

Traffic and Parking Board Sub-committee on Taxicab Regulations

Background

The City is required by City Code to evaluate the regulations overseeing the taxi industry every two years and make recommendations for changes to those rules at that time. After the 2020 Biennial Taxicab Review, City Council approved a number of changes to the City Code to eliminate outdated requirements, reduce the scope of administration from the Hack Office, and reduce permit fees.

At the November 2022 Traffic and Parking Board meeting, the Board considered the 2022 Biennial Taxicab Review and recommended the City Manager approve the report and implement the recommendations for changes to the maximum age of vehicles and an increase in fares. The Traffic and Parking Board members also passed a motion to establish a sub-committee of Traffic and Parking Board members to review fees of taxis.

At the February 25, 2023 City Council meeting, the Council approved the increase to the initial meter charge from \$3 to \$4. Additionally, City Council recommended an increase in the vehicle age requirement to 15 years for non-hybrid vehicles and 17 years for hybrid vehicles. City Council asked staff to review further changes to the City Code including evaluating the elimination of the vehicle age requirement and modifications to the fee structure. Mayor Wilson asked that staff evaluate the entire taxicab regulatory structure outlined in the City Code indicating he would like to see less regulation by the City of the taxicab industry. City Council asked staff to come back in a year with a series of options for changes to the taxicab regulations.

The sub-committee on taxicab regulations is being established as a result of these directives from the Traffic and Parking Board and City Council.

Sub-Committee Members

Traffic and Parking Board Members

The following Traffic and Parking Board members indicated they were interested in being part of the sub-committee on taxicab regulations.

- Lavonda Bonnard
- Annie Ebbers
- James Lewis

Taxi Industry Members

The City reached out to members of the taxi industry to notify them about the sub-committee on taxicab regulations and invited them to participate. The following companies are currently permitted and operating in Alexandria.

- Yellow Cab
- Union Cab
- VIP Cab

- King Cab

Goals

Evaluate taxicab regulations in the City Code including the vehicle age requirement, fee structure, as well as other regulations and identify potential changes to City Code to streamline regulations.

Objectives

1. Review taxi fare regulations

- Fare comparison with neighboring jurisdictions
 - Arlington
 - DC
 - Montgomery County
 - Fairfax County
 - Prince George's County
 - Washington Flyer
 - Others
- Fare comparison between TNCs
 - Uber, Lyft, Taxis
- Evaluate current state of taxi fee regulations nationally
- Review taxi fare industry data
 - Historical operating expense data
 - CPI, new cars, fuel, insurance, maintenance & repairs
 - Historical fare data
 - Other data of potential interest
 - Origins and destinations
 - Populations served

2. Review taxi vehicle age requirements

- Conditions of taxi vehicles in City Code
 - Safety
 - Regulatory framework
 - Company regulations
 - Other jurisdiction best practices

3. Other potential changes to the City's taxicab regulatory framework

- Review other concerns from Traffic and Parking Board sub-committee members
- Review other concerns from the taxi industry

Schedule

October 23

- Hold first Traffic and Parking Board sub-committee on taxicab regulations to review background information about the City's taxi regulations, other jurisdictions, and hear feedback from the industry

November 27

- Sub-committee gather data to inform discussion around committee objectives
- Hold second Traffic and Parking Board sub-committee on taxicab regulations

December (date to be determined)

- Hold third Traffic and Parking Board sub-committee on taxicab regulations and finalize recommendations

January (date to be determined)

- Bring recommendations to Traffic and Parking Board

March (date to be determined)

- Bring recommendations to City Council

Reference Materials

- [City of Alexandria Taxicab webpage](#)
- [Taxicab City Codes](#)
- [Taxicab Regulations](#)
- [Taxicab Rates](#)
- [2022 Biennial Taxicab Review](#)
- [2020 Biennial Taxicab Review](#)