

HIGHLIGHTS OF TAXI ORDINANCE WORK

February 11, 2009 draft

Ordinance Work Consists of:

- Draft ordinance for stakeholder review followed by RTA in March
- Matrix of factors to determine biennial cab increases
- Points system and process for allocating cab increases
- Matrix of factors to determine scale of biennial rate changes

Products of Efforts to Result in:

- Better service quality to customers because of:
 - Fewer service refusals because of ordinance clarity
 - Fewer instances of false out-of-service indications because of such clarity
 - Greater control of route because of such clarity

- Better environment because of:
 - New fuel-efficiency standards improve air quality
 - Clarity of what cabs licensed by other localities reduces poaching
 - Encouragement of hybrids improves air quality

- Better opportunities for increased competition because of:
 - New matrix can reduce applicant burden on establishing need
 - Points system gives everyone opportunity for some increase
 - Longer applicant window (2 months vs. 10 days)

- More traditional and informed role for TC, specifically:
 - Role specified for rates as well as certificates
 - Recommend to Board with County-Manager recommendations in hand vs. recommend to County Manager
 - Considerations shifted from summer (vacation season) to fall

- More systematic rate consideration because of:
 - Every two years vs. whenever
 - Matrix of factors vs. whatever

- Fees better correlated to regulation effort via:
 - New annual certificate fee (per cab) scaled to full-time staff person for biennial processes of rates and certificates
 - New gasoline surcharge mechanism reduces staff burden
 - Making financial reporting only as needed, versus automatic, may reduce staff burden
 - Higher applicant fees more in scale with cost of evaluating applications
 - Higher license and inspection fees more in line with costs

- Greater efficiencies for companies and drivers because of:
 - Greater age of fleet flexibility
 - New fuel-efficiency standards reduces fuel costs
 - Encouragement of hybrids reduces fuel costs
 - Less poaching because of better enforceability
 - Better enforcement of refusal to pay based on better clarity

- County Board consideration is more systematic, and likely less intensive because of:
 - Gasoline surcharges on an administrative basis
 - Rate consideration every two years versus whenever
 - Certificate consideration every two years versus each new application plus any appeals from existing certificate holders