been fewer than five taxicab franchise holders in the city for five consecutive years and the department has determined that at least one additional permit is necessary under Section 13-2-422; and

WHEREAS, Austin's continuing exponential population growth is driving an ever-increasing need for additional transportation options, including but not limited to taxicabs; and

WHEREAS, the May 2016 electoral efforts have showcased a high demand for transportation options;

WHEREAS, there is a pending application by a private taxi cab franchise to provide taxicab services utilizing a proposed flex fuel and hybrid technology fleet in the City of Austin; and

WHEREAS, City Ordinance does not restrict the number of vehicles operating through transportation network companies (TNC);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Urban Transportation Commission recommends that the City Council authorize the City Manager and the Department to process pending taxicab franchise applications and award new franchises to qualified applicants without limitation on the number of franchises or permits issued or required.

Date of Approval: May 10, 2016

Record of the vote: 8-0, with Commissioner Hosek absent

Attest: Emily Smith

(Staff or board member can sign)