

City of Seattle and King County

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADMINISTRATIVE RULEMAKING AND OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT

The director of the City of Seattle's Department of Finance and Administrative Services (FAS) and the director of King County's Department of Executive Services (DES), acting under the authority of Seattle Municipal Code chapter 3.02; chapter 6.310, section 6.310.140; and chapter 6.311, section 6.311.470; and King County Code chapter 2.98; chapter 6.64, section 6.64.021; and chapter 6.65, section 6.65.470, respectively, propose adopting four rules related to for-hire passenger transportation.

Three existing rules have been significantly revised based on recent for-hire passenger transportation industry practices and needs:

1. Fares and Rates for Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles
2. Taximeters and Smart Taximeters
3. Uniform Color Schemes and Exterior and Interior Markings for Vehicles

One rule is new:

4. Licensing Emerging For-Hire Transportation Models

Electronic copies of the proposed rules are available at <http://www.seattle.gov/finance-and-administrative-services/directors-rules> and <https://www.kingcounty.gov/depts/records-licensing/licensing/taxi-for-hire-transportation-networks/notices-regulations.aspx>.

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** The City of Seattle and King County are seeking public comments on the draft rules. Comments may be provided in person, by e-mail, or by regular mail, and must be received no later than 5 p.m. on Thursday, July 3, 2025.

To provide comments in person, please attend a public hearing on June 12, 2025, from 12 p.m. to 1:30 p.m. at:

Seattle Public Library – Rainier Beach Branch  
Meeting Room  
9125 Rainier Ave S  
Seattle, WA 98118

To provide written comments, please e-mail or mail:

City of Seattle  
Department of Finance and Administrative Services  
Attention: Matthew Eng  
700 5<sup>th</sup> Ave., Floor 43  
P.O. Box 94785  
Seattle, WA 98124-4785  
[consumerprotection@seattle.gov](mailto:consumerprotection@seattle.gov)

AND

King County  
Department of Executive Services – Records and Licensing Services Division  
Attention: Sean Bouffiou  
King Street Center  
201 S. Jackson St., Suite 206  
Seattle, WA 98104

[FAST@kingcounty.gov](mailto:FAST@kingcounty.gov)

Kiersten Grove, Director, City of Seattle Department of Finance and Administrative Services

Lorraine Patterson-Harris, Director, King County Department of Executive Services



Seattle



King County

<b>Department:</b>  <b>City of Seattle</b> <b>Department of Finance and Administrative Services</b>	<b>Rule No:</b> FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION- 11- <del>2024</del> <u>2025</u>	<b>Supersedes:</b> Clerk Files <del>310158</del> and <del>321467323198</del>
	<b>Publication:</b> <del>96/136/2024</del> <u>2025</u>	<b>Effective:</b> <del>10X/25X/2024</del> <u>2025</u>
<b>Subject:</b> Fares and Rates for Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles	<b>Code and Section Reference(s):</b> SMC 6.311.380  SMC 6.311.470 (rulemaking authority)	
<b>Approved:</b>  _____ Division Director  _____ Business Unit Officer  _____ Kiersten Grove, Acting Director	_____ Date  _____ Date  _____ Date	
<b>King County / Department of Executive Services</b> <b>Document Code No.:</b> <del>FHT-10-2024-PR</del> <u>FHT-10-2025-PR</u> <b>Repeals:</b> <del>FHT-10-2024-PR LIC-8-7-PR</del> <b>Title:</b> Fares and Rates for Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles <b>Effective Date:</b> <del>October 16, 2024</del> <u>2025</u> <b>Authorities:</b> KCC 6.65.380 and KCC 6.65.470 (rulemaking authority) <b>Keywords:</b> <b>Sponsoring Agency:</b> Records and Licensing Services Division (RALS)		
<b>Director signature:</b> _____		
<b>Date signed:</b> _____		

**City of Seattle and King County For-Hire Transportation Rules**

**City of Seattle Director’s Rule FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION-11-~~2024~~2025 and King County Public Rule FHT-10-~~2024~~2025-PR – Fares and Rates for Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles**

Pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the City of Seattle and King County work cooperatively to regulate for-hire passenger transportation. The Rule supersedes City of Seattle Clerk Files ~~310158 and 321467~~ 323198 and King County ~~adopts this Rule as new~~ Public Rule FHT-10-2024.

- I. **Purpose.** To establish regional taximeter rates, alternate taxicab rate and fare types, and for-hire vehicle rate types.

City of Seattle and King County rules on an application dispatch system (ADS), which specify requirements for system approval and use, and taximeters and smart taximeters, which establishes testing and approval standards, shall complement this Rule.

- II. **Definitions.** For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:

~~A. “Advance presentation” means the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency presents a taxicab rate, fare, or price to a passenger so that the passenger can consider it before deciding whether to confirm the trip.~~

~~A.B.~~ “Director” means the director of King County’s Department of Executive Services and/or the City of Seattle’s Director of Finance and Administrative Services, or their designees.

~~B.C.~~ “Fare” means anything of economic value that is provided, promised, or donated primarily in exchange for services rendered.

~~C. “Upfront presentation” means the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency presents a taxicab trip rate, fare, or price to a passenger so that the passenger can consider it before deciding whether to confirm the trip.~~

- III. **Requirements.**

**Regional Taximeter Rates, Alternate Taxicab Rates and Fares, and Fees**

1. The fare for a taxicab trip must be computed by a smart taximeter, or until March 31, 2026, a taximeter, except when a trip is provided under an alternate rate or fare type specified in this Rule as authorized by Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) 6.311.380.A.4 and King County Code (KCC) 6.65.380.A.4, or when the trip is dispatched via an ADS approved by the Director. This requirement applies regardless of how the passenger secures the trip.
2. The taximeter must be tested and approved by the Director pursuant to SMC 6.311.380.A.6, SMC Chapter 7.04, KCC 6.65.380.A.6, and FAS Director’s Rule For-Hire Transportation-07-2024/ King County Public Rule FHT-8-2024-PR on taximeters and smart taximeters.

Regional Taximeter Rates and Temporary Fuel Surcharge	Description
Drop Rate	\$2.60 for first 1/9-mile increment.

<b>Regional Taximeter Rates and Temporary Fuel Surcharge</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Distance Rate</b>	\$0.30 for each 1/9-mile increment after the first 1/9-mile increment [\$2.70 per mile] at speeds above 11 miles per hour.
<b>Time Rate</b>	\$0.30 per 36 seconds [\$0.50 per minute] at speeds below 11 miles per hour.
<b>Per Extra Passenger Rate</b>	\$0.50 per person for more than two persons excluding children under twelve years of age.
<b>Temporary Fuel Surcharge</b>	A per trip surcharge authorized by the Director pursuant to SMC 6.311.380.E.2 and KCC 6.65.380.E.2. Please see description in Section <del>4</del> 15 of this Rule.

3. Alternate taxicab rate and fare types specified in this Rule authorized by SMC 6.311.380.A.4 and KCC 6.65.380.A.4 may be used to price taxicab trips:

<b>Alternate Taxicab Rate and Fare Types</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>Flat Rate</b>	<p>Flat rate based on trips from one address to another address (e.g., Colman Dock to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)) or from one defined zone to another defined zone (e.g., ZIP code A to ZIP code B).</p> <p>The TRDA or RDA must comply with SMC 6.311.380.<del>A.4.</del><del>A.f</del> and KCC 6.65.380.<del>A.4.</del><del>A.f</del> for all flat rates established.</p> <p>This Rule does not establish any flat rate between downtown Seattle and Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) or between Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) and downtown Seattle. If desired, a TRDA or RDA may establish such a rate(s).</p>
<b>Contract Rate</b>	Rates established pursuant to contracts between a TRDA or RDA and a business, a non-profit organization, or government entity, whereby the amount or rate paid for transportation service is specified.
<b>Upfront Fare</b>	For hailed trips (i.e., trips not requested and accepted via an approved ADS, or not provided for via a contract), an upfront fare shall be based on the estimated time and distance calculated by the smart taximeter and multiplied by the regional taximeter rate. An upfront fare must: (1) include estimated surcharges, tolls, and fees; (2) be confirmed with the passenger

Alternate Taxicab Rate and Fare Types	Description
	before the trip begins; and (3) be the final charge to the passenger when the trip ends. An upfront fare excludes tips and excludes electronic payment convenience fees, if any, charged by the banking service provider.
<b>Dynamic Rate or Fare</b>	Rates or fares in place based on a static schedule that automatically updates based on time of day, day of week, etc., or, rates or fares calculated through the smart taximeter that include factors such as real time traffic data; trip routing; demand for service; supply of vehicles; special events; or calculations made by the TRDA or RDA that may use supply of vehicles, demand for trips, time of day, day or week, special event, or any other variable to price the trip.
<b><u>Transitional Regional Dispatch Agency or Regional Dispatch Agency Specific Taximeter Rates</u></b>	<p><u>Rates based on a taximeter rate schedule specific to a TRDA or RDA that must include a starting rate, time rate, distance rate, and per extra passenger rate.</u></p> <p><u>A TRDA or RDA shall not charge its own temporary fuel surcharge.</u></p> <p><u>A TRDA or RDA using TRDA or RDA specific taximeter rates shall post those rates on the exterior and interior of all affiliated vehicles consistent with SMC 6.311, KCC 6.65, and the City of Seattle Director’s rule and King County public rule on uniform vehicle color schemes and exterior and interior markings for vehicles.</u></p>
<b>Split Rate or Fare</b>	The trip cost is divided equally among passengers who accept the invitation to split a fare, or divided proportionately, if the pick up or destination locations are different, among passengers who accept the invitation to split. An additional fee may be assessed for each portion of a split fare. The receipt shall indicate the total fare paid by each passenger for each passenger’s portion of the trip.
<b>Bid Trip Rate or Fare</b>	Rates or fares offered in response to a passenger’s request for multiple TRDAs and RDAs, including among drivers affiliated with the same TRDA or RDA, or providers like transportation network companies, to bid on a specific trip defined by that passenger. Trip bidding is typically facilitated through an app.
<b>Minimum Rate or Flat Rate Fare</b>	Rates or fares set by the TRDA or RDA at minimum amounts for specific trips. A minimum rate or fare is not the same as a drop rate.
<b>Vehicle Size Rate or Fare</b>	Rates or fares set by the TRDA or RDA based on the size of vehicle needed to safely transport the passenger or when specifically requested by the passenger. A rate or fare based on vehicle size shall not violate SMC

Alternate Taxicab Rate and Fare Types	Description
	6.311.380.E.1 and KCC 6.65.380.E.1 as it concerns wheelchair accessible transportation.
<b>Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) Minimum Fare</b>	<p>The Minimum Fare for Taxicabs and For-Hire Vehicles at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA)</p> <p><b>Minimum Fare Requirement:</b> The minimum fare for any taxicab or for-hire vehicle trip originating from Seattle-Tacoma International Airport (SEA) is \$20, exclusive of any fees, surcharges, or tolls.</p> <p><b>Port of Seattle Fees:</b> Any portion of the fee assessed by the Port of Seattle for trips originating from SEA, which is allowed by the Port to be passed along to the passenger, shall be added to the minimum fare.</p> <p><b>Passenger Notification:</b> Taxicab and for-hire vehicle drivers must post a notice provided by King County, notifying passengers of the minimum fare. This notice may, at the discretion of the TRDA or RDA, be incorporated into the passenger-facing monitor of a smart taximeter system.</p> <p><b>Scope of Application:</b> This minimum fare applies to all trips originating from SEA, regardless of whether the trip is requested on-demand or prescheduled, including via online platforms, phone, email, text, smartphone apps, or ADS.</p> <p><b>Meter Usage:</b> The driver must start the meter for each trip departing SEA Airport, regardless of the destination. Upon arrival at the drop-off location:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If the metered fare is less than \$20, the \$20 minimum fare applies.</li> <li>• If the metered fare exceeds \$20, the actual metered fare applies.</li> </ul> <p><b>Smart Taximeter Option:</b> When using a smart taximeter, the minimum fare may be configured as a unique flat rate. The driver must engage the smart taximeter by selecting the minimum fare.</p> <p><b>For-Hire Vehicles Without Smart Taximeters:</b> Until smart taximeters are implemented, the minimum fare from SEA Airport must be included in the published rate book for all applicable drop-off locations.</p> <p><b>Regulatory Basis and Adjustments:</b></p>

Alternate Taxicab Rate and Fare Types	Description
	This minimum fare is established by King County per KCC 6.65.380.D. Any adjustments to the minimum fare, unless otherwise established by the Port of Seattle, shall be made through an amendment to this Rule.
<b>ADS Rate</b>	Rates and fares, not required to be filed with the Director, displayed via the internet on mobile interfaces such as smartphone applications. Please see City of Seattle Director’s Rule For-Hire Transportation-13-2024 and King County Public Rule FHT-13-2024-PR for more information on ADS.

4. A TRDA or RDA has the option to use an alternate rate or fare type. The TRDA or RDA determines the alternate rate or fare type, not the individual driver. An alternate rate or fare must be programmed into the smart taximeter system by the vendor of the smart taximeter system and/or the RDA; the programming shall enable Upfront Advance Presentation of the alternate rate or fare. Upon request of the Director, the TRDA or RDA must provide for inspection any alternate rate or fare type established.
5. Upfront Advance Presentation of a rate or fare is required for any alternate rate or fare type established and used by the TRDA or RDA.
6. For an upfront fare (when other alternate fares and rates are not in place), a passenger may reject the fare and ask the driver to apply the regional taximeter rates to the trip instead. For any other alternate rates or fare types requiring Upfront Advance Presentation (e.g., flat rate, dynamic rate or fare, ADS rate, etc.), a passenger may reject or confirm the trip but may not reject the rate or fare.
7. When an upfront fare or Advanced Presentation of an alternate fare is accepted by the passenger before the ride begins, if a passenger changes the desired destination or adds one or more stops after the trip has begun, then the driver may update the destination in the smart taximeter for the taximeter to provide an updated fare, or if the smart taximeter is configured for a fallback rate, the trip shall revert to the posted meter rate(s) displayed from the point at which the trip began.
- 7-8. To comply with taximeter and smart taximeter activation requirements at SMC 6.311.160.H and KCC 6.65.160.H, to minimize passenger confusion when a trip uses an alternate rate or fare, and as the technology used by the taximeter or smart taximeter system allows, the taximeter or smart taximeter shall be programmed to display from the time the trip is activated to the time the trip is completed the rate or fare charged to the passenger for that trip. Such programming allows for the price of the metered trip to be recorded while the alternate rate or fare is used to determine what the passenger pays.
- 8-9. If applicable to the trip, other fees established or passed through by a TRDA or RDA may be added to the fare:

Tolls and Other Fees	Description
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Tolls</b></p>	<p>Tolls or charges established for roads, bridges, tunnels, or ferries while a passenger is being transported are not required to be displayed on the smart taximeter or taximeter but may be added to the passenger’s total fare except when the fare was presented to the passenger before the trip began.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Technology Fee</b></p>	<p>A per trip fee authorized by the Director only at the written request of the regional dispatch agency (RDA). The fee shall apply fleet wide and be used to offset the cost of obtaining and maintaining a smart taximeter system and related technology and to reduce the operating expenses of the RDA and its affiliated owners and vehicles.</p> <p>The technology fee may cover, for example, technology related software licensing fees, cost of equipment required in conjunction with a smart taximeter system, wireless communication and data service related fees, and repair or replacement of hardware.</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Convenience or Similar Fee for Electronic Payment of Fares</b></p>	<p>A <del>per trip</del> fee authorized by the Director only at the written request of the TRDA or RDA. <u>When the trip fare is paid electronically, the fee shall be applied fleet wide by the TRDA or RDA and the banking service provider-electronic payment processor and not by the TRDA or RDA and shall be in lieu of additional merchant fees charged to the TRDA, RDA, or driver. Trip fares paid for by cash, voucher, or other payment method shall not be assessed a convenience fee.</u></p> <p>Although the TRDA or RDA may choose a convenience fee model, the convenience, <u>surcharges, and other transaction fees itself are subject to rules or contractual obligations established by electronic payment processors. can only be collected and retained by the banking service provider used by the TRDA or RDA. The TRDA or RDA is encouraged to work with its electronic payment processor to avoid conflicts with these rules and obligations.</u></p>

**For-Hire Vehicle Rates**

9-10. Per SMC 6.311.380.C.3 and KCC 6.311.380.C.3, for-hire vehicle rates shall remain in effect until the for-hire vehicle transitions to a taxicab or until March 31, 2026, whichever occurs sooner. After March 31, 2026, all for-hire vehicles shall have transitioned to taxicabs and shall be subject to the regional taximeter rates, alternate taxicab rates and fares, and fees and ADS rate requirements under SMC, KCC, and this Rule.

The flat rate alternate taxicab rate or fare type specified in this Rule may be used on an exclusive basis should the TRDA or RDA choose. In doing so, however, the TRDA or RDA must still comply with all smart taximeter requirements established by SMC, KCC, and applicable rules, including programming regional taximeter rates into a smart taximeter system.

~~10. Non-ADS rates shall be (1) kept current and made available for inspection upon request of the Director and (2) available for review in a rate book provided by the TRDA and located conspicuously within the for-hire vehicle.~~

11. For-hire vehicles must charge for service based on one of the following types:

<u>For-Hire Vehicle Rate Types</u>	<u>Description</u>
<u>Flat Rate by Address</u>	<u>Flat charge by address. Rate from one specific address to another (e.g., rate from Colman Dock to Seattle-Tacoma International Airport). Rates are available to the passenger through a rate book in the vehicle.</u>
<u>Flat Rate by Zone</u>	<p><u>Flat charge by zone. Zone boundaries will be the same as for ZIP code zones and include all ZIP codes in the area served by the TRDA and a rate for a trip within the same ZIP code zone.</u></p> <p><u>Flat rate may vary by time of day. Rates are available to the passenger through the rate book in the vehicle.</u></p> <p><u>The rate for the trip shall be based on the variable rate effective at the time the trip began. Rates are available to the passenger through the rate book in the vehicle and must be easily discernable from standard rates by zone.</u></p>
<u>Contract Rate</u>	<u>Rates established pursuant to written contracts between a TRDA and a business or a non-profit organization whereby the amount or rate paid for transportation service is specified.</u>
<u>Hourly Rate</u>	<p><u>Hourly rate. Minimum increment of ½ hour. Hourly rate may vary by time of day. Rates are available to the passenger through a rate book in the vehicle.</u></p> <p><u>The rate for the trip shall be based on the variable rate effective at the time the trip began. Rates are available to the passenger through the rate book in the vehicle and must be easily discernable from standard hourly rates.</u></p>
<u>ADS Rate</u>	<u>Not required to be filed. Please see City of Seattle Director’s Rule For-Hire Transportation-13-2024 and King County Public Rule FHT-13-2024-PR for more information on ADS.</u>

12. For-hire vehicle rates shall be (1) kept current and made available for inspection upon request of the Director and (2) available for review in a rate book provided by the TRDA and located conspicuously within the for-hire vehicle.

~~11.13.~~ For-hire drivers may not ask, demand, or collect any rate other than the rate established by the TRDA or RDA. Investigations or audits shall be based upon rates made available for inspection upon request of the Director. Drivers of for-hire vehicles may accept tips.

~~12.14.~~ Rate information shall be displayed in a rate book that is readily accessible to the passenger and is easy for the passenger to understand. The rate book may be in paper or electronic format (e.g., tablet in back seat area).

~~13.15.~~ The rate book shall always be in the for-hire vehicle and accessible to the passenger.

~~14.16.~~ Hourly or zone rates may vary by time of day. Variable rates shall be clearly marked and distinct from standard rates.

~~15.11.~~ For hire vehicles must charge for service based on one of the following types:

<del>For Hire Vehicle Rate Types</del>	<del>Description</del>
<del>Flat Rate by Address</del>	<del>Flat charge by address. Rate from one specific address to another (e.g., rate from Colman Dock to Seattle Tacoma International Airport). Rates are available to the passenger through a rate book in the vehicle.</del>
<del>Flat Rate by Zone</del>	<del>Flat charge by zone. Zone boundaries will be the same as for ZIP code zones and include all ZIP codes in the area served by the TRDA and a rate for a trip within the same ZIP code zone.  Flat rate may vary by time of day. Rates are available to the passenger through the rate book in the vehicle.  The rate for the trip shall be based on the variable rate effective at the time the trip began. Rates are available to the passenger through the rate book in the vehicle and must be easily discernable from standard rates by zone.</del>
<del>Contract Rate</del>	<del>Rates established pursuant to written contracts between a TRDA and a business or a non-profit organization whereby the amount or rate paid for transportation service is specified.</del>
<del>Hourly Rate</del>	<del>Hourly rate. Minimum increment of ½ hour. Hourly rate may vary by time of day. Rates are available to the passenger through a rate book in the vehicle.  The rate for the trip shall be based on the variable rate effective at the time the trip began. Rates are available to the passenger through the rate book in the vehicle and must be easily discernable from standard hourly rates.</del>

<b>For Hire Vehicle Rate Types</b>	<b>Description</b>
<b>ADS Rate</b>	<del>Not required to be filed. Please see City of Seattle Director's Rule For Hire Transportation-13-2024 and King County Public Rule FHT-13-2024-PR for more information on ADS.</del>

### Temporary Fuel Surcharge

~~16.17.~~ The temporary fuel surcharge is intended to help offset the for-hire driver's cost of fuel (i.e., regular unleaded gasoline) when that cost exceeds certain levels. The surcharge applies to all trips provided by a taxicab or for-hire vehicle when not operating under contract. A for-hire driver is authorized to add the surcharge as an "extra" item at the end of the trip, regardless of how the trip was priced, in an amount consistent with the following table:

<b>Fuel Price (per gallon)</b>	<b>Temporary Fuel Surcharge (per trip)</b>
\$4.00	None
\$5.00	\$1.00
\$5.50	\$1.50
\$6.00	\$2.00
\$6.50	\$2.50
\$7.00	\$3.00
\$7.50	\$3.50

The per trip surcharge will continue to increase in \$0.50 increments for every \$0.50 increase in the price of fuel beyond the value shown in the table.

If the trip fare was calculated using an approved smart taximeter, the temporary fuel surcharge may be added automatically by the smart taximeter and shall be clearly described on the passenger's receipt. A for-hire driver shall not add a temporary fuel surcharge to a fare when the temporary fuel surcharge has already been included by the smart taximeter.

The current price of fuel must remain at or above a trigger level in the table for 14 consecutive days before a surcharge, or an increase in the surcharge, may be authorized by the Director. Fuel price will be based on reports from the American Automobile Association website for the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett area as available at <https://gasprices.aaa.com/> or a successor website.

The Director will provide each TRDA or RDA with printed fuel surcharge notices that must be placed on the dashboard of each affiliated vehicle so that they are visible to all passengers. The notices must be returned to the Director when the surcharge is changed or removed. The printed notice will carry the heading "Fuel Surcharge" and read as follows:

A TEMPORARY FUEL SURCHARGE IN THE AMOUNT OF \$X.XX PER TRIP WILL BE ADDED TO THE TAXIMETER FARE DUE TO RECENT FUEL PRICES (CITY OF SEATTLE DIRECTOR'S RULE FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION-11-2024 AND KING COUNTY PUBLIC RULE FHT-10-2024-PR).

Fuel surcharges may be removed or reduced after the current price of fuel remains below a level in the table for 14 consecutive days.

Fuel surcharges do not apply to trips using contract rates.

#### **Additional Charges to Transport Persons with Disabilities Prohibited**

18. Unless part of a contract rate, establishing special vehicle service rates or additional charges for the transport of persons with disabilities is prohibited.

- a. A TRDA or RDA may establish different rates based on vehicle size. However, when a large vehicle that is also a wheelchair accessible vehicle transports a passenger in a wheelchair, the small car rate shall always apply, regardless of the number of additional passengers. Additional passenger fees may still apply when there are more than two passengers.

#### **Discriminatory Charges Prohibited**

17-19. Per SMC 6.311.380.E.4 and KCC 6.65.380.E.4, a TRDA or RDA or one of its affiliated drivers may not impose discriminatory charges on any passenger who falls within a protected class as defined by City of Seattle or King County law.

#### **Fare Transparency to Drivers**

18-20. Per SMC 6.311.370.C and KCC 6.65.370.C, the TRDA or RDA shall make known to the affiliated regional for-hire driver the amount of the fare for each trip by that driver regardless of the rate or fare type used to price the trip.

#### **Fare Data**

19-21. With the transition to smart taximeter systems and an increased ability to collect and report trip data, the Director may periodically request from TRDAs and RDAs data on total fares for trips under two scenarios – one where the regional taximeter rate was used and another where an alternate taxicab fare or rate type was used – to see how the total fares compare.

- IV. **Implementation.** Unless specified otherwise in this Rule, these requirements take effect immediately after the Director files this Rule with the Seattle City Clerk and with the King County Archives, Records Management, and Mail Services Section (ARMMS).
- V. **Rule Maintenance.** The Director will periodically review available data and will consult with industry licensees, including taxicab and for-hire vehicle drivers and TRDA and RDA representatives, on the prevalence of varying fares from the established regional taximeter rates and which alternate rate and fare types have been used to vary fares to determine the necessity of any changes to this Rule.
- VI. **Rule Enforcement.** The Director will follow the process outlined herein, as well as the process outlined in a separate rule on ADS usage, to verify compliance with the allowances permitted under this Rule. The Director will investigate any passenger complaints about not being presented a trip rate, fare, or price for consideration before confirming a trip; trip, fares, rates, or prices themselves; and related issues.



Seattle



King County

<p>Department:</p> <p><b>City of Seattle</b> <b>Department of Finance and Administrative Services</b></p>	<p>Rule No: FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION- 07-<del>2024</del>2025</p>	<p>Supersedes: Clerk File <del>3221413</del>23072</p>
<p>Subject: Taximeters and Smart Taximeters</p>	<p>Code and Section Reference(s): SMC 6.311.160, .260.A, .310, .340, .360, .380  SMC 6.311.470 (rulemaking authority)</p>	
<p>Approved:</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Division Director</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Business Unit Officer</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Kiersten Grove, Acting Director</p>	<p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date</p> <p>_____</p> <p>Date</p>	
<p><b>King County / Department of Executive Services</b>  <b>Document Code No.:</b> <del>FHT-8-2024-PR</del>FHT-8-2025-PR  <b>Repeals:</b> <del>LIC-8-4-PR</del>FHT-8-2024-PR  <b>Title:</b> Taximeters and Smart Taximeters  <b>Effective Date:</b> <del>X, X</del> 2025  <b>Authorities:</b> KCC 6.65.160, .260.A, .310, .340, .360, and .380; KCC 6.65.470 (rulemaking authority)  <b>Keywords:</b> Taxicab, Taxi, Taximeter, Meter, Smart Taximeter, Weights and Measures, Application Dispatch System, ADS  <b>Sponsoring Agency:</b> Records and Licensing Services Division (RALS)</p> <p><b>Director signature:</b> _____</p> <p><b>Date signed:</b> _____</p>		

## City of Seattle and King County For-Hire Transportation Rules

### City of Seattle Director's Rule FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION-07-~~2024~~2025 and King County Public Rule FHT-8-~~2024~~2025-PR – Taximeters and Smart Taximeters

Pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the City of Seattle and King County work cooperatively to regulate for-hire passenger transportation. The following Rule supersedes City of Seattle Clerk File [323072](#) ~~322141~~ and King County Public Rule [FHT-8-2024-PR-8-4-PR](#).

- I. **Purpose.** This Rule provides guidance for the testing and approval of taximeters, smart taximeters, and an application dispatch system (ADS) when it is part of a smart taximeter system. A taximeter or smart taximeter shall meter a trip using either an on-board diagnostic (OBD) connection or a global positioning system (GPS) connection or some combination of the two.

City of Seattle and King County rules on an ADS, which specify requirements for system approval and use, and rates and fares, which establishes permitted variations from regional taximeter rates, shall complement this Rule.

- II. **Definitions.** ~~When used in~~For purposes of this Rule, the following ~~term(s) are defined as follows~~definitions apply:

1. "Application Dispatch System" and "ADS" means technology that allows consumers, via the internet using devices such as, but not limited to, smartphone and tablet applications, either or both, to:
  1. Directly request dispatch of regional for-hire drivers for trips; and
  2. Accept payments for those trips.
2. "Director" means for King County, the manager of King County's Records and Licensing Services Division or designee, and means for the City of Seattle, the Director of Finance and Administrative Services or designee.
3. "Smart Taximeter" means a system of hardware and software that integrates a taximeter and other components together to perform functions required by SMC chapter 6.311 and KCC chapter 6.65.
4. "Smart Taximeter System" means the system a regional dispatch agency uses to dispatch trips to, communicate with, and track the location of, affiliated vehicles and drivers through the smart taximeter. A smart taximeter system may include an application dispatch system.
5. "Taximeter" means any instrument or device by which the fare for a trip provided in a taxicab is measured or calculated either for the distance traveled by the taxicab or for waiting time, or for both, and upon which such calculated charges shall be indicated by means of figures.

- III. **Requirements.** In addition to the testing and approval process, all references to taximeters in Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) Chapter 6.311 and King County Code (KCC) Chapter 6.65 shall apply with equal force regardless of taximeter type.

#### *Analog or Digital Taximeters Not Part of a Smart Taximeter System*

1. An analog or digital taximeter shall pass a test at least once per year. Additional tests shall be required if:
  - a. The taximeter's security seal is broken,

- b. The taxicab owner is replacing the vehicle,
- c. The taxicab owner is changing the taximeter equipment,
- d. The taxicab owner is changing affiliation from one transitional regional dispatch agency (TRDA) or regional dispatch agency (RDA) to another, or
- e. The Director requires confirmation that the taximeter is functioning properly (e.g., is accurate or can produce an audit trail).

The Director reserves the right to change the frequency of testing at any time. No taximeter test shall occur during the change of vehicle process until the vehicle has passed its annual safety inspection as required by SMC and KCC.

2. Testing of an analog or digital taximeter shall be performed following procedures contained in the most recent version of Handbook 44 Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices, as amended, published by the National Institute for Standards and Technology (NIST).
3. An analog or digital taximeter must have a Certificate of Conformance issued by the National ~~Conference Council~~ on Weights and Measures (NCWM) proving compliance with the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP).
4. An analog or digital taximeter shall be configured to meet the following requirements:
  - a. Automatically print a receipt or automatically transmit a receipt via email or text message when requested by the passenger;
  - ~~b. May automatically transmit a receipt via email or text message when the passenger provides information to receive the receipt in that medium;~~
  - ~~c.b. Be Automatically disabled if the vehicle's electronic payment processing system cannot produce a paper receipt or cannot issue a receipt via email or text message when there is no receipt paper, the system has lost the capability to issue an electronic receipt via email or text message, or the top light turns off when the taximeter is off;~~
  - ~~d.c.~~ Have statistical functions protected by a password issued by the Director to each taximeter technician; ~~and~~
  - d. Activate and deactivate the top light ~~when in use~~ as follows: the top light turns on when the taximeter is on but not operating on a trip, the top light turns off when a trip is initiated, and top light turns on when the taximeter is cleared at the end of a trip; and
  - e. Automatically disable if the top light turns off when the taximeter is off.

*Taximeters Part of a Smart Taximeter System*

5. A taximeter that is part of a smart taximeter system ~~and has either a GPS connection or an OBD/GPS combination connection~~ shall pass a test at least once per year. Additional tests shall be required if:
  - a. The taximeter's digital security seal, or similar, is broken,
  - b. The taxicab owner is replacing the vehicle,
  - c. The taxicab owner is changing the taximeter equipment,
  - d. The taxicab owner is changing affiliation from one RDA to another, or
  - e. The Director requires confirmation that the taximeter is functioning properly (e.g., is accurate or can produce an audit trail).

The Director reserves the right to change the frequency of testing at any time. No taximeter test shall occur during the change of vehicle process until the vehicle has passed its annual safety inspection as required by SMC and KCC.

6. Testing of a taximeter that is part of a smart taximeter system shall be performed based on the most recent version of ~~Handbook 44~~ Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices (NIST Handbook 44), and a checklist developed by the Director.

The checklist shall cover taximeter drop; mileage; wait time; additional charges; rate variations and transparency; displaying of rate or rates by amount and type (e.g., ADS, flat, etc.); receipt issuance and audit trail/event logger; ~~and security/user authentication; and~~ physical position and screen size of the smart taximeter display in the vehicle to ensure the visibility of meter indicators and other on-screen information comply with SMC, KCC, and NIST Handbook 44. Testing shall occur prior to implementing a new smart taximeter system or if the RDA changes the vendor of its smart taximeter system.

For a regional dispatch agency that has installed smart taximeters in all affiliated vehicles, the Director may choose not to test all smart taximeters in the fleet. Rather, the Director may test some smart taximeters in affiliated vehicles on either a pre-determined schedule (in lieu of annual inspections) or as field enforcement occurs.

7. The Director shall from time to time require individual taxicabs to undergo a compliance inspection of the installed taximeter that is part of a smart taximeter system. The inspection shall cover the taximeter's overall operability, accuracy when based on time or distance, fare and rate transparency, programmed regional taximeter rates and other alternative fares, and software version, among other items.

~~8. The Director shall develop and use a checklist to ensure the RDA's smart taximeter system complies with SMC 6.311.340.A.8 and KCC 6.65.340.A.8. As a condition of issuing an RDA license, the RDA's smart taximeter system must pass all elements of the checklist.~~

~~9.8. A taximeter that is part of a~~Any smart taximeter system used by an TRDA or RDA and has either a GPS connection or an OBD/GPS combination connection must have a Certificate of Conformance issued by the NCWM no later than March 31, 2026.

~~10.9.~~ A taximeter that is part of a smart taximeter system shall be configured to meet the following requirements:

~~a.~~ Automatically print a receipt or automatically transmit a receipt via email or text message when requested by the passenger;

~~b.a.~~ May automatically transmit a receipt via email or text message when the passenger provides information to receive the receipt in that medium;

~~c.b.~~ Be Automatically disabled if the vehicle's electronic payment processing system cannot produce a paper receipt or cannot issue a receipt via email or text message when there is no receipt paper or the system has lost the capability to issue an electronic receipt via email or text message;

~~d.c.~~ Display the trip fare by the rate fare, rate, or price by the type applicable to the trip (e.g., ADS, flat, etc.);

- e.d. Have security features to protect trip and customer payment data;
- f.e. Restrict the programming of rates and fares to the system's vendor and/or RDA; ~~and~~
- f. Activate and deactivate the top light ~~when in use~~ as follows: the top light turns on when the taximeter is on but not operating on a trip, the top light turns off when a trip is initiated, and top light turns on when the taximeter is cleared at the end of a trip-; and
- f.g. Automatically disable if the top light turns off when the taximeter is off.

11.10. Any RDA using a smart taximeter system may vary its fares from the regional taximeter rates consistent with SMC 6.311.380 and KCC 6.65.380. Before doing so, the RDA must demonstrate to the Director, consistent with applicable City of Seattle and King County rules, how the fare presented is transparent to the passenger before the passenger confirms the trip. Variations from established regional taximeter rates must be configured into the smart taximeter system, which only the smart taximeter system's vendor and/or the RDA may program.

12.11. After March 31, 2026, only taximeters that are part of a smart taximeter system shall be used.

12. After March 31, 2026, unless a later date is approved by the Director, a smart taximeter system shall incorporate the use of for-hire transportation data standards, including the most current version of the Mobility Data Specification (MDS) and the General On-Demand Feed Specification (GOFs).<sup>1</sup>

13. When operating a taxicab, the driver shall always engage the taximeter or smart taximeter to indicate the trip has been accepted and will be provided. When engaged, the taximeter or smart taximeter must (1) indicate to the passenger how the trip is being priced and (2) indicate the driver is not available to provide another trip. If the fare is presented in advance, then engaging the smart taximeter does not require the smart taximeter to display the running meter to the passenger.

#### *General*

14. A taximeter test shall be scheduled each license year by appointment only unless the Director conducts testing as part of field enforcement. The Director shall issue a notice to comply if a licensee misses a scheduled appointment for a taximeter test. If a licensee misses two or more scheduled appointments for a taximeter test, then the Director may impose a \$25 fee consistent with SMC 6.311.050.A.2.g and KCC 4A.750.100.A.2 for each scheduled appointment missed.

If a licensee cannot attend a scheduled appointment for a taximeter test, then the licensee has an obligation to timely notify the Director and request a new appointment.

14.15. The Director shall consider a taximeter, regardless of type, to not be functioning properly unless it has receipt paper and automatically prints a receipt, or it has the capability to send a receipt via email or text message, at the conclusion of a trip. Any

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<sup>1</sup> The MDS is available at <https://www.openmobilityfoundation.org/about-mds/mds-version-guidance/> and the GOFs is available at <https://mobilitydata.org/mobilitydata-is-accelerating-the-standardization-of-on-demand-transportation-with-the-gofs-project/>.

receipt, regardless of its medium or delivery method, must include the following information:

- a. The date and time the trip began and ended, TRDA or RDA name (current),
- b. Distance traveled,
- c. The Medallion number for the vehicle providing the trip,
- ~~b.d.~~ The driver's regional for-hire driver's license number or unique driver identification number,
- ~~c.~~ Date,
- ~~d.~~ Start time of trip,
- e. End time of trip,
- f. Fare charged and any tip paid,
- ~~f.g.~~ Any additional charges paid (e.g., additional passenger charge, tolls, temporary fuel surcharge, technology fee, convenience fee, etc.),
- h. Total amount farepaid,
- ~~g.i.~~ The TRDA or RDA with which the vehicle is affiliated, and
- ~~h.j.~~ Taxicab passenger hotline telephone number (206) 296-8294. A phone number, email address, or website to submit passenger feedback and inquiries to the TRDA or RDA.

~~15-16.~~ Any TRDA or RDA seeking approval from the Director to change the vendor of its taximeter or smart taximeter system to either add to or replace existing technology must submit an outreach and implementation plan to the Director. The plan shall address how the TRDA or RDA intends to communicate the change to its affiliated owners and drivers and to minimize technical issues during the new system's initial phase.

- IV. **Implementation.** Unless specified otherwise in this Rule, these requirements take effect immediately after the Director files this Rule with the Seattle City Clerk and with the King County Archives, Records Management, and Mail Services Section (ARMMS).
- V. **Rule Maintenance.** The Director shall periodically consult with industry stakeholders, including vehicle owners and drivers and TRDA or RDA representatives, on taximeter testing and the prevalence of using a smart taximeter system to vary fares other than the regional taximeter rates established by SMC or KCC. From this consultation, the Director shall determine the necessity of any changes to this Rule.
- VI. **Rule Enforcement.** The Director shall follow the process outlined herein, as well as the process outlined in a separate rule on an ADS, to verify the compliance of taximeters and smart taximeter systems. The Director shall investigate any passenger complaints about lack of price transparency or other issues concerning taximeter or smart taximeter operation.

The Director shall communicate with the state of Washington to determine the appropriateness of a device registration fee for a smart taximeter. Please see SMC 7.04.645 for more information on device registration fees.



Seattle



King County

Department:  <b>City of Seattle</b> <b>Department of Finance and Administrative Services</b>	Rule No: FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION- 06- <del>2024</del> <u>2025</u>	Supersedes: Clerk Files <del>307683,</del> <del>314147, 314148,</del> and <del>314149</del> <u>323071</u>
	Publication: <del>56/176/2024</del> <u>2025</u>	Effective: <del>7X/1X/2024</del> <u>2025</u>
Subject: Uniform Color Schemes and Exterior and Interior Markings for Vehicles	Code and Section Reference(s): SMC 6.311.200.B, .310.A.7, .310.A.8, .310.A.13, and .360.A.19  SMC 6.311.470 (rulemaking authority)	
Approved:  _____ Division Director  _____ Business Unit Officer  _____ Kiersten Grove, Acting Director	_____ Date  _____ Date  _____ Date	
<b>King County / Department of Executive Services</b> <b>Document Code No.:</b> <del>FHT-6-2024-PR</del> <u>FHT-6-2025-PR</u> <b>Repeals:</b> <del>New</del> <u>FHT-6-2024-PR</u> <b>Title:</b> Uniform Color Schemes and Exterior and Interior Markings for Vehicles <b>Effective Date:</b> <del>X, X</del> <u>2025</u> <b>Authorities:</b> KCC 6.65.200.B, .310.A.7, .310.A.8, .310.A.13, and .360.A.19; KCC 6.65.470 (rulemaking authority) <b>Keywords:</b> <b>Sponsoring Agency:</b> Records and Licensing Services Division (RALS)		
<b>Director signature:</b> _____  <b>Date signed:</b> _____		

## City of Seattle and King County For-Hire Transportation Rules

### City of Seattle Director's Rule FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION-06-~~2024~~2025 and King County Public Rule FHT-6-~~2024~~2025-PR – Uniform Color Schemes and Exterior and Interior Markings for Vehicles

Pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the City of Seattle and King County work cooperatively to regulate for-hire passenger transportation. The following Rule supersedes City of Seattle Clerk Files ~~307683, 314147, 314148, and 314149, 323071~~ and King County ~~adopts this~~Public Rule ~~FHT-6-2024~~as new.

I. **Purpose.** To establish requirements for the physical appearance of licensed taxicabs and for-hire vehicles. The requirements pertain to both the interior and exterior of the vehicle.

II. **Definitions.** ~~When used in~~For purposes of this Rule, the following ~~term(s) are defined as follows~~definitions apply:

1. "Director" means the director of King County's Department of Executive Services and/or the City of Seattle's Director of Finance and Administrative Services, or their designees.
2. "Fleet" means a group of one or more vehicles affiliated with a transitional regional dispatch agency or a regional dispatch agency operating under a uniform color scheme (i.e., a brand, a trade name, or a doing business as (dba)).
3. "Uniform color scheme" means the color or colors used by vehicles affiliated with a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, and approved by the Director for exclusive use.

III. **Requirements.**

#### **Uniform Color Schemes**

1. The uniform color scheme(s) used by a transitional regional dispatch agency (TRDA) or a regional dispatch agency (RDA), or each fleet affiliated with the TRDA or RDA, shall be one or more approved colors.
2. A TRDA or RDA will submit to the Director a sample color chip(s) of the proposed uniform color scheme(s) when applying for a transitional regional dispatch agency license or a regional dispatch agency license for the first time or when the proposed uniform color scheme(s) differs from the uniform color scheme(s) currently on record with the Director. Submittal may occur at the time of annual license renewal or at a time agreed upon by the Director and TRDA or RDA representative.

Consistent with this Rule, the Director must approve all proposed uniform color schemes that do not match the approved uniform color scheme(s) currently used by another licensed TRDA or RDA.

3. The Director will not approve the color white as a uniform color scheme if proposed for exclusive use by any TRDA or RDA. Any TRDA or RDA without an approved uniform color scheme or any TRDA or RDA with an approved uniform color scheme may allow affiliated vehicles to use white vehicles and a combination of letters, numbers, graphics and/or decorative accents to distinguish those vehicles from vehicles affiliated with another TRDA or RDA.

In the case of a TRDA or RDA with an approved uniform color scheme, the letters, numbers, graphics, and/or decorative accents used must all be of the same color as the TRDA or RDA's approved uniform color scheme. If the TRDA or RDA's approved uniform color scheme does not meet the contrast ratio specified in section III.5 of this rule, then the letters, numbers, graphics, and/or decorative accents used must be black or black in combination with the approved uniform color scheme.

~~3.4.~~ The uniform color scheme(s) for all vehicles affiliated with the TRDA or RDA, or a fleet affiliated with the TRDA or RDA, must be identical and conform with the sample color chip(s) approved by the Director.

~~4.5.~~ The TRDA or RDA logo, if any, will be in a color that contrasts with the portion of the vehicle where the logo is placed. In no event will the logo be the sole difference between uniform color schemes. The Director may request supporting documentation from a TRDA or RDA to confirm a contrast ratio of at least 3 to 1 using a commonly available color contrast analyzer.

~~5.6.~~ The uniform color scheme and logo will be permanently affixed (painted and/or applied vinyl graphics) to the vehicle.

~~6.7.~~ Any decorative accents, including a stripe, must be approved by the Director. The decorative accents will not interfere with or significantly alter the uniform color scheme. ~~Accents~~ must and must be identical for all vehicles affiliated with the TRDA or RDA.

A stripe will run the full length of the vehicle and will not be less than three (3) inches in width. In no event will the stripe be the sole difference between uniform color schemes.

For white vehicles, any decorative accents used must be consistent with section III.3 of this Rule.

~~7.8.~~ Any graphics must be approved by the Director. The graphics will not interfere with or significantly alter the uniform color scheme.

A wheelchair accessible vehicle may affix the International Symbol of Accessibility on each of the vehicle's four sides. The affixed symbol must comply with all other requirements outlined by this Rule.

For white vehicles, any graphics used must be consistent with section III.3 of this Rule.

~~8.9.~~ The medallion system for for-hire vehicles will not be in effect after March 31, 2026. When a for-hire vehicle converts to a taxicab, the for-hire vehicle may retain its (two-color) uniform color scheme as long as the vehicle remains affiliated with the same TRDA or RDA and as long as one-third of the vehicle is painted the uniform color scheme approved for the vehicle's affiliated TRDA or RDA. This provision will not supersede any related policy on uniform color schemes required by the vehicle's affiliated TRDA or RDA.

A TRDA or RDA that operates more than one fleet may choose to retain a separate uniform color scheme for each fleet as long as the color scheme within each fleet is uniform.

### **Exterior Vehicle Markings – Trade Name and Medallion Number**

~~9-10.~~ The medallion number associated with the taxicab or for-hire vehicle shall be the same number displayed on the taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

~~10-11.~~ The medallion number will be placed on the vehicle in the following locations:

- a. On the front portion of the vehicle's hood in a position reasonably visible to a person standing in front of the vehicle;
- b. On the rear portion of the vehicle's trunk lid in a position reasonably visible to a person standing to the rear of the vehicle; and
- c. On both left and right rear roof posts.

If the vehicle design does not permit placement of the medallion number in these locations, then the Director will designate alternative locations.

~~11-12.~~ The medallion number will be in a color that contrasts with that portion of the vehicle where it is placed.

~~12-13.~~ A TRDA and RDA trade names or a fleet's trade name must be approved by the Director. The Director may reject a proposed trade name if deemed too similar to another trade name already approved and in use.

The trade name will be permanently affixed to both front doors of the vehicle. The trade name will be in a color that contrasts with the portion of the vehicle where it is placed. The trade name will be centered on the upper one half (1/2) of the doors so that it is reasonably visible to a person at the side of the vehicle.

~~13-14.~~ The vehicle trade name and the medallion number will use letters and numbers a minimum of four (4) inches in height with the width proportional to the height.

~~14-15.~~ The TRDA or RDA telephone number will be permanently affixed on both front doors of the vehicle. The telephone number will use numbers a minimum of two and one half (2-1/2) inches in height with the width proportional to the height.

~~15-16.~~ A for-hire vehicle that converts to a taxicab will adopt both the TRDA or RDA's trade name and telephone number on the affiliated vehicle at the time of conversion. The Director will not grant any transition period to comply with this requirement.

### **Exterior Vehicle Markings – Advertisements**

~~16-17.~~ Any advertisements or other displays placed on or in the vehicle must not obscure any part of the required exterior or interior vehicle markings required by this Rule.

### **Exterior Vehicle Markings – Rates and Fares Statement**

~~17-18.~~ A sign indicating the following statement:

"Rates or fares may vary. Confirm the fare or rate before you accept the ride."

The sign will be permanently affixed on the outside of the rear passenger doors on both sides of the vehicle and positioned beneath the window line and centered on the upper one

half (1/2) of the rear passenger doors. Letters and numbers will not be less than three quarters (3/4) inch in height and the width will be proportional to the height. The rate information will be in a color which contrasts to the portion of the vehicle where it is displayed.

~~Nothing in this Rule shall prohibit a TRDA or RDA from requiring affiliated vehicles from posting the regional taximeter rates or other rates or fares established by the TRDA or RDA (alternate rates). If a TRDA or RDA implements alternate rates specific to its smart taximeter system, then the TRDA or RDA must post those rates on the exterior of each affiliated vehicle unless the total fare is presented in advance via the smart taximeter's electronic display for the passenger to accept before the trip begins.~~

The TRDA or RDA is encouraged to contact the Director when considering the addition of rate and fare information to the vehicle's exterior.

~~18.19.~~ A for-hire vehicle that converts to a taxicab will adopt the exterior rates and fares statement on the affiliated vehicle at the time of conversion. The Director will not grant any transition period to comply with this requirement.

#### **Interior Vehicle Markings – Rate Information**

~~19.20.~~ A sign indicating the following statement:

“Rates or fares may vary. Confirm the fare or rate before you accept the ride.”

The sign will be permanently affixed to the top of the left window immediately behind the driver to be readily discernible to passengers. The sign will have a transparent background. The letters and numbers will have the same size and contrasting color requirements as for exterior displays ~~and will be in a dark color per section 18 of this Rule.~~

~~Nothing in this Rule shall prohibit a TRDA or RDA from requiring affiliated vehicles from posting the regional taximeter rates or other rates or fares established by the TRDA or RDA. If a TRDA or RDA implements alternate rates specific to its smart taximeter system, then the TRDA or RDA must post those rates on the interior of each affiliated vehicle unless the total fare is presented in advance via the smart taximeter's electronic display for the passenger to accept before the trip begins.~~

The TRDA or RDA is encouraged to contact the Director when considering the addition of rate and fare information to the vehicle's interior.

~~20.21.~~ In a for-hire vehicle that has not yet converted to a taxicab, a sign indicating “Vehicle charges a flat rate and fare is determined by zones. Driver is required to provide a rate book upon customer request. Application dispatch fare supersedes rate book” must be permanently affixed to the driver's-side rear window. The sign must have a transparent background and use three quarters (3/4) inch lettering.

21. A for-hire vehicle that converts to a taxicab will adopt the interior rate information markings in the affiliated vehicle at the time of conversion. The Director will not grant any transition period to comply with this requirement.

### **Interior Vehicle Markings – Passenger Information**

22. A passenger information decal will be placed on the rear driver-side window below the rate information decal. The lettering and numbers on the decal will be black and not less than one-half (1/2) inch in height and the width will be proportional to the height. In addition, this decal must have a transparent background. No other information will be included on the passenger information decal without the prior written approval of the Director.
23. The passenger information decal will include the following information for passengers:
  - a. The TRDA or RDA trade name and medallion number (e.g., “Yellow 101”);
  - b. The statement: “The driver of this vehicle is required to provide each passenger with a receipt upon payment of the fare.”; and
  - c. The One of the following two statements:
    - i. “Passenger Complaint Hotline: (206) 296-TAXI.” OR
    - ii. “TRDA or RDA trade name Customer Service: phone number of TRDA or RDA.”
24. Alternatively, the information required in section 23 may appear electronically on a screen, which may be part of a smart taximeter system, mounted to face a passenger sitting in the vehicle’s rear seat.
25. A passenger information notice in raised upper case common lettering and in Grade 2 Braille must be placed on the inside of all passenger doors above the arm rest.

The raised lettering notice will have white characters on a non-glare black background. The characters will be raised at least 1/32-inch and will have a height of at least 5/8-inch. The characters will have a stroke thickness of between 10%-20% of the height of the character and will be solid rather than hollow.

The Grade 2 Braille notice will have dots uniform in size, solid and rounded, with a height of at least 1/40-inch (0.025 inch) and a diameter of at least 3/50-inch (0.06 inch). The interdot spacing center-to-center will be at least 1/10-inch (0.1 inch). The horizontal distance between cells will be at least 3/10-inch (0.3 inch). The Braille display must conform to requirements prescribed by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The combined notice in raised lettering and Braille translation will contain the following information:

- a. The TRDA or RDA trade name and medallion number (e.g., “Yellow 101”) and
  - b. The One of the following two statements:
    - i. “Passenger Complaint Hotline: (206) 296-8294.” OR
    - ii. “TRDA or RDA trade name Customer Service: phone number of TRDA or RDA.”
26. The Director may investigate alternatives to the passenger information notice required in section 25. In doing so, the Director may consult with people who read Braille on best ways to facilitate communication with drivers. Until the Director promulgates an alternative, the requirements in section 25 remain in place.

27. A paper reproduction of the regional for-hire driver's license will be affixed on the passenger side of the dashboard using two-sided hook and loop fasteners (e.g., VELCRO® brand products) so it is visible to all passengers. The reproduction will not be less than six (6) inches in width and four (4) inches in height.

28. The TRDA or RDA may require the owner of an affiliated vehicle to post one (1) agency specific sign inside the vehicle if that sign provides information for passengers to offer feedback to the TRDA or RDA about their experience or about the TRDA or RDA's lost and found policy. Placement of the sign must not obscure any part of the required interior vehicle markings required by this Rule.

**IV. Implementation.** Unless specified otherwise in this Rule, these requirements take effect immediately after the Director files this Rule with the Seattle City Clerk and with the King County Archives, Records Management, and Mail Services Section (ARMMS).

**V. Rule Maintenance.** The Director will consider costs to comply with these requirements and feedback from TRDA or RDA representatives, medallion owners, vehicle owners, and drivers among other factors, to determine whether this Rule needs revision.

**VI. Rule Enforcement.** The Director may review written documentation and consider community feedback to ensure compliance with the requirements outlined herein.



Seattle



King County

Department:  <b>City of Seattle</b> <b>Department of Finance and Administrative Services</b>	Rule No: FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION 20-2025	Supersedes: New
	Publication: 6/6/2025	Effective: X/X/2025
Subject: Licensing Emerging For-Hire Transportation Models	Code and Section Reference(s): SMC 6.311.390  SMC 6.311.470 (rulemaking authority)	
Approved:  _____ Division Director  _____ Business Unit Officer  _____ Kiersten Grove, Acting Director	_____ Date  _____ Date  _____ Date	
<b>King County / Department of Executive Services</b> <b>Document Code No.: FHT-17-2025-PR</b> <b>Repeals:</b> New <b>Title:</b> Licensing Emerging For-Hire Transportation Models <b>Effective Date:</b> X X, 2025 <b>Authorities:</b> KCC 6.65.390; KCC 6.65.470 (rulemaking authority) <b>Keywords:</b> <b>Sponsoring Agency:</b> Records and Licensing Services Division (RALS)		
<b>Department Director signature:</b> _____		
<b>Date signed:</b> _____		

## City of Seattle and King County For-Hire Transportation Rules

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### City of Seattle Director's Rule FOR-HIRE TRANSPORTATION 20-2025 and King County Public Rule FHT-17-2025 – Licensing Emerging For-Hire Transportation Models

Pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the City of Seattle and King County work cooperatively to regulate for-hire passenger transportation. The City and County both adopt the following Rule as new.

- I. **Purpose.** This Rule outlines a licensing and regulatory program for emerging for-hire transportation models.
- II. **Definitions.** For purposes of this Rule, the following definitions apply:
  - A. "Director" means the director of King County's Department of Executive Services and/or the City of Seattle's Director of Finance and Administrative Services, or their designees.
  - B. "Emerging for-hire transportation model" means an entity providing or requesting approval to provide for-hire transportation services that falls outside the parameters of for-hire transportation services licensed and regulated under Seattle Municipal Code (SMC) chapters 6.310 and 6.311 and King County Code (KCC) chapters 6.64 and 6.65.
- III. **Requirements.**
  - A. An entity interested in obtaining a license to operate as an Emerging For-Hire Transportation Model (Emerging Model) shall not operate within the city of Seattle or King County, including its unincorporated areas and those cities that contract with the County to regulate for-hire transportation, without first meeting with the Director and obtaining an Emerging Model license to operate. When meeting with the Director, representatives of the Emerging Model license applicant shall explain the following:
    1. Dispatch method;
    2. Vehicle remote operations and guidance, if any;
    3. Driver type, if any;
    4. Vehicle type;
    5. Trip compensation method;
    6. Insurance;
    7. Data to be shared with Director;
    8. Physical space needed to undertake operations; and
    9. Any other operating characteristic deemed by the Director necessary to determine an appropriate licensing and regulatory scheme.The Director may also request information in writing.
  - B. If the Director discovers or has reason to believe that an entity is operating as an emerging for-hire transportation model, then the Director may initiate an investigation to determine if the business activity presents potential risks to public health, safety, and welfare such that, for the protection of the public, the activity must be regulated and licensed as an Emerging Model.
  - C. After reviewing the information presented, the Director shall acknowledge receipt. The Director shall then determine whether the Emerging Model license applicant satisfies this Rule's definition of an emerging for-hire transportation model. If so, then the Director shall outline any risks and concerns the Emerging Model applicant poses and shall discuss those risks and concerns with representatives of the Emerging Model license applicant.

- D. Based on the risks and concerns outlined, the Director shall determine whether to issue an Emerging Model license.
  - 1. If a license will not be issued, then the Director shall specify the bases for denial. An Emerging Model license applicant may not reapply for a license until correction of the deficiency on which the denial was based is deemed acceptable by the Director.
    - a. The Emerging Model license applicant may appeal the Director's denial to the Hearing Examiner consistent with the process outlined in SMC 6.311.450 and KCC 6.65.450.
  - 2. If a license will be issued, then the Emerging Model may operate on a pilot basis for a time specified by the director, and which shall be no greater than two years.
    - a. Absent enforcement action taken against the Emerging Model, renewal of the license shall occur on the anniversary of the license's issuance to the Emerging Model, and the license shall permanently expire one year after its first renewal.
- E. Upon issuance of the license, the Director may attach conditions as are reasonably required to protect the public health, safety, labor harmony, and welfare from risks including, but not limited to:
  - 1. Adverse impact on public health;
  - 2. Public safety;
  - 3. Increased demand on government services;
  - 4. Increased environmental impacts; or
  - 5. Increased traffic or congestion in the public right of way.The Director may attach, remove, or modify conditions at any time during the term of the license, upon reasonable notice to the Emerging Model.

**IV. Enforcement.**

- A. Through typical activities such as vehicle inspections, street enforcement, and complaint investigations, the Director may determine at any time during the term of the Emerging Model's license that the Emerging Model's business activity as conducted presents an unreasonable risk to public health and safety that cannot be mitigated, and may revoke the license, with or without prior notice.
- B. If a license is revoked, then the Emerging Model shall not operate pending appeal. The Emerging Model shall be given the opportunity to appear before the Director for an informal hearing to introduce any evidence to appeal the revocation before the revocation is effective or no later than ten days after the revocation is effective. The Director shall render a decision affirming or reversing the revocation within three business days after conclusion of the hearing. The decision of the Director is final.

- V. **Permanent Regulation.** If the Director determines that an entity issued an emerging for-hire transportation license under a pilot program, should be regulated by ordinance, the Director shall convey the determination to the City Council and King County Council prior to the expiration of the license. The license shall not be extended beyond two years unless an ordinance regulating the emerging for-hire transportation model is effective and the emerging for-hire transportation model has obtained the necessary licenses required under that ordinance.

- VI. Automated Driving Systems.** If an Emerging Model license applicant uses vehicles equipped with an automated driving system, then the process specified in SMC 6.311.470.C and KCC 6.65.475 shall apply before the Emerging Model is authorized to operate.
- VII. Implementation.** These requirements take effect thirty (30) days after the Director files this Rule with the Seattle City Clerk and with the King County Archives, Records Management, and Mail Services Section (ARMMS).
- VIII. Rule Maintenance.** The Director shall consider the process to license an Emerging Model and enforce the associated regulatory scheme to determine whether this Rule needs revision.
- IX. Rule Enforcement.** The Director shall review the Emerging Model's operations to ensure compliance with the license and regulatory requirements outlined herein.

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