

King County / Department of Executive Services Document Code No.: LIC-8-7-PR Repeals: New Title: Temporary Fuel Surcharge Effective Date: 8/12/2022 Authorities: KCC 6.64.021 and KCC 6.64.760 Keywords: Taxicab, Taximeter, Rates Sponsoring Agency: Records and Licensing Services Division (RALS)

Caroline Whalen
Department Director signature:_____

Date signed: Jul 11, 2022

King County For-Hire Transportation Rules

King County Public Rule LIC-8-7-PR – Temporary Fuel Surcharges Authorized for Taxicabs

The director considered the factors in KCC 6.64.760.A.2 and determined that a fuel surcharge should be implemented under KCC 6.64.760A.4.

- I. **Purpose.** This rule establishes a temporary fuel surcharge to be added to any taximeter fare, in addition to the metered fare. The temporary fuel surcharge is intended to help offset the driver's cost of fuel and oil expenses, to operate the taxicab when the cost of fuel exceeds certain thresholds. This rule applies to all trips provided by a taxicab 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 in an amount set in Section III of this rule.
- **II. Definitions.** The following term has the following meaning when used in this Rule:
 - A. "Director" means the director of King County's Department of Executive Services or the Director's designee.
- **III. Requirements.** Effective August 12, 2022, the following table shows the calculation that the Director will use in establishing the temporary fuel surcharge:

| Gasoline Price | Fuel Surcharge (per trip) |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| \$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 gasoline beyond the value shown in the table.

Pursuant to an interlocal agreement, the City of Seattle and King County work cooperatively to regulate for-hire passenger transportation. This fuel surcharge is intended to align with the City of Seattle fuel surcharge amounts under Seattle Director's Rule 6.310.530I.

A for-hire driver is authorized to add the fuel surcharge as indicated in the above table as an "Extra" item at the end of the trip.

If the taxicab operates using an approved application dispatch system, the temporary fuel surcharge may be added automatically by the application dispatch system and shall be clearly described on the 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 application dispatch system.

The current price of gasoline 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 regular gasoline as reported by the American Automobile Association website (<u>https://gasprices.aaa.com/</u>) for the Seattle-Bellevue-Everett area.

The Director will provide each taxicab association with printed fuel surcharge notices that must be placed on the dashboard of each affiliated taxicab 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 \$1.00 PER TRIP WILL BE ADDED TO THE TAXIMETER FARE DUE TO RECENT FUEL PRICES (KC PUBLIC RULE: LIC-8-7-PR)

The Director may coordinate with the City of Seattle to create a single notice of fuel surcharge for both the City of Seattle and King County.

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

Fuel surcharges are not applicable to contract rates.

- IV. Implementation. The temporary fuel surcharge takes effect thirty (30) days after the Director files this Rule with the King County Archives, Records Management, and Mail Services Section (ARMMS).
- V. Rule Maintenance. The Director will monitor fuel prices and periodically consult with industry licensees, including vehicle owners, for-hire drivers, and taxicab associations to assess the impacts of this Rule.
- VI. Rule Enforcement. The Director may enforce this Rule as authorized by chapter 6.64 King County Code.

Fuel Surcharge Rule - King County - LIC-8-7-PR

Final Audit Report

2022-07-11

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