



## MEMORANDUM

**TO:** Mayor and Council

**CC:** Spencer Cronk, City Manager  
Robert Goode, P.E., Assistant City Manager

**FROM:** Robert Spillar, P.E., Director  
Austin Transportation Department 

**DATE:** February 12, 2018

**SUBJECT:** **Ground Transportation Service Regulatory Reform Recommendations Update**

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The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update on upcoming Austin Transportation Department (ATD) recommendations for Council action regarding ground transportation service regulatory reform.

On November 16, 2017, ATD sent a [memo](#) to the Mayor and Council illustrating plans to bring recommendations forward as proposed ordinances in two phases. We have completed implementation of the first phase ([Ordinance No. 20171214-095](#) pertaining to limousine and charter service reform) authorized by Council on December 14, 2017. ATD is now moving forward with Phase 2, pertaining to the creation of Taxicab Operating Authorities.

### **Next Steps:**

Staff are scheduled to present preliminary draft ordinance recommendations to the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC) on February 13, 2018, for the purposes of gathering further insight. Following the UTC meeting, staff will meet with taxicab franchise representatives, drivers, and other stakeholders before presenting a final draft ordinance to the Mayor and Council later this spring.

As in previous modifications to the vehicle for hire code, there is on-going concern from stakeholders and we seek to thoroughly vet our proposals with those affected before bringing recommendations to Council.

Representatives of both the drivers and various franchises may begin contacting Council offices directly, so we want to ensure that you have the latest update on our ongoing conversations with these groups.

### **Background:**

With the creation of a Taxicab Operating Authority model, the City intends to remove regulatory barriers for the taxicab industry and modernize regulations to optimize taxicab operations. This will allow the industry to better compete with similar services while ensuring ridership safety and consumer protection.

ATD sent preliminary draft ordinance recommendations to the four taxi franchise companies for feedback on Jan. 8<sup>th</sup> and invited one-on-one meetings with each. Staff also met with the owners and management of ATX COOP, Yellow Cab, and Lone Star Cab to gather their feedback and concerns, and continues to reach out to Austin Cab for their input and response. Additionally, all Austin-based taxicab drivers were invited to a two-day workshop, which took place on January 30<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> for the purposes of gathering direct driver feedback.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Jason JonMichael, ATD Assistant Director for Smart Mobility, at [Jason.JonMichael@austintexas.gov](mailto:Jason.JonMichael@austintexas.gov) or (512) 974-7028.