



KING COUNTY

1200 King County Courthouse
516 Third Avenue
Seattle, WA 98104

Signature Report

August 30, 2005

Motion 12190

Proposed No. 2005-0365.3

Sponsors Hague and Edmonds

1 A MOTION approving a project report for an accessible
2 taxicab demonstration project.

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5 WHEREAS, the 2005 Budget Ordinance, Ordinance 15083, CIP Attachments,
6 included a transit capital improvement program accessible taxis project, and

7 WHEREAS, this project would provide county-owned accessible vehicles with
8 wheelchair securement capability to local taxicab operators for a limited period
9 demonstration project, and

10 WHEREAS, this project would: test the economic viability of privately owned
11 and operated wheelchair accessible taxicabs providing on-demand service to private-pay
12 passengers at taximeter rates, assess the demand for such service, and estimate the
13 number of accessible taxicabs needed to provide responsive service, and

14 WHEREAS, the executive has transmitted an ordinance that would make several
15 changes to the taxi licensing provisions of the King County Code to enable an accessible
16 taxicab demonstration project to proceed, and

17 WHEREAS, the 2005 adopted budget included a proviso restricting the
18 expenditures on such a project until the council has approved by motion a report and
19 proposal for an accessible taxicab demonstration program, and

20 WHEREAS, the executive has now transmitted a project report on the accessible
21 taxicab demonstration project for the council's review in the form of Attachment A to this
22 motion;

23 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT MOVED by the Council of King County:

Motion 12190

24 The accessible taxicab demonstration project report, Attachment A to this motion,
25 is hereby approved.

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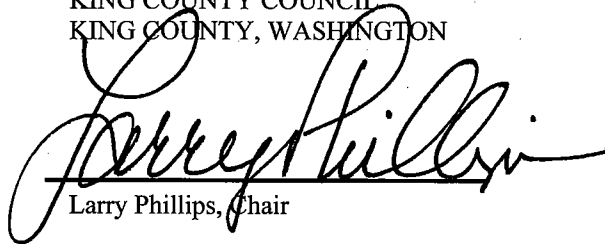
Motion 12190 was introduced on 8/22/2005 and passed as amended by the Metropolitan King County Council on 8/29/2005, by the following vote:

Yes: 12 - Mr. Phillips, Mr. von Reichbauer, Ms. Lambert, Mr. Pelz, Mr. Dunn, Mr. Ferguson, Mr. Hammond, Mr. Gossett, Ms. Hague, Mr. Irons, Ms. Patterson and Mr. Constantine

No: 0

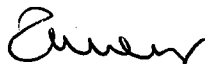
Excused: 1 - Ms. Edmonds

KING COUNTY COUNCIL
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON



Larry Phillips, Chair

ATTEST:



Anne Noris, Clerk of the Council

Attachments A. Accessible Taxicab Demonstration Project Report dated August 29, 2005

PROJECT SUMMARY

King County Metro and King County's Licensing Division have created a partnership to coordinate a demonstration project to provide wheelchair accessible taxicab (WAT) service to people who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids in greater King County. The demonstration project will use eight accessible taxicab vehicles (provided by King County) that will charge the same rates as non-accessible taxicabs. The service will prioritize use for people who use wheelchairs but will also be available to the general public.

Demonstration Project Goals

- Test the economic viability of privately owned and operated wheelchair accessible taxicabs that provide on-demand service to private-pay passengers at taximeter rates.
- Assess the need for accessible taxicabs and estimate how many may be necessary to provide responsive service.

PROJECT MODEL

Accessible Taxicab Demo Project Service:

- The project should initially provide accessible taxicab service for people who use wheelchairs and other mobility aids from at least 6:00AM to 2:00AM, seven days a week in the greater King County area.
- Oversized mobility aids that exceed 48 inches in length or 600 pounds (passenger + aid) are exempt from this demonstration project.
- Service provides curb-to-curb service at regular taxicab rates. Door-to-door service may be provided at no extra charge at the driver's discretion.

Accessible Taxicab Licenses

- Eight temporary Wheelchair Accessible Taxicab (WAT) dual (County and City of Seattle taxi operating) licenses will be issued to individuals who are part of a "Driver Group" that will bid (via a competitive process) to operate the demonstration project. The 8 drivers will own the licenses as long as they are part of the Driver Group. The Driver Group must also include at least 8 additional drivers who will operate other shifts.
- WAT licenses will only be valid as long as driver is part of the Driver Group and operates a wheelchair accessible vehicle that has been supplied or approved by the county for use during the demonstration project.
- Licenses are non-transferable. Licenses expire annually and will be renewed free-of-charge for the duration of the demonstration project, which is currently scheduled for one to two years.
- Licenses are only valid for the duration of the demonstration project.
- Licenses allow vehicles to also operate as regular taxicabs and provide taxicab service to ambulatory passengers through computerized dispatch service or taxicab zones.

Vehicles

- Eight, used, side-loading, American-made, low-floor mini-vans:
 - Seats 4 passengers (1 front passenger seat, and 1 mid row bench seat).
 - Vehicle holds 1 standard or power wheel chair.
 - On the passenger side door, the manual ramp folds down (but also swings open like an inner door for people who do not need the ramp).
- King County Metro will be responsible for the cost of major engine or transmission repair not related to operator negligence. In the event that a vehicle is totaled, the driver is responsible for replacement. King County will not be able to replace the vehicle.
- The cost of general maintenance and repairs will be the responsibility of the Driver Group that operates the vehicles.
- The Driver Group chosen for the demonstration project may provide additional wheelchair accessible vehicles at their own expense (the number of WAT dual taxicab licenses available for the demo is currently limited to 8).

Contracted Trips

- Drivers may perform contract service as long as private-pay individuals living within the service area boundaries who use wheelchairs or other mobility aids have priority for the service at all times.
- During the demonstration project, King County Metro may contract service from the Driver Group, at negotiated rates.

Operating Requirements

- Prioritize all service for private-pay individuals living within the service area boundaries who use a wheelchair or other mobility aids requiring an accessible vehicle.
- Provide liability and comprehensive/collision insurance.
- Submit daily expense and taxicab trip reports to the Driver Group on a monthly basis.
- Schedule rides using a computerized dispatch system.
- Accept major credit cards and taxi scrip.
- Allow for random vehicle inspections and abide by all other King County/City of Seattle taxicab rules and regulations.
- Participate in random drug testing (paid for by the Driver Group).
- Work with the other drivers in the Driver Group to provide accessible taxicab coverage during the service area hours and within the service area boundaries of the demonstration project.
- Operate the vehicle on average of 40 hours a week and 40 weeks out of the year.
- Complete Passenger Assistance/Paratransit driver training (provided by King County/Metro).

ACCESSIBLE TAXICAB DEMONSTRATION PROJECT REPORT
 August 29, 2005 **12190**

Driver Incentives

- Free (temporary) accessible taxicab licenses (\$300 Licensing fee waived during demonstration project)
- Free use of accessible vehicles (county retains ownership)
- Opportunity to operate as a taxicab providing service to both ambulatory passengers and people who use wheelchairs or other mobility devices that require an accessible vehicle.

Process for Selection

- A competitive process will be used by King County requesting Driver Groups to apply for the eight temporary dual WAT licenses. The group must meet the Driver Group Requirements listed above.
- The group submitting a proposal, which best meets the county's requirements and goals will be chosen for the demonstration project.
- The proposal requirements will be advertised in the newspaper and information will be sent to individuals and associations in the local taxicab industry that have requested the proposal document.

Project Evaluation

- By November 1, 2005, the Executive will develop and transmit to the Council performance measures by which the results of the project will be evaluated.
- The Executive will transmit to the Council an interim project report based upon the performance measures at least two months prior transmitting the proposed 2008 Budget.
- If the demonstration project is extended to a second year, the Executive will transmit the project final report at least two months prior to transmitting the proposed 2009 Budget.

PROJECT TIMELINES

Estimated Date	Action
August 2005	WAT ordinance review by Council LOT committee
Fall 2005	WAT ordinance adopted
Winter 2005	Posting of WAT proposal requirements
Winter 2005	Vehicle preparation
Winter 2005	Deadline for submitting WAT proposal
Spring 2006	WAT proposal awarded to a Driver Group
Spring 2006	WAT Driver Group preparation
Spring 2006	Start of test period (no marketing)
Spring 2006	Official start date
Spring 2007	Projected end of demo project (unless 2007-2009 grant funds available)
Summer 2007	Demonstration project report
Spring 2008	Projected end of demo project (if extended for second year)
Summer 2008	Demonstration project report