

Taxicab Franchise Transition



City of Austin
Transportation Department

Taxicab Franchise Operators

Current Franchise Operators

ATX Co-Op Taxi

Central City Taxi

Yellow Cab

Franchise Closures During Pandemic

Lone Star Cab (May 2020)

Longhorn Taxicab Co. (Dec. 2020)





Current Taxicab Franchise Fleet Numbers

ATX Co-Op Taxi

125 Taxicabs (117 Standard + 8 WCL)

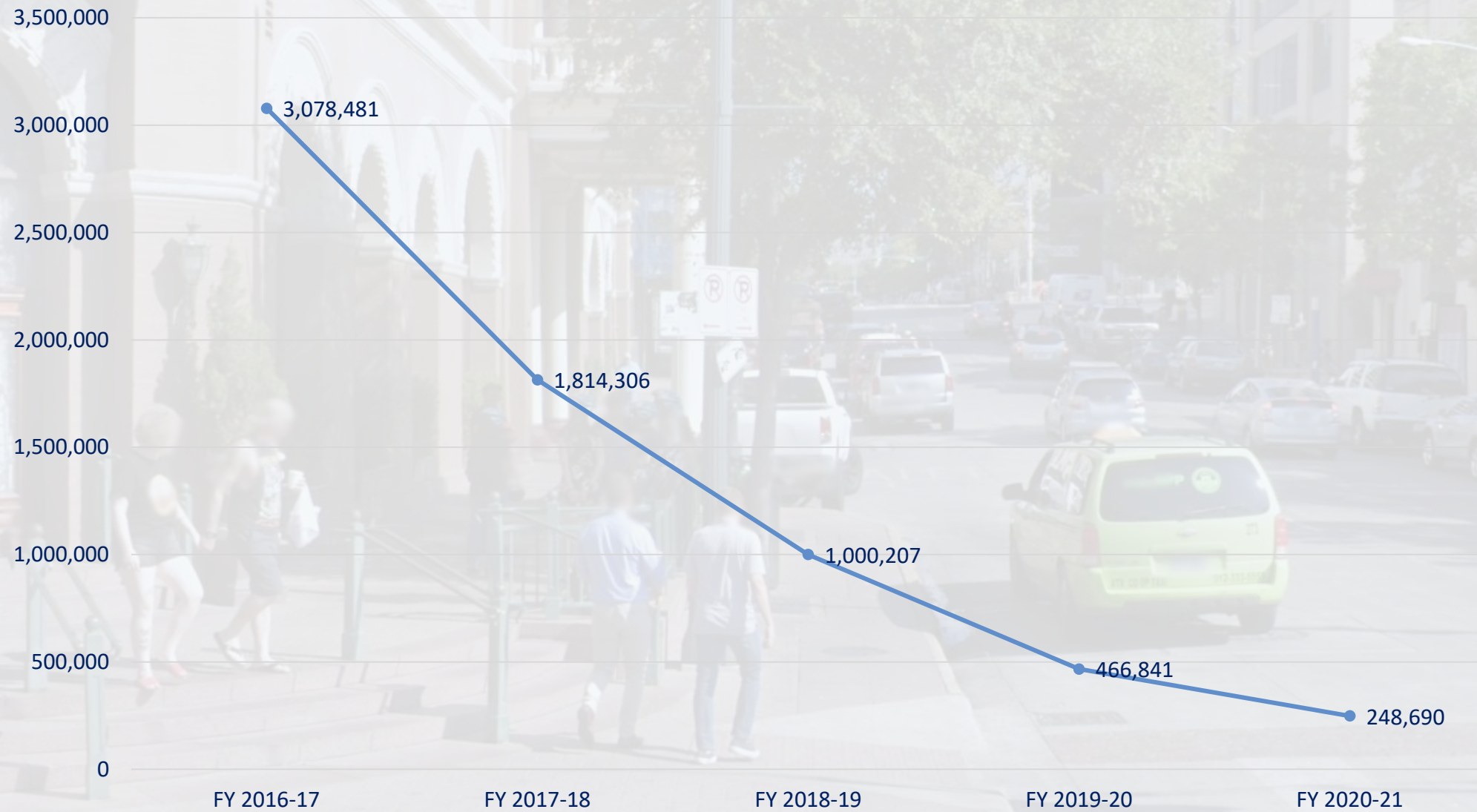
Central City Taxi

50 Taxicabs (46 Standard + 4 WCL)

Yellow Cab

80 Taxicabs (74 Standard + 6 WCL)

Taxicab Number of Trips Five-Year Comparison: 2016 - 2021

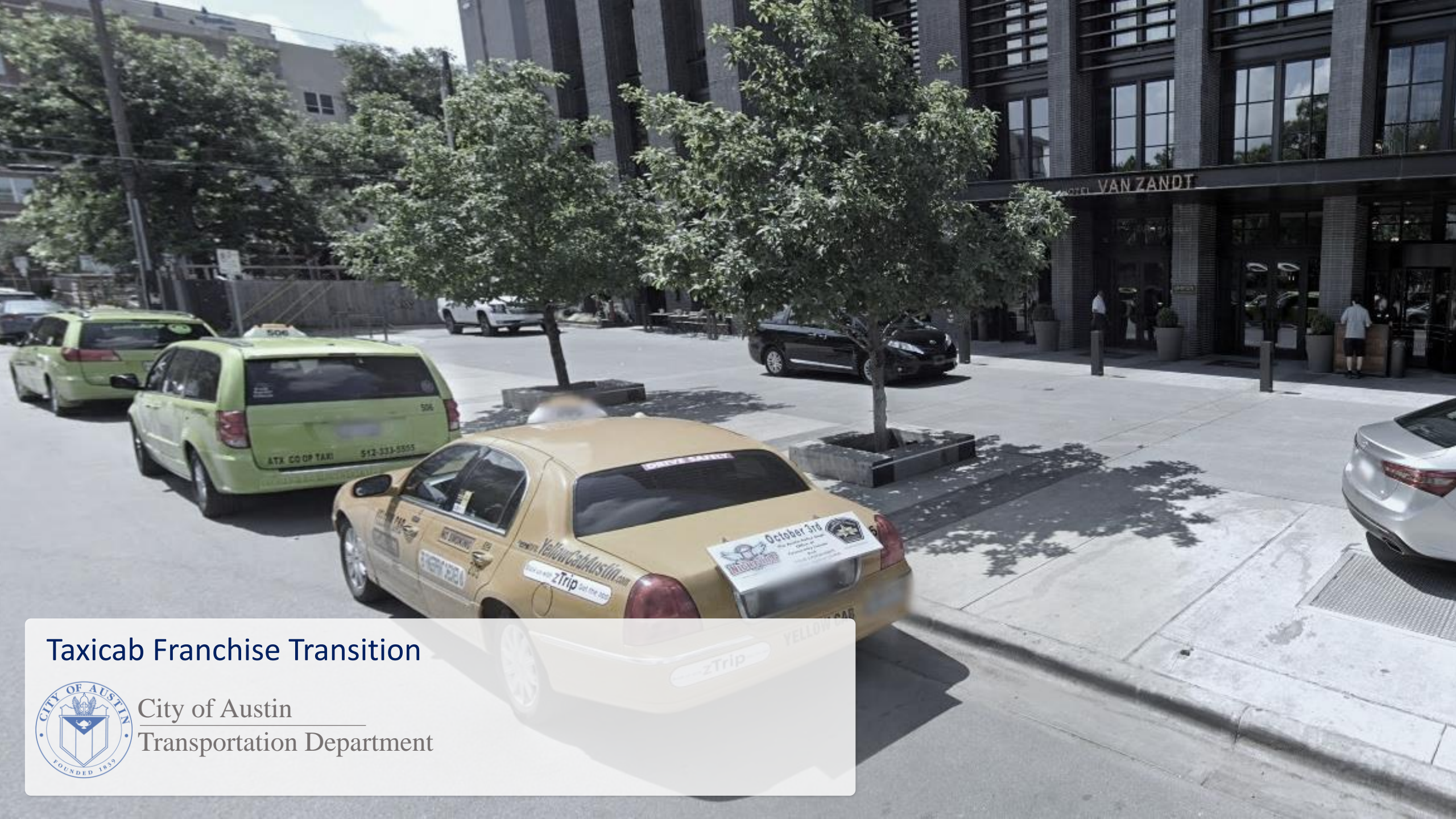


- Taxicab companies were first licensed in the City of Austin under an operating authority model on March 8th, 1932.
- On June 8th, 1950, the Austin City Council declared taxicab companies to be public utilities and they were formed into taxicab franchises by subsequent ordinance.
- Taxicab Companies reached their peak service in fiscal year 2016-2017 with over 3 million trips and more than 1500 taxicabs deployed within the City.
- In 2017, Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) such as Uber and Lyft began operating in Austin under state regulatory authority and taxicab franchises experienced an eventual seventy-five percent decline in their number of trips the following year.
- In 2018, Council approved ATD's taxicab franchise regulatory reform recommendations, intended to address this decline, lighten franchise restrictions, and level the playing field between taxicabs and other transportation options.
- In 2020-2021, due to the global pandemic and other natural disasters, taxicab franchises have experienced the lowest trip numbers on record.

Franchise Model	Operating Authority Model
Application may take more than 30 days to complete	Application may be completed in one business day
Requires Council action for approval, renewal, or transfer	Approval, renewal, or transfer based on established prerequisite criteria
Three-readings franchise approval processes may take 3 to 6 months	Approval may be granted within 2 business days upon the fulfillment of established prerequisite criteria
Rigid application timeframes and deadlines	Flexible application timeframes and deadlines
Difficult to scale vehicle fleets to demand	Easy to scale vehicle fleets to demand
Inability to cease and resume operations when necessary	Ability to cease and resume operations when necessary
Limited driver autonomy and choice	Greater driver autonomy and choice
Unique vehicle-for-hire Category, unlike any others in the City	All other vehicle-for-hire industries in the City are currently permitted as operating authorities
Does not align with taxicab permitting programs in other Texas cities	Aligns with taxicab permitting programs in other Texas cities

Stakeholder Outreach:

- **Throughout 2020 and 2021, ATD met with each of our local taxicab franchises on multiple occasions**
- **On September 7, 2021, ATD presented a recommendation to the Urban Transportation Commission (UTC)**
- **In November 2021, ATD created an informational webpage and distributed more than 200 flyers directly to taxicab drivers**
- **On January 20, 2022, ATD presented the recommendation to transition the taxicab franchise model into an operating authority model before the Austin Mobility**
- **Throughout the last few months, ATD has met with all taxicab franchise holders and discussed our recommendations regarding a transition to an operating authority licensing model on several occasions**



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