



Legislation Text

File #: 2005-0038, **Version:** 2

Clerk 08/24/2005

AN ORDINANCE relating to the regulation of taxicab and for-hire vehicle businesses and drivers; establishing licensing and standards of operations for the wheelchair accessible taxicab pilot demonstration project; making technical changes; and amending Ordinance 10498, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.010, Ordinance 10498, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.025, Ordinance 10498, Section 15, and K.C.C. 6.64.350, Ordinance 10498, Section 22, and K.C.C. 6.64.420, Ordinance 10498, Section 24, and K.C.C. 6.64.440, Ordinance 10498, Section 31, and K.C.C. 6.64.540, Ordinance 10498, Section 34, and K.C.C. 6.64.570, Ordinance 10498, Section 35, and K.C.C. 6.64.580, Ordinance 10498, Sections 47 through 60, and K.C.C. 6.64.660, Ordinance 10498, Sections 61 through 68, and K.C.C. 6.64.680, Ordinance 10498, Section 89, and K.C.C. 6.64.700, Ordinance 10498, Section 90, and K.C.C. 6.64.710 and Ordinance 10498, Section 18, and K.C.C. 6.64.380.

PREAMBLE:

King County's Metro transit division and King County's records, elections and licensing services division ("WAT group") have created a partnership to coordinate a two-year demonstration project to provide accessible taxicab ("WAT") services in greater King County to people with disabilities who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices.

Temporary WAT licenses will be issued to a group of qualified licensed taxicab drivers as

determined by a request for information selection process administered by the WAT group.

The accessible taxicabs will charge the same rates as nonaccessible taxicabs and prioritize use for people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices over the general public.

The goals of the demonstration project are to test the economic viability and feasibility of operating a privately owned wheelchair accessible taxicab that provides on-demand services to private pay passengers at taxicab rates, to evaluate the need for wheelchair accessible taxicabs, and to determine how many wheelchair accessible taxicabs may be necessary to provide responsive service. This ordinance is required to implement temporary licenses and standards of operation for wheelchair accessible taxicabs and drivers.

BE IT ORDAINED BY THE COUNCIL OF KING COUNTY:

SECTION 1. Ordinance 10498, Section 1, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.010 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Definitions. For the purposes of this chapter and unless the context plainly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

A. "Affiliated representative" means the individual within the service organization who has the authority to file special rates and contract agreement rates and charges for a group of affiliated taxicabs, and who is designated as the individual responsible for the receipt of any correspondence or notices pertaining to the service organization or the taxicabs or for-hire vehicles operating within the service organization.

B. "Affiliated taxicab" means a taxicab associated with a service organization.

C. "Alcohol" means a mixture containing no less than eighty-five percent methanol, ethanol or other alcohols, in any combination, by volume.

D. "Alternative fuel" means a means for propulsion by other than gasoline or diesel fuel (~~and shall~~).

"Alternative fuel" includes:

1. Alcohol((-));

2. Dual energy((:));

3. Electricity((:));

4. Natural gas((:));

5. Propane((:)); and

6. Human power((ed)).

E. "Approved mechanic facility" means a garage or repair facility (~~who~~) that employs mechanics:

1. ~~((w))~~Who have successfully passed the examinations of, and met the experience requirements prescribed by, the National Institute for Automotive Service Excellence(~~(, and)~~);

2. ~~((w))~~Who have been awarded ~~((C))~~certificates in ~~((E))~~evidence of ~~((C))~~competence satisfactory to the director(~~(, and)~~);

3. ~~((w))~~Who are ~~((A))~~authorized ~~((E))~~emission ~~((S))~~specialists certified by the Washington Department of Ecology(~~(, and)~~);

4. ~~((n))~~None of whom are the owner, lessee((:)) or driver of a taxicab((:)) or for-hire vehicle or the employee of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle company((:)); and

5. ~~((n))~~None of whom have a financial interest in a taxicab or for-hire vehicle or taxicab or for-hire vehicle company.

F. "Contract agreement rate" means the rate specified in a written agreement signed by both parties in advance of the dispatch of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for the services identified in the contract.

G. "Director" means the director of the King County department of executive services and his or her duly appointed representatives.

H. "Dual energy" means capable of being operated using an alternative fuel and gasoline or diesel fuel.

I. "Engage in the business of operating a taxicab or vehicle for hire" means the pickup and transportation of any fare paying passenger from a point within the geographical confines of unincorporated King County, whether or not the vehicle is dispatched from a taxicab stand or office within any other municipal

corporation, and whether or not the ultimate destination or route of travel is within the confines of unincorporated King County(~~(; provided, that)~~). However, nothing in this chapter shall be construed to apply to taxicabs or for-hire vehicles licensed by any other municipal corporation and transporting passengers from a point within the licensing municipality to a destination outside thereof, whether or not the ultimate destination or route traveled is within unincorporated King County.

J. "For-hire driver" means any person in control of, operating or driving a taxicab or for-hire vehicle and includes a lease driver, owner(~~(/)~~)~~_~~operator(~~(/)~~) or driver of taxicabs or for-hire vehicles as an employee.

K. "For-hire vehicle" means and includes every motor vehicle used for the transportation of passengers for hire(~~(/)~~) and not operated exclusively over a fixed and definite route, except:

1. Taxicabs;
2. Passenger vehicles carrying passengers on a noncommercial enterprise basis;
3. Vehicles or operators expressly exempt by the RCW from county regulation;
4. Operators of charter boats.

L. "He" means and includes in all references either he or she.

M. "His" means and includes in all references either his or her.

N. "Independent taxicab" means a taxicab that is not affiliated with a service organization.

O. "Lease driver" means a for-hire driver who is an independent contractor(~~(/)~~) or sole proprietor and who has a taxicab for-hire vehicle lease contract or other form of agreement with a taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner or service organization.

P. "Lessor" means an owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle who leases, by contract or other form of agreement, to a lease driver (~~(as defined in this section)~~).

Q. "Licensee" means all applicants, including for-hire drivers, vehicle owners(~~(/)~~) and service organizations including the affiliated representative required to license under (~~(the provisions of)~~) this chapter.

R. "Motor vehicle" means every motorized vehicle by or upon which any person may be transported or

carried upon a public street, highway or alley(~~(; provided, that)~~), though vehicles used exclusively upon stationary rail tracks or propelled by use of overhead electric wires shall not come under ~~((the provisions of))~~ this chapter.

S. "Service organization" means a group of taxicabs owned or operated by the same or various owners and using the same color scheme, trade name(~~(;)~~) and dispatch services, and having an affiliated representative.

T. "Special rate" means discounted rates for senior citizens and disabled.

U. "Taxicab" means every motor vehicle used for the transportation of passengers for hire, where the route traveled or destination is controlled by a customer and the fare is based on an amount recorded and indicated on a taximeter(~~(;)~~) or on a special fare rate or contracted agreement as permitted by this chapter.

V. "Taxicab vehicle owner" means the registered owner of the vehicle as defined ~~((by))~~ in RCW 46.04.460, as now or hereafter amended.

W. "Taximeter" means any instrument or device by which the charge for hire of a passenger-carrying vehicle is measured or calculated either for the distance traveled by ~~((such))~~ the vehicle or for waiting time, or for both, and upon which ~~((such))~~ the calculated charges shall be indicated by means of figures.

X. "Wheelchair accessible taxicab" means a taxicab designed or modified to transport passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices and conforming to the requirements of the American with Disabilities Act and inspected and approved by the director or the director's designee.

SECTION 2. Ordinance 10498, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.64.025 are hereby amended to read as follows:

License fees and penalties.

The following nonrefundable fees for taxicab and for-hire vehicles shall apply:

A. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle license

Taxicab	\$300.00
<u>Wheelchair accessible taxicab</u>	<u>No fee</u>

Taxicab late fee	\$30.00
For-hire vehicle	\$300.00
For-hire vehicle late fee	\$30.00
Vehicle equipment change	\$50.00
Change of owner: Sept/Feb	\$300.00
March/Aug	\$150.00
Replace taxicab plate	\$10.00

B. For-hire driver

Taxicab and for-hire license	\$75.00
Late fee	\$10.00
ID photo	\$5.00
Fingerprinting	per charge authorized by RCW 10.97.100
Replacement license	\$5.00
Training fee	per contract

SECTION 3. Ordinance 10498, Section 15, and K.C.C. 6.64.350 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Insurance required.

A. The applicant shall ~~((file a certificate of))~~ provide an insurance ~~((providing proof of))~~ policy declaration or insurance binder proving compliance with ~~((RCW C))~~ chapter 46.72 RCW, as now or hereafter amended, for each taxicab or for-hire vehicle to be licensed. The ~~((certificate))~~ policy declaration or insurance binder shall also provide that the insurer notify the director of any cancellation, in writing, at least thirty days ~~((prior to))~~ before cancellation of the policy;

B. ~~((Such certificate))~~ The policy shall be issued by ~~((a company authorized to carry on an insurance~~

business)) an admitted carrier in the ((S))state of Washington with at least an A- financial rating by A.M. Best, but the director may temporarily suspend either or both of these requirements if no other viable insurance options are available to the industry;

C. King County, its officers, officials, agents and employees shall be named as ((a certificate holder)) an additional insured. Applicant shall provide a copy of the additional insured endorsement;

D. Not include self-insured retention, nonstandard deductibles, aggregate limits, territorial restrictions, named driver requirements or any other provisions that limit insurance coverage;

E. In addition, all applicants shall maintain a policy of underinsured motorist coverage which runs to the benefit of passengers (~~(; provided, that a certificate of self insurance issued pursuant to RCW 46.29.630 may be filed with the director in lieu of such policy)~~). Proof of compliance will be a ~~((certificate))~~ policy declarations or a binder of insurance indicating a minimum coverage of ~~((ten))~~ fifty thousand dollars per person, and ~~((twenty))~~ one hundred thousand dollars per accident;

~~((E.))~~ F. If an insurance policy is cancelled, proof of a new policy must be filed ~~((prior to))~~ before the date of cancellation or the taxicab or for-hire vehicle license is automatically suspended and must be surrendered to the director.

SECTION 4. Ordinance 10498, Section 22, and K.C.C. 6.64.420 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Taxicab and for-hire ~~((owner))~~ licensee - ~~((R))~~responsibilities. It is the responsibility of each taxicab or for-hire vehicle ~~((owner))~~ licensee to ensure that the following conditions or requirements are met and continually maintained:

A. Proof of insurance as required in K.C.C. 6.64.350 is on file with the director~~((;))~~ (Class M);

B. Any person driving, operating, in control of or any lessee of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle has been issued a for-hire driver's license and ~~((such))~~ the license is valid~~((;))~~ (Class M);

C. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the safety standards (~~(as set forth)~~) in K.C.C. 6.64.360 at all times the vehicle is operating(~~(;)~~) (Class I or M);

D. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle meets the vehicle standards as set forth in K.C.C. 6.64.370 at all times the vehicle is operating(~~(;)~~) (Class I or M);

E. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner shall maintain a business address and a mailing address where he can accept mail, and a business telephone in working order that can be answered during normal business hours, Monday through Friday, and during all hours of operation(~~(;)~~) (Class I); and

F. A wheelchair accessible taxicab licensee must personally operate the vehicle a minimum of forty hours per week for at least forty weeks per year (Class I).

SECTION 5. Ordinance 10498, Section 24, and K.C.C. 6.64.440 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Standards for suspension(~~(/)~~) and revocation - (~~(F)~~)taxicab or for-hire vehicle (~~(owner)~~) licensee.

A. A taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner's license shall be immediately suspended if:

1. At any time the insurance as required in K.C.C. 6.64.350 expires, lapses, is cancelled or is revoked;
2. The taximeter security seal is missing, broken(~~(;)~~) or tampered with;
3. The director places the vehicle out-of-service for a violation of a vehicle standard which is found to be an immediate safety hazard (~~(as further defined in this chapter)~~) and summary suspension is necessary to prevent a clear, substantial and imminent hazard to life, safety, or property;

4. The vehicle owner fails to comply with a written (~~(N)~~)notice of (~~(V)~~)violation or (~~(N)~~)notice of (~~(C)~~)correction within the prescribed time;

5. It is discovered after license issuance that the applicant(~~(;)~~) or if the applicant is a corporation, any of the officers or registered agent, failed to meet the applicant qualifications(~~(;)~~) or that the vehicle failed to meet the vehicle qualifications, at the time the license was issued.

B. The director may suspend or revoke a taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner's license if he determines that the licensee has:

1. Received a conviction or bail forfeiture for a crime (~~(which)~~) that would be grounds for denial as set forth in K.C.C. 6.64.430;
 2. Been found to have exhibited a record (~~(which)~~) that would lead the director to reasonably conclude that the taxicab or for-hire vehicle owner licensee would not comply with the provisions of the chapter related to vehicle standards or operating requirements;
 3. Allowed the operation of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that does not meet the safety standards and the vehicle standards as set forth in this chapter;
 4. Submitted a safety inspection form that was not completed by an approved mechanic facility as defined in this chapter;
 5. Provided false information in connection with the annual industry reporting required in this chapter;
- or
6. If licensed as a wheelchair accessible taxicab:
 - a. failed to personally operate the vehicle for a minimum of forty hours per week for at least forty weeks per year;
 - b. failed to provide priority service to private pay passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices; or
 - c. failed to comply with any of the requirements in the wheelchair accessible taxicab demonstration project operating agreement.

SECTION 6. Ordinance 10498, Section 31, and K.C.C. 6.64.540 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Temporary permit.

- A. Upon application for a for-hire driver's license and successful completion of the written and oral

examination, the director may, at his or her discretion, issue a temporary permit, which shall entitle the applicant to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle pending final action upon ~~((his))~~ the applicant's application for a period not to exceed ~~((60))~~ sixty days from the date of the application.

B. The temporary permit shall not be transferable or assignable and shall be valid only for the taxicab~~((s))~~ or taxicabs or for-hire vehicle~~((s))~~ or vehicles to which ~~((it))~~ the permit was originally issued.

C. The temporary permit shall be immediately null and void should at any time the applicant's Washington ~~((S))~~ state driver's license become expired, suspended or revoked, or following the denial of an application. The permit shall remain null and void pending the resolution of any appeal as provided.

D. In cases where the applicant fails to complete the license issuance process, a temporary license will not be issued, unless the incomplete license application was filed at least two years preceding the application under consideration.

SECTION 7. Ordinance 10498, Section 34, and K.C.C. 6.64.570 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Training program.

A. All for-hire driver applicants are required to complete a training program providing information about the history and geography of the Puget Sound area, ~~((incentives for))~~ defensive driving, use of emergency procedures and equipment for the driver's personal safety, and enhancement of driver/passenger relations, appearance and communication skills.

B. ~~((Such))~~ The training shall be required upon initial application. ~~((and e))~~ Every ~~((two))~~ three years thereafter, the applicant shall be required to complete a refresher course that covers, at a minimum, driver personal safety.

C. The director shall assure that this training is offered by the county ~~((and/))~~ or offered by another public or private entity, or offered by both. If training offered by a ~~((non-county))~~ noncounty entity, certification for purposes of obtaining or renewing a license pursuant to this chapter is contingent upon the

director's approval that contents and training staff capability are equivalent to what would be provided through the county.

D. A for-hire driver who operates a wheelchair accessible taxicab must successfully complete a separate training program for the special needs of passengers in wheelchairs including, but not limited to, loading and tie-down procedures and door-to-door service.

SECTION 8. Ordinance 10498, Section 35, and K.C.C. 6.64.580 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Written and oral examination.

A. An applicant for an initial for-hire license shall be required to successfully complete a written and oral examination. Existing for-hire driver licensees who have not completed the written oral examination are required to do so at the time the for-hire license is renewed.

B. The written examination (~~((will))~~) shall test the applicant's knowledge of the chapter requirements dealing with fare determination, driver-passenger relations, conduct including the applicant's ability to understand oral and written directions in the English language, vehicle safety requirements and driver regulations (~~((and a satisfactory))~~), risk factors for crimes against for-hire drivers, emergency procedures and taxicab equipment for driver's personal safety. The written examination shall also test the applicant's geographical knowledge of King County and surrounding areas and local public and tourist destinations and attractions. The director shall prescribe the content of the examination (~~((will be prescribed by the director))~~).

C. The oral examination shall test the applicant's ability to speak and understand English sufficiently to perform the responsibilities of a for-hire driver.

D. The temporary license issued pursuant to K.C.C. 6.64.540 will not be issued until successful completion of both the written and oral examination.

~~((D:))~~ E. The written examination is not required for the renewal of a for-hire driver's license unless the applicant's license has remained expired for more than one year.

SECTION 9. Ordinance 10498, Sections 47 through 60, and K.C.C. 6.64.660 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Conduct standards.

A. A driver shall ~~((not))~~ neither drink any alcoholic beverage while on duty or eight hours ~~((prior to))~~ before going on duty nor have in his or her possession an open or unsealed container of any alcoholic beverage ~~((;))~~ (Class M).

B. A driver shall, at the end of each trip, check his or her vehicle for any article that is left behind by his or her passenger~~((s))~~ or passengers. ~~((Such))~~ The articles are to be reported as found property on the TAXI Hotline, as well as to the service organization, and ~~((such property is))~~ the articles are to be returned to the service organization~~((/))~~ or affiliated representative at the end of the shift or sooner if possible. Unaffiliated taxicabs or for-hire vehicles shall deposit ~~((said items))~~ the articles at the ~~((King County business license section.))~~ records, elections and licensing services division (Class M).

C. A driver shall have in his or her possession a valid for-hire driver's license at any time he or she is driving, in control of or operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle and ~~((such))~~ the license shall be displayed as prescribed by the director~~((/))~~ (Class I).

D. A driver shall comply with any written ~~((N))~~ notice of ~~((V))~~ violation or ~~((N))~~ notice of ~~((C))~~ correction by the director including removal from service. (Class M)

E. A driver shall not operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle when ~~((such))~~ the taxicab or for-hire vehicle has been placed out-of-service by order of the director~~((/))~~ (Class M);

F. A driver shall immediately surrender the vehicle license plate or decal to the director upon written notice that ~~((such))~~ the vehicle is out-of-service~~((/))~~ (Class M).

G. A driver shall ~~((not))~~ be in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for neither more than twelve ~~((12))~~ consecutive hours nor for more than twelve ~~((12))~~ hours spread over a total of fifteen ~~((15))~~ hours in any

((24)) twenty-four-hour period. Thereafter, ((such)) driver shall not drive any taxicab until eight ((8)) consecutive hours have elapsed((-)) (Class I).

H. A driver shall not drive, operate((-)) or be in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle other than that designated on ((his)) the driver's temporary for-hire permit((-)) (Class I).

I. A driver shall not drive, be in control of or operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle where the customer information board, as required under ((the vehicle standards section of this chapter)) K.C.C. 6.64.410 is not present and contains the required information((-)) (Class I).

J. A driver shall operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle with due regard for the safety, comfort and convenience of passengers((-)) (Class I).

K. A driver shall ((not)) neither solicit for prostitution nor allow the vehicle to be used for such an unlawful purpose((-)) (Class M).

L. A driver shall not knowingly allow the taxicab or for-hire vehicle to be used for the illegal solicitation, transportation, ((or)) sale((-)) or any other activity related to controlled substances((-)) (Class M).

M. A driver shall deposit all refuse appropriately and under no circumstances((-)) may litter((-)) (Class I).

N. A driver shall not use offensive language, expressions((-)) or gestures to any person while the driver is driving, operating((-)) or in control of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle((-)) (Class I).

O. A driver shall not operate a wheelchair accessible taxicab unless the driver has successfully completed the special training requirements in K.C.C. 6.64.570.

P. A driver shall not use a cell phone while a passenger is in the taxicab.

SECTION 10. Ordinance 10498, Sections 61 through 68, and K.C.C. 6.64.680 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Driver-passenger relations standards.

A.1. A driver shall wear suitable clothes that are neat and clean~~((;))~~ and the driver shall be well groomed at all times while on duty. ~~((The term "well-groomed" shall refer to that state of personal hygiene, body cleanliness and absence of offensive body odor normally associated with bathing or showering on a regular basis, and shall mean that hair is neatly trimmed, beards and mustaches groomed and neatly trimmed at all times in order not to present a ragged appearance, and scalp and facial hair combed and brushed. The term))~~

2. For the purposes of this subsection:

a. ~~((n))~~ Neat and clean, as it relates to clothes ~~((shall)),~~ means that all clothing is clean, free from soil, grease and dirt and without unrepaired rips or tears~~((The term));~~

b. ~~((s))~~ Suitable clothes ~~((shall))~~ mean full-length pants, collared shirt~~((;))~~ and shoes. It shall not be permissible for any driver to wear as an outer garment any of the following:

- (1) undershirts or underwear((;));
- (2) tank tops((;));
- (3) body shirts (see-through mesh)((;));
- (4) swimwear((;));
- (5) jogging or warm-up suits or sweatshirts or similar attire((;));
- (6) shorts or trunks (jogging or bathing)((;));
- (7) sandals((;)); or
- (8) any similar clothing((;)); and

c. "Well groomed" refers to that state of personal hygiene, body cleanliness and absence of offensive body odor normally associated with bathing or showering on a regular basis, and means that hair is neatly trimmed, beards and mustaches are groomed and neatly trimmed at all times in order not to present a ragged appearance and scalp and facial hair are combed and brushed (Class I).

B. A driver shall provide his or her customer with professional and courteous service at all times~~((;))~~ (Class I).

C. A driver shall not refuse a request for service because of the driver's position in line at a taxicab zone; a passenger may select any taxicab in line~~((:))~~ (Class M).

D. A driver shall at all times assist a passenger by placing luggage or packages ~~((f))~~ that are under fifty ~~((50))~~ pounds~~((:))~~ in and out of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle~~((:))~~ (Class I).

E. A driver shall not refuse to transport in the taxicab or for-hire vehicle:

1. ~~((a))~~ Any passenger's wheelchair ~~((which))~~ that can be folded and placed in either the passenger, driver~~((:))~~ or trunk compartment of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle~~((:))~~;

2. ~~((a))~~ An assist dog or guide dog to assist the disabled or handicapped~~((:))~~; and

3. ~~((g))~~ Groceries, packages or luggage when accompanied by a passenger~~((:))~~ (Class M).

F. A driver shall provide each passenger a receipt upon payment of the fare. The receipt shall accurately show the date and time, the amount of the fare, the taxicab name and number~~((:))~~ and the printed name and for-hire driver license number of the for-hire driver~~((:))~~ (Class I).

G. A driver shall use the most direct available route on all trips unless the passenger specifically requests to change the route~~((:))~~ (Class M).

H. A driver shall not permit a ~~((non-fare-paying))~~ non-fare-paying passenger, or pets, to ride in the taxicab or for-hire vehicle. Validly licensed trainees, when approved by the passenger, are exempt from this requirement~~((:))~~ (Class I).

I. A driver shall not refuse to transport any person except when:

1. The driver has already been dispatched on another call;

2. The passenger is acting in a disorderly ~~((or))~~, threatening or suspicious manner, or otherwise causes the driver to reasonably believe that ~~((his))~~ the driver's health or safety, or that of others, may be endangered;

3. The passenger cannot, upon request, show ability to pay fare~~((:))~~; or

4. The passenger refuses to state a specific destination upon entering the taxicab (Class M).

J. A driver shall not smoke while the taxicab or for-hire vehicle is occupied without the consent of all passengers((:)) (Class I).

K. A driver shall be able to provide a reasonable and prudent amount of change, and if correct change is not available, no additional charge ((will)) may be made to the passenger in attempting to secure the change((:)) (Class I).

L. If operating a wheelchair accessible taxicab, a driver shall provide priority service to private pay passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices.

SECTION 11. Ordinance 10498, Section 89, and K.C.C. 6.64.700 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Taxicab((:)) = ((M))maximum number.

A. The King County council finds that the safety, reliability and economic viability of privately operated taxi transportation is a matter of county concern and regulation of ((such)) that type of transportation is an essential government function. The council further finds that the number of taxicab licenses in effect as of May 31, 1991, is sufficient to provide the public adequate taxicab service.

B. The total number of taxicab licenses issued shall not exceed ((the number in effect as of May 31, 1991)) five hundred sixty-one.

C. The director may((, at his discretion,)) issue temporary taxicab licenses, as part of a demonstration project, to ((special service)) wheelchair accessible taxicab vehicles used to provide transportation to disabled persons ((defined in K.C.C. 6.64.010)) who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices. The temporary licenses are nontransferable and shall not be included in calculating the maximum number of taxicab licenses allowable pursuant to subsection B. of this section. The transit division shall coordinate a demonstration project to determine the economic feasibility of the long-term issuance of wheelchair accessible taxicabs.

D. The executive shall formulate and forward to the council for its approval a methodology for apportioning taxicab licenses when the total number of taxicab licenses in effect is less than the maximum

number allowed. The executive shall submit this information to the council no later than ((April 1, 1994))
March 1, 2006.

SECTION 12. Ordinance 10498, Section 90, and K.C.C. 6.64.710 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Transfer of ((permit)) license. Transfer ((~~(f)~~) or sale(~~(t)~~)) of a ((~~permit~~)) license to any other person is authorized, except that temporary wheelchair accessible taxicab licenses are nontransferable. Application for transfer of a permit to another person shall include the name of the transferee, and the trade name and color scheme under which the vehicle will be operated, the sales price and other information required by the director. The transferee shall comply with all requirements of this chapter. Any transfer of a taxicab license shall be for the transfer of all licenses issued to ((~~said~~)) the vehicle. If the transfer is for one vehicle license only, the remaining taxicab license shall be considered abandoned, nonrenewable or ((~~non-transferable~~)) nontransferable.

SECTION 13. ORDINANCE 10498, Section 18, and K.C.C. 6.64.380 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

Taxicab and for-hire vehicle license expiration. All taxicab and for-hire licenses shall expire on ((~~August 31st~~)) June 30 of each year.