



King County

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

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June 28, 2023

The Honorable Dave Upthegrove
Chair, King County Council
Room 1200
C O U R T H O U S E

Dear Councilmember Upthegrove:

This letter transmits four proposed Ordinances that, if enacted, would update the for-hire transportation regulations in King County for taxicab and for-hire vehicle owners, drivers, and companies.

This legislative package includes the following proposed Ordinances. If enacted, these proposed Ordinances would:

1. Establish a new chapter in King County Code (KCC) 6.65 specific to taxicab and for-hire vehicle owners, drivers, and companies, create a more regional licensing system, begin an industry transition to improved technology, convert all flat-rate for-hire medallions to taxicab medallions, and improve the regulatory alignment with the City of Seattle, among other changes.
2. Remove taxicab and flat-rate for-hire vehicle owners, drivers, taxicab associations and for-hire companies from KCC 6.64 and partially align County for-hire regulations for transportation network company drivers and vehicles with new statewide regulations, such as driver age, vehicle age, operating hours, and non-discrimination requirements;
3. Authorize an updated Interlocal Agreement with the City of Seattle that updates the division of labor and shared responsibilities between the City of Seattle and King County; and
4. Authorize an updated Interlocal Agreement template that may be executed with local jurisdictions that reflects the updates to KCC Chapter 6.64 and enactment of KCC Chapter 6.65.

This proposed legislation incorporates information gathered from our local for-hire transportation industry over the past several years, targets new technology and regional licensing that will enable taxicab and flat-rate for-hire vehicle licensees to better respond to market conditions and meet customer needs, and adjusts to changes in state law related to transportation network companies. The local for-hire transportation industry was hit hard by

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the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the proposed changes may not resolve all the challenges that lie ahead, they will improve the regulatory environment and help prepare the industry for growth and new opportunities moving forward.

Thank you for your consideration of this proposed legislation. If your staff have questions, please contact Sean Bouffiou, Administrative Services Manager, Records and Licensing Services Division at 206-263-2875.

Sincerely,



for

Dow Constantine

King County Executive

Enclosure

cc: King County Councilmembers

ATTN: Stephanie Cirkovich, Chief of Staff

Melani Pedroza, Clerk of the Council

Shannon Braddock, Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Karan Gill, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive

Mina Hashemi, Director, Council Relations, Office of the Executive

Caroline Whalen, County Administrative Officer, Department of Executive Services (DES)

Norm Alberg, Director, Records and Licensing Services Division, DES

Sean Bouffiou, Administrative Services Manager, RALS, DES

Eddie Cantu, Licensing Manager, RALS, DES