



Presentation for the Regulatory & Neighborhood Affairs Committee

Proposed Revisions to Chapter 46, Vehicles-For-Hire

May 10, 2022



Background Vehicles-for-Hire

- Chapter 46 regulates Vehicles-for-Hire, which includes taxicabs, limousines, charter and sightseeing vehicles, low-speed shuttles, and pedicabs.
- Based on industry requests and legislative changes during the 87th Legislative Session, the City is presenting proposed revisions to Chapter 46.



Proposed Revisions Vehicles-for-Hire

- Taxicabs: Allow Taxicabs to charge a Fuel Surcharge
- Pedicabs: Revise Permit Renewal Date
- Chauffeured Limousines: Update signage regulations for 15 or less passenger vans
- Low Speed Shuttles: Update regulations to conform with legislation



Proposed Revisions Taxicabs

- Allow Taxicabs to charge a Fuel Surcharge
 - When the average price of regular unleaded gasoline exceeds \$3, the per-trip fuel surcharge shall be as follows:

Gasoline Price per Gallon	Surcharge per Trip
\$3.00 or less	None
\$3.01 – \$3.50	\$0.50
\$3.51 - \$4.00	\$1.00
Each additional increment of \$0.50	\$0.50 per additional increment of \$0.50

- The average price-per-gallon of regular unleaded gasoline shall be based on the American Automobile Association (AAA) Daily Fuel Gauge Report for Houston, Texas.
- When required, a fuel surcharge shall become effective at the beginning of a quarter (January 1, April 1, July 1, and October 1) based on the average pricing for the prior three months.
- The permittee will be required to post signage in each permitted vehicle stating that a fuel surcharge is in effect.



Proposed Revision Pedicabs

- Revise Permit Renewal Date
 - Pedicab permits are required to be renewed annually on or before May 1.
 - The industry requested that the annual renewal date be moved to be on or before February 1.
 - Moving the annual renewal date will allow the pedicabs to renew their permit before the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo starts at the end of February. This will allow the pedicabs to be permitted throughout the spring and summer event season. They will no longer have to take time to bring their pedicabs in for inspection during their busiest time of the year.
 - Remove the one-year waiting period for re-application after revocation.
(Housekeeping)



Proposed Revision

Chauffeured Limousines

- Update signage regulations for 15 or less passenger vans.
 - Current regulations do not allow for any signage on 15 or less passenger vans.
 - Industry requested that 15 or less passenger vans be allowed to display company name, logo, and phone number. Several hotels and convention centers require this information to be placed on industry vehicles providing shuttling services.



Proposed Revision Low Speed Shuttle

- ❑ Update regulations to conform with legislation passed in the 87th Legislative Session impacting Low Speed Shuttle Regulations.
 - ❑ Current Low-Speed Shuttle regulations do not allow for golf carts.
 - ❑ After state law changed, vehicles that otherwise conform to all Low Speed Shuttle requirements outlined in the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 500 (49 C.F.R. Section 571.500), are now licensed as golf carts.
 - ❑ Eliminate the regulation that does not allow golf carts to be a Low Speed Shuttle, but still require the unique vehicle to meet all the Low Speed Shuttle safety regulations in the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard 500 (49 C.F.R. Section 571.500), to be allowed to operate.



Questions?



Public comments