

1 ..title

2 AN ORDINANCE related to.... (title and recitation of

3 sections affected goes here).

4 ..body

5 SECTION 1. Sections 2 through 54 should constitute a new chapter in K.C.C. Title

6 6.

7 NEW SECTION. SECTION 2.

8 A. This chapter is an exercise of King County's power to regulate the for-hire  
9 transportation industry. That exercise includes the power to license and regulate taxicabs,  
10 for-hire vehicles, taxicab and for-hire vehicle drivers, transitional regional dispatch  
11 agencies, and regional dispatch agencies. Some of its regulatory purposes are to increase  
12 the safety, reliability, cost-effectiveness, and economic viability and stability of privately  
13 operated for-hire vehicle and taxicab services within King County.

14 B. The obligation of complying with this chapter belongs to the licensee or  
15 applicant for a license within its scope. Neither a provision of, nor a term used in, this  
16 chapter is intended to impose any duty whatsoever upon the county or any of its officers  
17 or employees, for whom the implementation or enforcement of this chapter shall be  
18 discretionary and not mandatory.

19 C. This chapter is not intended to be and shall not be construed to create or form,  
20 the basis for any liability on the part of the county or its officers, employees, or agents,  
21 for any injury or damage resulting from the failure of a licensee or applicant for license to  
22 comply with this chapter, or by reason or in consequence of any act or omission in

connection with the implementation or enforcement of this chapter on the part of the county by its officers, employees, or agents.

D. This chapter is intended to reduce regulatory complexity, promote equity and innovation, improve transportation and integration of the for-hire transportation industry, and ensure consumer protection and public safety. To fulfill these purposes, King County:

1. Establishes reciprocal licensing privileges for city of Seattle medallion owners to operate within King County. This reciprocity authorizes medallion owners to operate in both King County and the city of Seattle;

2. Establishes regional operating privileges for taxicab and for-hire vehicle drivers licensed by the city of Seattle to operate within King County. This license allows the driver to operate in both King County and the city of Seattle;

3. Consolidates the regulatory classifications of taxicabs and for-hire vehicles into a single taxicab standard. When a for-hire vehicle transitions to a taxicab, the reciprocal operating privilege will follow;

4. Consolidates the regulatory classifications of taxicab associations and for-hire vehicle companies into a single, regional dispatch agency license that is subject to a common set of operating rules and standards;

5. Establishes regional licensing privileges for taxicab associations and for-hire vehicle companies licensed by the city of Seattle to operate in King County. When a taxicab association or for-hire vehicle company transitions to a regional dispatch agency, the regional license will follow; and

45           6. Establishes a requirement for each regional dispatch agency to adopt a smart  
46 taximeter system.

47           NEW SECTION. SECTION 3.

48 RESERVED

49           NEW SECTION. SECTION 4. This chapter applies to taxicab associations, for-  
50 hire vehicle companies, taxicabs, for-hire vehicles, and drivers of those vehicles. K.C.C.  
51 chapter 6.64 applies to transportation network companies, transportation network  
52 company drivers, and transportation network company vehicles. References to  
53 transportation network companies, transportation network company drivers, or  
54 transportation network company endorsed vehicles remain in [K.C.C. chapter 6.64](#)  
55 because RCW 46.72B.190 constrains King County from amending ordinances or  
56 regulations related to transportation network companies, transportation network company  
57 drivers, or transportation network company endorsed vehicles after January 1, 2022.

58           NEW SECTION. SECTION 5. The executive may execute an interlocal  
59 agreement with either the city of Seattle or the Port of Seattle, or both, for the purposes of  
60 coordinating and consolidating for-hire driver, taxicab, and for-hire vehicle licensing,  
61 administration and enforcement, reducing duplication of licensing functions and a sharing  
62 of license fees as agreed to by the city and county. The agreement may authorize the city  
63 to accept and investigate applications for and issue taxicab and for-hire vehicle licenses and  
64 license renewals on behalf of the county, but only if the city uses the requirements of this  
65 chapter for taxicab and for-hire vehicle licenses. The agreement may authorize the county  
66 to accept and investigate applications for and issue either for-hire driver licenses and  
67 license renewals or taxicab vehicle licenses and license renewals, or both, on behalf of the

city, but only if the city agrees to the requirements of this chapter for either driver licenses  
taxicab licenses, or both.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 6. The director may enter into agreements with any  
other city, town, county, or port district for the joint regulation of for-hire and taxicab  
drivers in a manner consistent with the provisions of this chapter. Agreements may  
provide for, but are not limited to, the granting, revocation, and suspension of taxicab and  
for-hire driver licenses, or the sharing of enforcement responsibilities.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 7. For the purposes of this chapter and unless the  
context plainly requires otherwise, the following definitions apply:

"Abnormal disruption of the market" means any change in the market, whether  
actual or imminently threatened, resulting from stress of weather, convulsion of nature,  
failure or shortage of electric power or other source of energy, strike, civil disorder, war,  
military action, national or local emergency, or any other cause.

"Application dispatch system" means technology that allows consumers, via the  
Internet using mobile interfaces 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.

"Approved mechanic" means a mechanic or technician on a list maintained by the  
director. The list shall contain the name each mechanic or technician that has been  
approved by director because they:

1. Have met all requirements of the National Institute for Automotive Service  
Excellence;

91           2. Have been awarded a Certificate in Evidence of Competence satisfactory to  
92 the director; and

93           3. Do not own, lease, or drive a taxicab, for-hire vehicle, or transportation  
94 network company endorsed vehicle.

95           "Automated driving system" means hardware and software that are collectively  
96 capable of performing the entire dynamic driving task on a sustained basis, regardless of  
97 whether it is limited to a specific operational design domain and regardless of the  
98 presence of a driver.

99           "Autonomous operation" means the performance of the entire dynamic driving  
100 task by an automated driving system, beginning upon performance of the entire dynamic  
101 driving task by an automated driving system and continuing until the automated driving  
102 system is disengaged.

103           "Autonomous vehicle" means a vehicle with a level 3, level 4, or level 5  
104 automated driving system as provided in the Society of Automotive Engineering  
105 International's J3016 standard.

106           "Certificate of safety" means a document from an approved mechanic certifying  
107 that a particular vehicle meets all vehicle safety standards set forth in this chapter,  
108 including the vehicle safety inspection, and rules adopted by the director in accordance  
109 with this chapter.

110           "Citation" means an enforcement action taken by the director that imposes  
111 monetary penalties when a person violates a requirement of this chapter.

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

115 "Director" means the director of the records and licensing services division of the  
116 department of executive services, or the director's designee.

117 "Disability" has the same meaning as in K.C.C. 12.22.020.

118 "Dispatch system" means a system that allocates requests for trips to available  
119 drivers and that facilitates communication between a dispatcher and driver. A dispatch  
120 system may be integrated into a smart taximeter system.

121 "Egregious" means any moving violation that posed an immediate threat to the  
122 safety of the driver, any passengers in the vehicle, or to others.

123 "Fare" means anything of economic value that is provided, promised, or donated  
124 primarily in exchange for services rendered.

125 "For-hire transportation services" means services provided by licensees under this  
126 chapter.

127 "For-hire vehicle" means any motor vehicle used for the transportation of  
128 passengers for hire, and not operated exclusively over a fixed and definite route, except:

- 129 1. Taxicabs;
- 130 2. School buses operating exclusively under a contract to a school district;
- 131 3. Ride-sharing vehicles under chapter 46.74 RCW;
- 132 4. Limousine carriers licensed under chapter 46.72A RCW;
- 133 5. Vehicles used by nonprofit transportation providers solely for elderly or  
134 handicapped persons and their attendants under chapter 81.66 RCW;

135           6. Vehicles used by auto transportation companies licensed under chapter 81.68  
136 RCW;

137           7. Vehicles used to provide courtesy transportation at no charge to and from  
138 parking lots, hotels, and rental offices;

139           8. Vehicles licensed under, and used to provide "charter party carrier" and  
140 "excursion service carrier" services as defined in, and required by, chapter 81.70 RCW;  
141 and

142           9. Transportation network company endorsed vehicles as defined in K.C.C.  
143 chapter 6.64 and chapter 46.72B RCW.

144           "For-hire vehicle company" means a person that represents or owns for-hire  
145 vehicles licensed by the county that use the same color scheme, trade name, and dispatch  
146 services.

147           "Lessee" means a person who has a regional for-hire driver's license that leases a  
148 taxicab or for-hire vehicle required to be licensed under this chapter.

149           "Lessor" means a person who has leased a taxicab or for-hire vehicle to a lessee.

150           "License action" means an enforcement action taken by the director against a  
151 licensee that is a suspension, summary suspension, denial, or revocation of the license.

152           "Licensee" means any person required to be licensed under this chapter.

153           "Medallion" means a license issued by the director as a plate, decal, or other  
154 physical representation, that is evidence that a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion is  
155 intangible property.

156           "Medallion owner" means a person who owns a taxicab medallion, a wheelchair  
157 accessible taxicab medallion, or a for-hire vehicle medallion issued by the director.

158 "Medallion reciprocity endorsement" means a designation on a medallion issued  
159 by the city of Seattle, or alternatively in the director's record of the medallion owner,  
160 which permits a vehicle to operate in King County.

161 "Medallion system" means the system that deems a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
162 medallion to be intangible property that may be used as collateral to secure a loan from a  
163 bank or any other financial institution.

164 "Motor vehicle" means every motorized vehicle by or upon which any person  
165 may be transported or carried upon a public street, highway, or alley. Vehicles used  
166 exclusively upon stationary rail tracks or propelled by use of overhead electric wires are  
167 not considered motor vehicles for purposes of this chapter.

168 "Operate" or "operating" means owning, leasing, advertising, driving, parking in a  
169 taxicab zone, having a top light on, occupying, or otherwise being in control of a taxicab  
170 or for-hire vehicle that is available to transport, en route to pick up a passenger, or  
171 transporting any passenger for a fare from a point in unincorporated King County or any  
172 jurisdiction that has an interlocal agreement with King County for for-hire regulatory  
173 services. A taxicab association, for-hire vehicle company, transitional regional dispatch  
174 agency, or regional dispatch agency is "operating" if it represents or dispatches any  
175 taxicab or for-hire vehicle that at any time transports any passenger for a fare from a  
176 point within unincorporated King County or any jurisdiction that has an interlocal  
177 agreement with King County for for-hire regulatory services.

178 "Person" means any individual, partnership, association, corporation, firm,  
179 institution, or other entity, whether or not operated for profit. "Person" does not include:

180 1. A governmental entity of or within the United States;



181           2. An entity operating exclusively under contract with a government entity; or  
182           3. That portion of an entity that is operating exclusively under contract with a  
183 government entity.

184           "Regional dispatch agency" means a person licensed under this chapter who  
185 represents or owns taxicabs or for-hire vehicles licensed by King County that use the  
186 same trade name and dispatch services.

187           "Regional dispatch agency representative" means a person who a regional  
188 dispatch agency has authorized to:

189           1. File applications and other documents on behalf of the agency; and  
190           2. Receive and accept all correspondence and notices from the director  
191 pertaining to the agency or its taxicabs, taxicab owners, for-hire vehicles, for-hire vehicle  
192 owners, or regional for-hire drivers affiliated with the regional dispatch agency.

193           "Regional for-hire driver" means any person in physical control of a taxicab or  
194 for-hire vehicle who is required to be licensed under this chapter and includes a lease  
195 driver, owner/operator, or employee, who drives taxicabs or for-hire vehicles.

196           "Regional for-hire driver's license" means a license issued to an applicant for a  
197 regional for-hire driver's license who meets all criteria under this chapter for a regional  
198 for-hire driver's license.

199           "Regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement"  
200 means an endorsement applied to a regional for-hire driver's license that demonstrates  
201 that the driver has successfully completed required training regarding the special needs of  
202 passengers in wheelchairs, including but not limited to, loading and tie-down procedures  
203 and door-to-door service.

204 "Smart taximeter" means a system of hardware and software that integrates a  
205 taximeter and other components together to perform functions required by this chapter.

206 "Smart taximeter system" means the system a regional dispatch agency uses to  
207 dispatch trips to, communicate with, and track the location of affiliated vehicles and  
208 drivers through the smart taximeter. A smart taximeter system may include an  
209 application dispatch system.

210 "Taxicab" means every motor vehicle required to have a taxicab medallion to be  
211 used for the transportation of passengers for a fare, where the route traveled or  
212 destination is controlled by the passenger, and the fare is based on an amount recorded  
213 and indicated on a taximeter, smart taximeter, or on an application dispatch system.

214 "Taxicab association," as defined under K.C.C. chapter 6.64 before the effective  
215 date of this ordinance, means a person that represents or owns taxicabs licensed by King  
216 County that use the same uniform color scheme, trade name, and dispatch services.

217 "Taximeter" means any instrument or device by which the fare for a trip provided  
218 in a taxicab is measured or calculated either for the distance traveled by the taxicab or for  
219 waiting time, or for both, and upon which such calculated charges shall be indicated by  
220 means of figures.

221 "Transitional regional dispatch agency" means taxicab associations and for-hire  
222 vehicle companies, or other persons that meet the requirements of a transitional regional  
223 dispatch agency in this chapter, that do not have a regional dispatch agency license.

224 "Transparent" means the trip fare, the fare range, and other pricing variables are  
225 made readily available to a passenger before the passenger commits to taking the trip.

226 "Transportation network company" means the same as it is defined in K.C.C.  
227 chapter 6.64.

228 "Transportation network company endorsed vehicle" means the same as it is  
229 defined in K.C.C. chapter 6.64.

230 "Transportation network company vehicle endorsement" means the same as it is  
231 defined in K.C.C. chapter 6.64.

232 "Uniform color scheme" means the color or colors used by vehicles affiliated with  
233 a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, and approved by the  
234 director for exclusive use.

235 "Voluntarily converted wheelchair accessible vehicle" means a director-inspected  
236 and approved taxicab or for-hire vehicle that is accessible to passengers in wheelchairs or  
237 other mobility devices but that is not required to be so as a condition of the vehicle's  
238 medallion.

239 "Wheelchair accessible taxicab" means a taxicab that is required to be accessible  
240 to passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices as a condition of its wheelchair  
241 accessible taxicab medallion.

242 "Wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion" means a type of medallion issued by  
243 the director that requires the vehicle operated under the medallion to be accessible to  
244 passengers in wheelchairs and other mobility devices.

245 "Wheelchair accessible vehicle" means a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that has been  
246 designed or modified to transport passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility devices,  
247 conforms to the accessibility requirements of the regulations of the Americans with  
248 Disabilities Act of 1990, as amended, and has been inspected and approved by the

director. "Wheelchair accessible vehicle" includes both voluntarily converted wheelchair accessible vehicles and wheelchair accessible taxicabs.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 8.

A. The director shall set fees in K.C.C. 4A.750.100, in accordance with this section.

B. The director shall make available to the public a description of the director's procedures for setting fees. The description shall include information on how to inquire about the director's proposed and adopted fees and public comment opportunities.

C.1. The director shall give at least fourteen days' notice of the director's intention to set fees by providing notice:

a. in writing or by electronic format, to:

(1) the clerk of the council;

(2) all council members;

(3) all persons who have made a timely request for advance notice of fee setting; and

(4) all existing fee payers; and

b. by publishing in the official county newspaper a summary of the notice of the proposed action, including the information in subsection C.2. a. through f. of this section.

2. The notice made in subsection C.1. of this section shall:

a. include a reference to this section;

b. include a reference to the fee type to which the fee will be applied;

c. include a date and place by which comments must be submitted;

272 d. specify whether the proposal is a change or an elimination of a fee;  
273 e. if the proposal is to change a fee, indicate both the amount of the existing  
274 fee and the proposed fee; and  
275 f. state the reason for and methodology used to determine the proposed new  
276 fee.

277 3. The director shall consider all comments received by the prescribed date for  
278 comment before the fee is set.

279 D. A fee is set when signed by the director. A fee takes effect ten days after it is  
280 set.

281 E. Once a fee is set, the director shall post the amount of the fee in both written  
282 and electronic form for inspection, review and copying by the public, including providing  
283 a copy, in writing or by electronic format, of the fee to the clerk of the county council and  
284 each member of the county council and posting the fee on the Internet.

285 F. A new fee may not be established unless the fee is approved by the council by  
286 ordinance.

287 G. The director may from time to time declare periods of amnesty in which the  
288 director may waive any penalty imposed under this chapter for delinquent payment of  
289 fees. Such periods of amnesty and the terms thereof may be established by the director  
290 upon a finding by the director that to do so would further the goals of the for-hire  
291 transportation industry and be in the public interest. The director may promulgate rules  
292 and procedures to implement the provisions of this section.

293 NEW SECTION. SECTION 9.

294 A. Each taxicab licensee and for-hire vehicle licensee shall pay a fee surcharge of  
295 the amount in K.C.C. 4A.750.100.C. and D. for all rides originating in:

- 296 1. Unincorporated King County; or  
297 2. Any municipality that contracts with the county for the county to license  
298 taxicabs and for-hire vehicles that operate in the municipality.

299 B. The fee surcharge in subsection A. of this section shall be used to offset the  
300 operational costs incurred by owners and operators of wheelchair accessible taxi,  
301 wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicle or wheelchair accessible transportation network  
302 company endorsed vehicle services including, but not limited to, the costs associated with  
303 purchasing and retrofitting an accessible vehicle, fuel and maintenance costs and the time  
304 involved in providing wheelchair accessible trips.

305 C. The director shall adopt rules to establish the conditions and procedure for  
306 distributing funds to wheelchair accessible taxicab, wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicle  
307 or wheelchair accessible transportation network company endorsed vehicle owners and  
308 drivers, including the maximum amount of reimbursement.

309 NEW SECTION. SECTION 10.

310 A. Each taxicab licensee and for-hire vehicle licensee shall pay a fee surcharge of  
311 the amount in K.C.C. 4A.750.100.C. and D. for all rides originating in:

- 312 1. Unincorporated King County; or  
313 2. Any municipality that contracts with the county for the county to license  
314 taxicabs and for-hire vehicles that operate in the municipality.

315 B. The fee surcharge in subsection A. of this section shall be used to offset the  
316 operational costs incurred by owners and operators of wheelchair accessible taxi,

wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicle or wheelchair accessible transportation network company endorsed vehicle services including, but not limited to, the costs associated with purchasing and retrofitting an accessible vehicle, fuel and maintenance costs and the time involved in providing wheelchair accessible trips.

C. The director shall adopt rules to establish the conditions and procedure for distributing funds to wheelchair accessible taxicab, wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicle or wheelchair accessible transportation network company endorsed vehicle owners and drivers, including the maximum amount of reimbursement.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 11.

A. It is unlawful for a person to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle without first having obtained a valid regional for-hire driver's license. A regional for-hire driver's license shall expire one year from the date of application. A regional for-hire driver's license is not transferable or assignable.

B. As of the effective date of this ordinance, any valid for-hire driver's license previously issued to a driver under K.C.C. chapter 6.64, other than a for-hire driver's license that displays as a "for-hire permit," shall become a regional for-hire driver's license and all references to for-hire driver's licenses shall mean regional for-hire driver's licenses. As of the effective date of this ordinance, for-hire drivers with a valid for-hire driver's license issued by the city of Seattle shall be deemed to also have a corresponding regional for-hire driver's license from King County, which shall be valid until the original expiration date.

C. Drivers with a for-hire driver's license that displays as a "for-hire permit" may continue to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle until the first license expiration date after

the effective date of this ordinance, at which time a regional for-hire driver's license or enhanced regional for-hire driver's license issued under this chapter shall be required to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 12. It is unlawful for a driver to operate a wheelchair accessible vehicle without a regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement. To obtain such an endorsement, a driver shall submit proof the driver has successfully completed a director-approved training for providing for-hire transportation services in wheelchair accessible vehicles. Wheelchair accessible vehicle drivers must comply with section 34 of this ordinance, in addition to the requirements of sections 11 through 19 of this ordinance. The director may take enforcement action against a regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement, a regional for-hire driver's license, or both, as consistent with this chapter.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 13. The director shall issue a regional for-hire driver's license to an applicant who:

- A. Is at least twenty years old;
- B. Possesses a valid driver's license issued by a state or territory in the United States, and has possessed such driver's license, or driver's licenses, for at least one year;
- C. Completes driver training as approved by the director before submitting an initial application for a regional for-hire driver's license. Training shall include, but is not limited to:



361 1. A general for-hire driver training course with information about use of  
362 emergency procedures and equipment for the driver's personal safety, risk factors for  
363 crimes against for-hire drivers, and customer service;

364 2. A defensive driving course provided by the National Safety Council and  
365 approved by the director, or an alternative defensive driving course approved by the  
366 director; and

367 3. Any other courses required by the director;

368 D. Successfully completes a regional for-hire driver license examination or  
369 examinations approved by the director;

370 E. Submits a complete application, or consents to an application being  
371 submitted on the applicant's behalf, for a regional for-hire driver's license annually on a  
372 form or format approved by the director;

373 F. Provides a certification of fitness as a regional for-hire driver on a form  
374 approved by the director. The director may at any time require any applicant for, or  
375 holder of, a regional for-hire driver's license to be examined by a physician licensed to  
376 practice in the state of Washington if it appears that the applicant or licensee has become  
377 physically or mentally incapacitated so that the applicant or licensee is unfit as a regional  
378 for-hire driver. The director shall prescribe by rule the scope of the examination and  
379 provide a form for the physician to complete. A United States Department of  
380 Transportation medical certification meets the requirements of this subsection;

381 G. Consents to a background check, with ongoing monitoring if available from  
382 the Washington state patrol or from an entity that is approved by the director. The  
383 director shall require the third party to demonstrate competency in providing accurate

information prior to being approved by the director, and shall include local, state, and national databases, and access at least five years of database history when performing background checks;

H. Successfully passes a criminal background check, including:

1. No convictions, bail forfeitures, or other final adverse findings, including in civil suits or administrative hearings, pertaining to any of the following within the past five years:

- a. attempting to elude the police;
- b. reckless driving;
- c. hit and run;
- d. any alcohol- or drug-related driving crime;
- e. any class A or B felony, as defined in Title 9A RCW;
- f. any violent offense or serious violent offense or most serious offense, as defined in chapter 9.94A RCW;
- g. a crime involving physical violence, other than those crimes in subsection H.1.e. or f of this section, if the director determines the circumstances of the crime make the person unsafe to operate as a regional for-hire driver;
- h. a crime that is directly related to the individual's honesty and integrity, including, but not limited to, theft, burglary, and extortion, if the director determines the circumstances of the crime make the person incompatible with the duties of a regional for-hire driver; or
- j. any conviction for any offense committed in another jurisdiction that includes the elements of any of the offenses listed in this subsection H.1.;

2. No convictions, bail forfeitures, or other final adverse findings, including in a civil suit or administrative hearing, pertaining to any sex offense as defined in chapter 9.94A RCW or convictions that include a special allegation of sexual motivation, including convictions for any offense committed in another jurisdiction that includes the elements of a sex offense as defined in chapter 9.94A RCW, within the past seven years;

3. Not being listed in the United States department of justice national sex offender public website, and not required to register as a sex offender; and

4. No active arrest warrant for any crime;

I. Authorizes the director to obtain the applicant's current driving history, and authorizes the director to obtain the results of ongoing monitoring, if available from the Washington state Department of Licensing or from an entity that is approved by the director, and provides a multistate driving abstract that includes the state of Washington;

J. Successfully passes a check of the applicant's driving history report that reflects a driving history that does not include, within the past five years, one or more law violations that are egregious. The applicant's driving history must also lead the director to reasonably conclude that the applicant will operate a vehicle in a safe manner and comply with this chapter;

K. Consents to the director obtaining other information directly concerning the person's past conduct and general qualifications that shows the person's ability and skill as a regional for-hire driver and the person's honesty and integrity for the purposes of determining whether the person is suitable to operate as a regional for-hire driver;

428 L. Agrees to the affiliated transitional regional dispatch agency or regional  
429 dispatch agency receiving, as official service, general correspondence, citations, license  
430 actions, and notices of complaints from the director, on the driver's behalf; and

431 M. Meets the criteria necessary for obtaining a regional for-hire driver's license  
432 from the city of Seattle and applies for a regional for-hire driver's license from the city of  
433 Seattle concurrently with applying for a regional for-hire driver's license from King  
434 County.

435 NEW SECTION. SECTION 14. A regional for-hire driver's license issued by  
436 King County and a regional for-hire driver's license issued by the city of Seattle to the  
437 same individual shall display as a regional for-hire driver's license, and shall be  
438 considered one, inseparable license.

439 NEW SECTION. SECTION 15. An enhanced regional for-hire driver's license is  
440 a type of regional for-hire driver's license that requires a driver to meet criteria in addition  
441 to the criteria in section 13 of this ordinance, including consent to a fingerprint-based  
442 background check, with ongoing monitoring if available from the Washington state patrol  
443 or from an entity that is approved by the director, and successfully pass a fingerprint-  
444 based state and federal background investigation under RCW 35.21.920.

445 NEW SECTION. SECTION 16. An enhanced regional for-hire driver's license  
446 issued by King County and an enhanced regional for-hire driver's license issued by the  
447 city of Seattle to the same individual shall display as an enhanced regional for-hire  
448 driver's license, and shall be considered one, inseparable license.

449 NEW SECTION. SECTION 17. Pending final action on a regional for-hire  
450 driver's license application, the director may issue a temporary regional for-hire driver's

license when the review of an application is anticipated to be longer than two days. A temporary regional for-hire driver's license shall be issued for a period up to sixty days unless extended by the director.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 18. In considering an application for a regional for-hire driver's license, the director may consider any other information that may lead the director to reasonably conclude that the applicant will not operate a vehicle in a safe manner or comply with this chapter.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 19.

A. An applicant whose application for a regional for-hire driver's license was denied shall:

1. Be ineligible to reapply for a regional for-hire driver's license until the date specified in the final notice of denial; and

2. Not reapply for a regional for-hire driver's license that was denied until correction of the deficiency on which the denial was based is deemed acceptable by the director.

B. A regional for-hire driver whose regional for-hire driver's license was revoked shall be ineligible to reapply for a regional for-hire driver's license until the date specified in the final notice of revocation.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 20.

A regional for-hire driver shall:

A. Have in the driver's possession and available upon request of the director at any time the driver is operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle:

1. A state-issued or United-States-territory-issued driver's license;

474           2. The vehicle's registration;

475           3. Proof of insurance as required by this chapter; and

476           4. A valid regional for-hire driver's license, which shall also be posted in the

477 vehicle and visible to passengers as prescribed by the director;

478           B. Ensure that the vehicle's medallion plate or decal is valid and is displayed as

479 required;

480           C. Ensure the lights, brakes, tires, steering, seat belts, any system relied on for

481 safe operation, taximeter, and other vehicle equipment are working properly prior to each

482 shift and while operating;

483           D. Maintain the vehicle interior and exterior, including exterior markings, in

484 clean and good repair;

485           E. Allow the director to inspect the vehicle without prior notice at any reasonable

486 time or place;

487           F. At all times while operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, be signed into at least

488 one dispatch system, smart taximeter system, or application dispatch system provided by

489 the affiliated transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency;

490           G. Provide service to passengers in wheelchairs before any other passengers

491 when operating wheelchair accessible vehicles;

492           H. Activate the taximeter or smart taximeter at the beginning of each paid trip,

493 whether the fare is computed by the taximeter, smart taximeter, application dispatch

494 system, contract, or flat rate, and deactivate the taximeter or smart taximeter upon

495 completion of the trip. The beginning of a trip is the point where the passenger is seated,

496 and any materials are stowed, and the forward motion of the vehicle begins;

497 I. Ensure that the taximeter reading is visible to passengers at all times while  
498 operating a taxicab;

499 J. If the fare for a trip is an upfront fare or a flat rate fare, confirm the fare with  
500 the customer before beginning the trip;

501 K. Operate the taxicab or for-hire vehicle with due regard for the safety, comfort,  
502 and convenience of passengers and always provide passengers with professional and  
503 courteous service. The driver shall not use threatening behavior or offensive language,  
504 expressions, or gestures to any person while operating;

505 L. If requested, be willing to assist a passenger entering or exiting the vehicle and  
506 placing luggage or packages that are under fifty pounds in and out of the vehicle. Upon  
507 request for assistance, a driver must so assist a passenger or otherwise ensure the  
508 passenger's request is fulfilled;

509 M. Use the most direct or most expedient available route on all trips unless the  
510 passenger specifically requests to change the route;

511 N. Record all trips, process all payments, and issue a receipt for all payments  
512 through a dispatch or payment system provided by the transitional regional dispatch  
513 agency or regional dispatch agency;

514 O. Be able to provide a reasonable and prudent amount of change, and, if correct  
515 change is not available, no additional charge may be made to the passenger in attempting  
516 to secure the change;

517 P. Accept payment of fares via cash payment for any trip dispatched through a  
518 transportation network company's application dispatch system if allowed by the  
519 transportation network company;

520 Q. At the end of each trip, check the vehicle for any article or articles that are left  
521 behind by passenger or passengers and promptly secure the article or articles and report  
522 the found article or articles to the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional  
523 dispatch agency;

524 R. Comply with any license action, citation, or director order, and pay any  
525 penalties issued under this chapter that are either not appealed or are upheld after review;

526 S. Immediately surrender the vehicle medallion plate or decal in a manner  
527 approved by the director when the vehicle medallion is temporarily deactivated or  
528 revoked;

529 T. Comply with policies and procedures established by the transitional regional  
530 dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency to meet the requirements of this chapter and  
531 to ensure customer satisfaction;

532 U. Comply with applicable business license requirements for any jurisdiction for  
533 which the driver operates; and

534 V. Meet any other requirement established by the director by rule as authorized  
535 by this chapter.

536 NEW SECTION. SECTION 21. A regional for-hire driver shall not:

537 A. Transport more passengers than the number of seat belts available nor more  
538 luggage than the vehicle capacity will safely and legally allow;

539 B. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that does not have the rate posted as  
540 prescribed by the director;



541 C. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle that is unaffiliated with a taxicab  
542 association, for-hire vehicle company, transitional regional dispatch agency, or regional  
543 dispatch agency;

544 D. Use a personal electronic device while driving a motor vehicle on a public  
545 roadway, unless consistent with RCW 46.61.672, as amended;

546 E. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle under the influence of any alcohol,  
547 narcotics, drugs, or prescription or over-the-counter medication that impairs the 'driver's  
548 ability to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle or in any way jeopardizes the safety or  
549 security of passengers or the public;

550 F. Knowingly possess illegal substances or open containers of alcohol while  
551 operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle as a regional for-hire driver;

552 G. Operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle for more than fourteen hours in any  
553 twenty-four-hour period. Thereafter, the regional for-hire driver shall not operate a  
554 taxicab or for-hire vehicle until eight consecutive hours have elapsed. Stand-by time  
555 does not count towards the fourteen-hour limit. For the purposes of this subsection,  
556 "stand-by time" includes any time the regional for-hire driver is available for hire but is  
557 not physically in the vehicle;

558 H. Use the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, or allow the taxicab or for-hire vehicle to  
559 be used, in the commission of any crime;

560 I. Refuse to transport in the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, cancel a dispatched call,  
561 or end a trip in progress because of:

562 1. Any passenger's wheelchair or other mobility device that can be folded and  
563 safely placed in either the passenger or trunk compartment of the vehicle;

564           2. A service or assistive animal, as defined in K.C.C. chapter 12.22; or

565           3. A passenger's groceries, packages, or luggage;

566       J. Refuse to transport any person except when:

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

568           2. The passenger is acting in a disorderly, threatening or suspicious manner, or

569 otherwise causes the driver to reasonably believe that the 'driver's health or safety, or that

570 of others, may be endangered;

571           3. The passenger cannot, upon request, show ability to pay the fare;

572           4. the passenger refuses to state a specific destination upon entering the taxicab

573 or for-hire vehicle; or

574           5. the trip covers more than one hundred miles or includes traveling over a

575 mountain pass or on a ferry;

576       K. Smoke or allow passengers to smoke in the vehicle;

577       L. Ask, demand, or collect any rate or fare other than as specified on the

578 taximeter, smart taximeter, or application dispatch system;

579       M. Solicit passengers from anywhere other than the driver's seat or standing

580 within direct view of the taxicab or for-hire vehicle, and never solicit when the taxicab or

581 for-hire vehicle is in motion. The driver of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle shall not use any

582 other person to solicit passengers;

583       N. Park a taxicab or for-hire vehicle in a marked passenger load zone, truck load

584 zone, commercial load zone, or charter bus zone; except that a driver may drop off or

585 pick up passengers in a passenger load zone; and

O. Misstate or omit a material fact on any document provided to the director, or alter any document or record provided to or issued by the director.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 22.

A. Designated taxicab zones are for taxicabs only. A regional for-hire driver shall not do any of the following in a taxicab zone:

1. Leave the taxicab unattended in a taxicab zone for more than fifteen minutes;
2. Occupy a taxicab zone unless operating a taxicab that is available for hire;
3. Perform engine maintenance or repairs on the taxicab while in a taxicab zone;
4. Refuse a request for service because of the 'driver's position in line at a taxicab zone; a passenger may select any taxicab in the line; or
5. Use a taxicab zone while under suspension from that taxicab zone.

B. A violation of this section may result in a suspension from one or more taxicab zones, in addition to penalties as authorized in section 48 of this ordinance.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 23. Regional for-hire drivers operating at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport shall adhere to the following additional standards:

A. Load or unload passengers at Seattle-Tacoma International Airport only as permitted by the Seattle-Tacoma International Airport Schedule of Rules and Regulations;

B. When available for hire, shall not drive, be in control of, or operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle to pick up passengers at a Port of Seattle property without the vehicle displaying a Port of Seattle authorized permit; and

607 C. Not solicit passengers on Seattle-Tacoma International Airport property,  
608 unless the driver is in the driver's seat or standing within direct view of the vehicle, and  
609 the vehicle is safely and legally parked.

610 NEW SECTION. SECTION 24.

611 A. As of the effective date of this ordinance, every valid taxicab and for-hire  
612 vehicle medallion issued by the city of Seattle shall be issued a county medallion  
613 reciprocity endorsement. A medallion reciprocity endorsement is subject to annual  
614 renewal. The medallion and medallion reciprocity endorsement shall be inseparable. A  
615 medallion cannot be issued, renewed, transferred, or temporarily deactivated separately  
616 from the medallion reciprocity endorsement. Any restriction imposed on a medallion  
617 through a license action applies with equal force to the corresponding medallion  
618 reciprocity endorsement. Any restriction imposed on a medallion reciprocity  
619 endorsement through a license action applies with equal force to the corresponding  
620 medallion.

621 B. As of the effective date of this ordinance, a medallion issued by the county  
622 and a medallion issued by the city of Seattle, which have been used with the same  
623 vehicle, may be separated to be used with different vehicles or to be transferred. This  
624 provision applies to all medallion types.

625 C. The owner of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion may use the medallion as  
626 collateral to secure a loan from a bank or any other financial institution. Medallion  
627 owners shall file with the director the name of any and all lienholders, on forms furnished  
628 by the director. The collateral shall be described as "King County taxicab medallion" or,  
629 until March 31, 2025, "King County for-hire vehicle medallion," and shall include the

medallion number. Within thirty days of the date of creation of the pledge, lien, or security interest, the party that holds the pledge, lien, or security interest, shall record the same as required by State law and provide a copy of the recording to the director.

D. The interest of a medallion owner may be suspended or revoked for any violation of this chapter where suspension or revocation of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion is appropriate.

E. Upon a final order of medallion revocation, where all appellate proceedings, if any, have been concluded, the medallion may only be transferred as prescribed by this section, section 28 of this ordinance, and as prescribed by the director by rule.

F. In accepting a medallion, medallion owners waive any and all liability, claims, actions, suits, loss, costs, expense judgments, attorneys' fees, or damages of every kind and description resulting directly or indirectly from any act or omission of the county, its officials, officers, employees, and agents regarding the valuation or devaluation of the medallion.

G. The county assumes no liability for any devaluation of the medallion, including but not limited to any devaluation due to regulatory action or market forces.

H. Except for an owner awarded a new taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion that is required to meet the minimum operating requirements in section 47.H. of this ordinance, a medallion owner may voluntarily transfer or sell a medallion in accordance with this section, section 28 of this ordinance, and as prescribed by the director by rule.

I. Medallion owners may lease an interest in the medallion as prescribed by director's rule. A leased medallion shall not be subleased to another party.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 25.

653           A. Unless adjusted by the director by rule, the maximum number of taxicab  
654 medallions is one thousand three hundred. Wheelchair accessible taxicab medallions do  
655 not count towards the maximum number.

656           B. On April 1, 2025, all for-hire vehicle medallions shall become taxicab  
657 medallions. The medallion system for for-hire vehicles shall no longer be in effect after  
658 March 31, 2025.

659           C. The director may issue new taxicab medallions only as specified by this  
660 section.

661           D. The director may adjust by rule the maximum number of taxicab medallions  
662 and shall periodically determine the need for additional taxicab service. Factors to be  
663 considered to adjust the maximum number of taxicab medallions or to issue new taxicab  
664 medallions include:

- 665           1. Coordination with the city of Seattle to promote a regional licensing and  
666 regulatory framework for for-hire transportation services;
- 667           2. Growth in population, tourists, and other visitors to the area;
- 668           3. The quality of existing taxicab service as indicated by customer satisfaction,  
669 including wheelchair accessible vehicle service, if applicable;
- 670           4. A comparison of actual average taxicab response times to optimum average  
671 taxicab response times established by the director;
- 672           5. Availability and quality of for-hire transportation services in underserved  
673 communities, including areas of lower population density;
- 674           6. Available data for medallions on the private market; and
- 675           7. Other indications of market demand.

676 E.1. If the director determines that issuance of additional taxicab medallions is  
677 warranted, such medallions shall be issued as follows:

678 a. a competitive request for proposals and award process under which  
679 medallions will be issued to applicants whose proposals demonstrate that they are most  
680 able to meet the needs of the public in providing taxicab service by meeting qualifications  
681 prepared by the director that are not in conflict with the general provisions of this  
682 chapter; or

683 b. a lottery of qualified applicants; or

684 c. a combination of both procedures as prescribed by the director by rule.

685 2. Regardless of the method used, the director shall consider an 'applicant's  
686 driving record, driving experience, current or previous medallion ownership, and any  
687 additional qualifications required by the director.

688 3. If issuing a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion, the director may  
689 additionally consider the applicant's qualifying experience transporting individuals with  
690 disabilities who require any type of mobility device, including a manual or motorized  
691 wheelchair, and any additional qualifications required by the director.

692 F. Any new taxicab medallion shall only be issued to a person who is an  
693 individual. No corporation, limited liability company, or partnership shall obtain any  
694 medallion held by an individual until the expiration of three years following the original  
695 date of issuance to that individual; however, new taxicab medallions may be issued to  
696 and be held by the following business entities:

697 1. Corporations held by a single shareholder, except that the taxicab must be  
698 personally operated by the single shareholder for a period of three years from the date of

issuance of the medallion and the ownership of the shares of the corporation cannot be changed within the three-year period. Any change of ownership of shares of the corporation shall result in revocation of the medallion; or

2. Limited liability companies comprised of a single member, except that the taxicab must be personally operated by the single member for a period of three years from the date of issuance of the medallion and no change of membership may take place within the three-year period. Any change of membership of the limited liability company shall result in revocation of the medallion.

G. For three years following the date of issuance of a new taxicab medallion or a new wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion, the owner must personally drive the taxicab for at least thirty hours per week for a minimum of forty weeks per year. If the medallion owner fails to fulfill this minimum operating requirement in any one-year period within the three-year period following the date of issuance, the medallion shall be revoked and shall not be eligible for transfer by its original owner. The medallion shall be transferable upon the completion of the three-year operating requirement.

H. A medallion plate, medallion decal, or other indicia issued to a medallion owner shall remain the property of the director.

I. A medallion owner may seek director approval to permanently convert a medallion to a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion. Such a conversion shall be subject to conditions prescribed by the director. Conversion of a taxicab medallion to a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion is not considered the issuance of a new medallion. A medallion that has been operated for three or more years that is



721 permanently converted to a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion shall be transferrable  
722 and not subject to a new three-year operating requirement.

723 J. As an alternative to the process outlined in subsection E. of this section, the  
724 director may issue King County medallion reciprocity endorsements to applicants  
725 selected by the city of Seattle to be issued a city of Seattle taxicab medallion or a city of  
726 Seattle wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion, as applicable.

727 NEW SECTION. SECTION 26.

728 A. Any time a medallion is not operating for sixty days or more, the medallion  
729 owner, or an authorized representative, shall file a notice of temporary deactivation with  
730 the director in a manner determined by the director. A temporary deactivation may be for  
731 any reason, including, but not limited to, an inoperable or unavailable vehicle, a  
732 temporary lack of affiliation with an agency, an extended leave of absence, or owner  
733 convenience.

734 B. When a notice of temporary deactivation is filed with the director:

735 1. If the medallion is not expired, the deactivation period shall not exceed  
736 twelve consecutive months from the date the temporary deactivation notice is filed with  
737 the director;

738 2. If the medallion is expired, the deactivation period shall not be more than  
739 twelve consecutive months from the effective date of this ordinance or from the date the  
740 medallion expired, whichever is longer; and

741 3. If the medallion is expired or expires during the temporary deactivation  
742 period, the medallion renewal process must be completed before the medallion can be  
743 reactivated.

744 C. The director may initiate a temporary deactivation when the director becomes  
745 aware that a medallion has not been operating for sixty days or more.

746 D. For medallions revoked, relinquished, or otherwise held by the director after  
747 January 31, 2015, and before the effective date of this ordinance, the temporary  
748 deactivation period shall begin on the effective date of this ordinance. A medallion  
749 previously revoked, relinquished, or otherwise held by the director, must be renewed  
750 within twelve months of the effective date of this ordinance.

751 E. If a medallion owner fails to reactivate the medallion within twelve months  
752 from the effective date of the temporary deactivation, the director shall issue a notice of  
753 retirement to the medallion owner. Within sixty days of the notice of retirement, the  
754 medallion owner may reactivate or transfer the medallion. If the medallion is not  
755 reactivated or transferred within sixty days of the notice of retirement, the medallion is  
756 retired and an order of retirement will be issued by the director. The medallion owner  
757 may appeal the order of retirement in accordance with section 50 of this ordinance.  
758 Failure to appeal means the order of retirement issued by the director is final. The taxicab  
759 medallion plate and for-hire vehicle medallion decals that have been retired shall be  
760 returned to the director within fifteen days of the final order of retirement, or if the order is  
761 appealed and affirmed, within fifteen days after all appellate proceedings have concluded.

762 F. Medallions issued via a lottery or request for proposals shall not be  
763 transferrable until the obligations section 25.G. of this ordinance have been met.

764 G. Vehicle insurance is not required if a medallion is temporarily deactivated.  
765 The medallion owner must provide proof of vehicle insurance when reactivating the  
766 medallion.

767           NEW SECTION. SECTION 27. It is unlawful to operate a taxicab or for-hire  
768 vehicle medallion that is suspended or revoked. The operation of the taxicab or for-hire  
769 vehicle must cease, and the medallion owner shall immediately surrender the medallion  
770 plate or medallion decal to the director.

771           NEW SECTION. SECTION 28. Except for an owner subject to the minimum  
772 operating requirements in section 25.G. of this ordinance, a taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
773 medallion may be transferred subject to the following restrictions and conditions:

774           A. The medallion and medallion reciprocity endorsement are inseparable and  
775 must be transferred together;

776           B. There are no pending enforcement actions or penalties, fees, or surcharges  
777 owed that were issued under this chapter, no unexpired vehicle lease agreements, and no  
778 unexpired medallion lease agreements;

779           C. Transfers of medallions with liens filed with the director will not be approved  
780 unless the medallion owner provides proof that the lien is paid or the lienholder provides  
781 written approval of the transfer. Only liens filed with the director according to section  
782 24.C. of this ordinance will be considered in the transfer review;

783           D. The medallion owner and proposed transferee shall submit a notice of transfer  
784 on a form or in a format prescribed by the director.

785           E. The proposed transferee shall meet all requirements in section 28 of this  
786 ordinance. A transfer shall not become effective, and the proposed transferee may not  
787 operate the medallion with a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, until the proposed transferee  
788 receives the medallion plate or medallion decal; and

F. Upon the final order of revocation, where all appellate proceedings, if any, have been concluded, a medallion owner shall immediately surrender the taxicab medallion plate or for-hire vehicle medallion decal to the director. Except for revocation according to section 24.G. of this ordinance, the medallion owner has sixty days from the final order of revocation to transfer the medallion; however, medallions subject to a lien as evidenced by the filing requirement in section 24.C. of this ordinance cannot transfer unless the medallion owner provides proof that the lien is paid or the lienholder provides written approval of the transfer. If the medallion is not transferred within the sixty days, the medallion shall be deemed permanently retired, the lien, if any, is removed, and the director shall not reissue the medallion.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 29.

A. When a taxicab or for-hire vehicle medallion or stock in a corporation owning such a medallion is distributed from an estate to a beneficiary by a court of law, the transferee shall submit to the director the court order directing the county to transfer the medallion to the beneficiary. The court order shall condition the transfer upon the transferee complying with this chapter.

B. An executor or administrator may continue the operation of a taxicab or for-hire vehicle only with prior written approval of the director. The executor or administrator shall apply for such approval.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 30. All medallions and medallion reciprocity endorsements shall expire one year from the date of issuance. Medallions and their associated medallion reciprocity endorsements are inseparable and expire and renew

811 concurrently. Unless an appeal is pending, no medallion may be renewed unless all  
812 outstanding penalties owed under this chapter have been paid.

813 NEW SECTION. SECTION 31.

814 A. All for-hire vehicles must be operated as taxicabs using a smart taximeter  
815 system and must be affiliated with a regional dispatch agency that has a valid regional  
816 dispatch agency license by a date consistent with section 37.D. of this section.

817 B. It is unlawful to operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle without first having  
818 obtained, for each and every vehicle so used, a taxicab medallion or for-hire vehicle  
819 medallion issued in accordance with this section. The taxicab or for-hire vehicle  
820 medallion application shall include the following:

821 1. Applicant type:

822 a. If the applicant is an individual, the applicant's full name, business address,  
823 primary telephone number, primary email address, and date of birth, which must be at  
824 least eighteen years before the date of application; or

825 b. If the applicant is a corporation, limited liability company, partnership, or  
826 other entity:

827 (1) the applicant's name, business address, telephone number, and state of  
828 incorporation or partnership registration; and

829 (2) the full name, title, date of birth, which must be at least eighteen years  
830 before the date of application, business address, and phone number for each individual  
831 representative who is vested with authority to manage or direct the affairs of the legal  
832 entity or to bind the legal entity in dealings with third parties;

833           2. Vehicle information including: the make; model; year, which shall be no  
834 more than fifteen model years before the application date unless otherwise adjusted by  
835 the director by rule; engine type; vehicle identification number; Washington state license  
836 plate number; transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency with  
837 which the vehicle is affiliated; and vehicle number if previously assigned by the director.  
838 The vehicle must be a passenger car as defined in RCW 46.04.382;

839           3. Certificate or other proof of affiliation with a transitional regional dispatch  
840 agency or regional dispatch agency;

841           4. Insurance policy as required by this chapter;

842           5. A copy of the state of Washington vehicle registration or confirmation of  
843 vehicle registration on a form or in a format accepted by the director. The applicant does  
844 not need to be the registered owner;

845           6. Certificate of safety based on a vehicle safety inspection conducted annually  
846 by an approved mechanic; and

847           7. Any other information the director may reasonably require in order to make a  
848 licensing decision, take enforcement action, or perform any other duties of the director  
849 authorized by this chapter.

850           C. The application and information required in this section must also be  
851 completed and supplied during each annual medallion renewal. The director will not  
852 process a medallion application if any required information or documentation is missing  
853 or incomplete. Completed applications and copies of required documentation shall be  
854 provided to the director by the medallion owner, or the transitional regional dispatch  
855 agency or regional dispatch agency on behalf of the medallion owner.

D. If any of the information in the application changes, ceases to be true, or is superseded in any way by new information, the applicant shall within seven days of the change:

1. Inform the director, or
2. Inform the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, if the application was submitted on behalf of the applicant.

E. A medallion shall not be renewed if the medallion does not have an associated vehicle or if the vehicle to which the medallion is associated is not affiliated with a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency. In such cases, the owner of the medallion shall initiate a temporary deactivation with the director.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 32.

A. At all times while operating as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, there must be valid insurance as described in this section. All insurance policies shall either comply with chapter 46.72 RCW and have underinsured motorist coverage of at least one hundred thousand dollars per person and three hundred thousand dollars per accident; or comply with the coverage amounts required by RCW 46.72B.180. All insurance policies that cover a vehicle while operating as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle and for which a medallion is required shall be filed with the director. The insurance policy shall:

1. Be issued by an admitted carrier in the state of Washington with an A.M. Best Rating of not less than B- and be not less than A.M. Best Financial Size Category VII or show evidence to the director of surplus lines from an insurer with an A.M. Best Rating of not less than B and be not less than A.M. Best Financial Size Category VII;

878           2. Name King County, its officers, officials, agents, and employees as an  
879 additional insured on the insurance policy;

880           3. Provide that the insurer will notify the director, in writing, of cancellation for  
881 nonpayment of premium no less than ten days before the cancellation takes effect, or of  
882 cancellation for any other reason no less than thirty days before the cancellation or  
883 nonrenewal takes effect. If an insurance policy is cancelled or not renewed, proof of a  
884 new policy must be filed before the expiration of the policy. The taxicab or for-hire  
885 vehicle is automatically suspended and cannot operate until coverage is secured;

886           4. Not include aggregate limits, named driver requirements or exclusions, or  
887 radius restrictions. Other limitations or restrictions beyond standard insurance services  
888 office business auto policy form are subject to approval by the director; and

889           5. Be in effect at any time the taxicab or for-hire vehicle is operating.

890           B. When a taxicab or for-hire vehicle is dispatched by a transportation network  
891 company, the taxicab's or for-hire vehicle's insurance covers that trip, unless the  
892 transportation network company maintains an insurance policy that includes trips  
893 provided by a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

894           C. The director may suspend or suspend and modify any requirements of this  
895 section when no other viable insurance options are available to the industry.

896           NEW SECTION. SECTION 33.

897           A. The vehicle safety inspection and certificate of safety required by section  
898 31.B.6. of this section shall be provided by an approved mechanic and shall certify that  
899 the following items on taxicab or for-hire vehicle are mechanically sound and fit for  
900 driving:



901 1. Foot brakes;  
902 2. Emergency brakes;  
903 3. Steering mechanism;  
904 4. Windshield;  
905 5. Rear window and other glass;  
906 6. Windshield wipers;  
907 7. Headlights;  
908 8. Taillights;  
909 9. Turn indicator lights;  
910 10. Stop lights;  
911 11. Front seat adjustment mechanism;  
912 12. Doors, including that the doors properly open, close, and lock;  
913 13. Horn;  
914 14. Speedometer;  
915 15. Bumpers;  
916 16. Muffler and exhaust system, except for where vehicle propulsion systems  
917 emit zero emissions such as in battery electric vehicles;  
918 17. Condition of tires, including tread depth;  
919 18. Interior rear view mirror and exterior side view mirrors;  
920 19. Safety belts and air bags for driver and a passenger or passengers; and  
921 20. Other items reasonably required by the director.  
922 B. If the vehicle is sold, the certificate of safety remains valid until the next  
923 medallion renewal date.

924 C. An approved mechanic who performs vehicle safety inspections must not have  
925 a conflict of interest as defined by the director by rule. The director may remove an  
926 approved mechanic from the list maintained by the director for a violation of this chapter  
927 or rules prescribed by the director or due to substantiated complaints from drivers.

928 D. Vehicles shall be maintained consistent with the service standards  
929 recommended by the vehicle manufacturer. The vehicle owner and driver shall keep all  
930 maintenance and service records for all vehicles owned and used for for-hire  
931 transportation services for three years.

932 E. The vehicle owner and driver shall remedy a vehicle defect in a manner  
933 consistent with a vehicle safety recall notice issued by the vehicle manufacturer and/or  
934 the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, after being notified of the recall by  
935 the vehicle manufacturer, the driver's affiliated agency or company, or the director.

936 F. The vehicle owner and driver shall ensure that all requirements in this section  
937 are met and continually maintained.

938 G. A vehicle that has been in a collision and determined by the insurance adjuster  
939 to be a total wreck or total loss shall not be placed back in service until an approved  
940 mechanic with a current certification in structural analysis and damage repair or airbags  
941 has verified that there is no damage to the vehicle frame and that the airbag system is  
942 working properly. The inspection is separate from the vehicle safety inspection  
943 completed each year.

944 H. The director shall summarily suspend a medallion and place a vehicle out of  
945 service if the vehicle fails a vehicle safety inspection or the director determines that a

violation of this section is an immediate safety hazard and it is necessary to prevent a clear, substantial and imminent hazard to life, safety, or property.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 34. In addition to meeting all vehicle standards established in this chapter, the following requirements apply to wheelchair accessible vehicles:

A. The vehicle must conform to the vehicle accessibility requirements of the regulations of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, Title 49 C.F.R. Chapter 38, Subpart B, as amended;

B. Taxicabs and for-hire vehicles may not convert to wheelchair accessible vehicles without director approval. The director may approve applications for conversion consistent with criteria prescribed by rule;

C. A vehicle operating with a wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion must be a wheelchair accessible vehicle; and

D. Before being placed into service and annually thereafter, a separate inspection of the vehicle and any installed accessibility equipment must occur. In addition to checking for conformance with vehicle accessibility requirements in accordance with this subsection, the vehicle driver or drivers may be required to pass a practical demonstration of proper wheelchair securement techniques during this inspection. If a driver of the vehicle is unable to demonstrate proper securement techniques during this inspection, the director shall suspend the driver's regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement and may require the driver to undergo additional training before returning to try the practical demonstration again. A wheelchair accessible vehicle shall not pass the inspection unless the driver is able to pass a practical demonstration of

proper wheelchair securement techniques. Upon passing the practical demonstration of proper wheelchair securement techniques, the driver's regional for-hire driver's license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement will no longer be suspended and is effective.

E. If prescribed by the director by rule, affiliated wheelchair accessible vehicles shall participate in a director-approved dispatch system for wheelchair accessible trips.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 35.

A. The director may establish a rule to determine the viability of electric vehicles for taxicab and for-hire vehicle owners and regional for-hire drivers and, if viable, create incentives to promote the use of electric vehicles. When determining electric vehicle viability for for-hire transportation services, the director shall consider, but not be limited to, the following factors:

1. The price of new or used electric vehicles compared to new and used nonelectric vehicles;
2. If the mileage range for new and used electric vehicles meets the needs of full-time for-hire transportation services;
3. The availability of recharging infrastructure in locations and at times that are convenient for regional for-hire drivers, and if recharging time conflicts with the regional for-hire driver's need to operate the vehicle; and
4. If the vehicle life cycle for existing and new electric vehicles creates an undue burden for the vehicle owner or regional for-hire driver.

B. Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require or restrict a regional for-hire driver's use of electric vehicles for for-hire transportation services.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 36.

992           A. A taxicab or for-hire vehicle with a valid medallion may operate if the taxicab  
993 or for-hire vehicle:

994           1. Is operated by a driver with a valid regional for-hire 'driver's license issued  
995 under this chapter;

996           2. Has insurance as required by this chapter;

997           3. Displays, in a location specified by the director, a current taxicab medallion  
998 plate or current for-hire vehicle medallion decal issued by the director; however, a  
999 licensed taxicab or for-hire vehicle does not require a transportation network company  
1000 endorsement decal when dispatched by a transportation network company;

1001           4. Displays the vehicle medallion number and name of the affiliated transitional  
1002 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency on the exterior of the vehicle and  
1003 displays any rates that apply to a trip not requested via an application dispatch system, as  
1004 prescribed by the director by rule;

1005           5. Is equipped to accept electronic payment of fares and issue receipts;

1006           6. When operating with a taxicab medallion, is equipped with an approved and  
1007 properly functioning taximeter or smart taximeter and is connected to a mobile data  
1008 terminal to accept electronic payment of fares and issue receipts;

1009           7. Displays any passenger information prescribed by the director by rule;

1010           8. Displays on or in the vehicle signs, including notices, announcements,  
1011 pictures, advertisements, or other messages, that do not create a visible distraction or  
1012 safety hazard for the driver of the vehicle or for other vehicles on the road. The director  
1013 may prescribe by rule the manner in which the signs may be displayed, including, but not

1014 limited to, requirements concerning the number of signs per vehicle, placement on or  
1015 within vehicles, size limitations, and devices or mechanisms used to display the signs;

1016 9. Is equipped with a monitored duress alarm approved by the director in  
1017 accordance with specifications prescribed by the director by rule;

1018 10. Is equipped with a monitored vehicle tracking system, which may be part of  
1019 an approved smart taximeter system or application dispatch system, in accordance with  
1020 specifications prescribed by the director by rule;

1021 11. Maintains a continuous connection between the taximeter and the dispatch  
1022 system or between the taximeter and the application dispatch system;

1023 12. Operates on a dispatch system of the affiliated transitional regional dispatch  
1024 agency or regional dispatch agency and may also operate on one or more approved  
1025 application dispatch systems, including those operated by a licensed transportation  
1026 network company;

1027  
1028 13. Is affiliated with a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch  
1029 agency and adopts the uniform color scheme of that transitional regional dispatch agency  
1030 or regional dispatch agency unless otherwise authorized by the director. The director  
1031 may prescribe by rule any additional criteria for vehicle colors and markings;

1032

1033 14. Meets current taximeter standards and has installed and uses a smart  
1034 taximeter when a smart taximeter system is implemented by the affiliated regional  
1035 dispatch agency;

1036 15. Is compliant with policies and procedures established by the transitional  
1037 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency to meet the requirements of this  
1038 chapter and ensure customer satisfaction; and

1039 16. Meets any other requirement established by the director by rule as  
1040 authorized by this chapter

1041 B. To operate a taxicab or for-hire vehicle, the medallion owner or vehicle owner  
1042 shall:

1043 1. Not have any outstanding monetary penalties issued under this chapter;

1044 2. Inform the director within five business days if the vehicle is no longer  
1045 operating; and

1046 3. Inform the director and the prior transitional regional dispatch agency or  
1047 regional agency within five business days of the vehicle being affiliated with a new  
1048 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency.

1049 C. A citation, license action, or both issued for a violation of this section 36 shall  
1050 be issued to the medallion owner, the medallion lessee, the person operating the vehicle,  
1051 or any combination thereof, as appropriate.

1052  
1053 NEW SECTION. SECTION 37.

1054 A. All lease agreements for taxicabs or for-hire vehicles shall be in writing on a  
1055 director-approved form, and the lessor shall file the original lease agreement with the  
1056 affiliated transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency prior to the  
1057 effective date of the lease in a manner specified by rule adopted by the director and shall

retain copies of all filed lease agreements and make them available for inspection upon the director's request.

B. If a change of transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency is made, any existing vehicle lease must be filed with the new agency at the time of the change.

C. The lease amount charged to a lessee shall not exceed the maximum amount established by rule adopted by the director. In determining the maximum lease amount, if any, the director shall consider vehicle purchase prices, the cost of insurance premiums, fuel costs, and variations in the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U), for the Seattle area, evaluated over a twenty-four month time period preceding the determination of the lease amount, and may consider any other factors that may affect the market for taxicab or for-hire vehicle leases or that may affect the provision of for-hire transportation services. Costs already factored into the lease amount shall not be charged to the driver as an additional amount.

D. A vehicle lessee shall not sublease a taxicab or for-hire vehicle.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 38.

A. Taxicab associations and for-hire vehicle companies must transition to become regional dispatch agencies by March 31, 2025.

B. As of the effective date of this ordinance, a valid King County taxicab association license or for-hire vehicle company registration shall automatically become a transitional regional dispatch agency license and shall expire on March 31, 2024. As of the effective date of this ordinance, every taxicab association with a valid license issued by the city of Seattle and every for-hire vehicle company recognized by the city of Seattle



shall be issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license by King County and shall expire on March 31, 2024. A transitional regional dispatch agency license or a regional dispatch agency license permits the licensee to operate in King County and the city of Seattle. New taxicab association licenses shall not be issued and new for-hire vehicle companies shall not be registered after the effective date of this ordinance.

C. Upon initial license renewal, a transitional regional dispatch agency shall submit for director approval a transition plan on a form provided by the director for adopting a smart taximeter system. The transition plan must include a clear process for adopting a smart taximeter system by no later than March 31, 2025. The director may grant an extension of the deadline for implementing a smart taximeter system for up to twelve months based upon consideration of the following nonexclusive factors:

1. Previous efforts of a transitional regional dispatch agency to implement a smart taximeter system in its fleet of affiliated vehicles;
2. Costs and availability of a smart taximeter system; and
3. Economic viability of operating a taxicab.

D. Transitional regional dispatch agencies seeking to continue operating beyond March 31, 2025, shall apply for a regional dispatch agency license. Unless the director approves an extension for adopting a smart taximeter system, a valid regional dispatch agency license is required to operate after March 31, 2025.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 39.

A. It is unlawful for a person to operate as a regional dispatch agency without a valid regional dispatch agency license. A regional dispatch agency license is valid for one year and is not transferable. To be licensed as a regional dispatch agency, all

regional dispatch agencies shall meet the criteria necessary for obtaining a regional dispatch agency license from the city of Seattle, and shall apply for a regional dispatch agency license from the city of Seattle concurrently with applying for a regional dispatch agency license from King County, and shall:

1. Apply for a license on a form approved by the director;
2. Have an identified representative authorized to make business decisions on behalf of the agency or company;
3. Adopt a zero-tolerance policy for alcohol and drug use while operating a taxicab or for-hire vehicle licensed under this chapter;
4. Adopt a policy that prohibits the agency or company, including their affiliated drivers, from discriminating against passengers or potential passengers on the basis of race; color; national origin; religious belief or affiliation; sex; disability; age; use of a service animal; sexual orientation; gender identity; or geographic beginning or endpoints of the ride, unless the trip covers more than one hundred miles or includes traveling over a mountain pass or on a ferry;
5. Have a process for receiving, tracking, and resolving passenger complaints;
6. Have and maintain a secure process for passengers to retrieve items left behind in an affiliated vehicle as soon as possible but no longer than two calendar days following the date of the trip. Such policy shall be in writing and readily accessible to passengers;
7. Have a system that enables each passenger to receive an electronic or paper receipt upon payment of the fare. A receipt shall include at least the following information:

- 1127 a. the date and time the trip began and ended;
- 1128 b. the medallion number for a taxicab or for-hire vehicle trip;
- 1129 c. the driver's regional for-hire driver's license number or unique driver
- 1130 identification number;
- 1131 d. the fare charged and any tip paid;
- 1132 e. the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency with
- 1133 which the vehicle is affiliated; and
- 1134 f. a phone number, email address, or website to submit passenger feedback and
- 1135 inquiries to the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency; and
- 1136 8. Have an approved smart taximeter system that includes the following
- 1137 functions:
- 1138 a. is capable of metering a trip using an onboard diagnostic connection to the
- 1139 vehicle or the use of location tracking technology, or some combination of the two, to
- 1140 measure time and distance traveled;
- 1141 b. has an integrated payment and receipting system that accepts credit cards
- 1142 and other electronic payments such as electronic taxi scrip, promotional codes, and
- 1143 alternative payment channels;
- 1144 c. has an integrated dispatch system that:
- 1145 (1) supports two-way communication between the dispatcher and the driver;
- 1146 (2) is equipped with monitored vehicle tracking technology and be able to
- 1147 track vehicle location in real time;
- 1148 (3) does not exclusively dispatch calls by phone or radio; and
- 1149 (4) provides a duress alarm for the driver;

1150 d. supports pricing based on static and dynamic market conditions;  
1151 e. has the ability to calculate an upfront fare to present to a passenger before  
1152 the passenger accepts the ride;  
1153 f. includes driver authentication and system security features;  
1154 g. automates data collection and reporting;  
1155 h. provides geographic location information;  
1156 i. incorporates a director-approved mobility data standard for on-demand for-  
1157 hire vehicles to support external integration;  
1158 j. can be used and configured for one or more regional dispatch agencies and  
1159 can dispatch vehicles from one or more registered trade names;  
1160 k. if required by the director by rule, is connected to a director-approved  
1161 external dispatch system for the purpose of dispatching wheelchair accessible vehicles;  
1162 and  
1163 l. meets any other requirement prescribed by the director by rule.

1164 B. Prior to obtaining a regional dispatch agency license, transitional regional  
1165 dispatch agencies shall comply with regional dispatch agency licensing and operating  
1166 requirements in this section, except that:

1167 1. A transitional regional dispatch agency shall not be required to have a smart  
1168 taximeter system; and

1169 2. A transitional regional dispatch agency that is affiliated with taxicabs at the  
1170 time of being issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license that does not have a  
1171 smart taximeter system approved by the director, shall provide a dispatch system  
1172 integrated with the vehicle's taximeter for all affiliated vehicles.

1173           NEW SECTION. SECTION 40. A transitional regional dispatch agency license  
1174 or regional dispatch agency license issued by King County and a corresponding regional  
1175 dispatch agency license or transitional regional dispatch agency license issued by the city  
1176 of Seattle shall be considered one, inseparable license.

1177           NEW SECTION. SECTION 41.

1178           A. At all times, a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch  
1179 agency shall:

- 1180               1. Operate with a valid transitional regional dispatch agency or regional  
1181 dispatch agency license;
- 1182               2. Ensure all information provided to the director does not misstate or omit  
1183 material facts;
- 1184               3. Inform the director in writing within seven days if any of the information  
1185 provided in the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency license  
1186 application changes, ceases to be true, or is superseded in any way by new information;
- 1187               4. Ensure any driver of an affiliated vehicle possesses a valid regional for-hire  
1188 driver's license, enhanced regional for-hire driver's license, or regional for-hire driver's  
1189 license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement, or any combination thereof, as  
1190 applicable to either the ride type or the vehicle type, or both;
- 1191               5. Require affiliated vehicles to meet all requirements of this chapter, including  
1192 but not limited to passing an annual vehicle safety inspection and being licensed,  
1193 endorsed, and insured;
- 1194               6. Notify the director in writing within seven days upon adding or removing an  
1195 affiliated vehicle;

1196           7. Require affiliated vehicles to be fully equipped as required by this chapter  
1197 whenever operating as a taxicab or for-hire vehicle;

1198           8. Accept service of general correspondence, license actions, citations, and  
1199 notices of complaints on behalf of an affiliated driver or vehicle owner and forward such  
1200 to the respective affiliated driver or vehicle owner;

1201           9. Prioritize dispatch services to passengers in wheelchairs or other mobility  
1202 devices when dispatching affiliated wheelchair accessible vehicles;

1203           10. Allow passengers to indicate whether they require a wheelchair-accessible  
1204 vehicle and connect passengers to those services either directly or via a weblink,  
1205 application, or phone number, if no wheelchair accessible vehicles are available on the  
1206 agency's application dispatch system. The director may suspend or alter this requirement  
1207 by rule if a director-approved dispatch system is established for wheelchair accessible  
1208 trips;

1209           11. Maintain a phone number, mailing address, and email address for customer  
1210 service;

1211           12. Record all trips, process all payments, and issue a receipt for all payments  
1212 through the dispatch system, a smart taximeter system, or an application dispatch system  
1213 provided to affiliated drivers;

1214           13. Comply with the data reporting requirements established in this chapter;

1215           14. Operate only director approved application dispatch systems ;

1216           15. Require affiliated vehicles to comply with applicable rate structures defined  
1217 in this chapter;

1218           16. Have, maintain, and monitor, while one or more affiliated vehicles are  
1219 active, a duress alarm for the driver;

1220           17. Establish and enforce operating standards for affiliated drivers and vehicles  
1221 to ensure code compliance and customer satisfaction;

1222           18. Satisfy every request for service as long as there are affiliated taxicabs or  
1223 for-hire vehicles available; except that transitional regional dispatch agencies, regional  
1224 dispatch agencies, and regional for-hire drivers, that refuse service within the meaning of  
1225 section 21.L. of this ordinance, shall not be subject to any penalties by the director, and,  
1226 in the case of regional for-hire drivers, by the transitional regional dispatch agency or  
1227 regional dispatch agency;

1228           19. Require affiliated vehicles to use a uniform color scheme or any associated  
1229 graphics, or both, approved by the director;

1230           20. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone whenever such zone is used by  
1231 affiliated taxicabs if the director determines that it is necessary due to complaints  
1232 received from passengers and adjacent property owners or improper use of nearby  
1233 passenger load zones, truck load zones, and charter bus zones. If the transitional regional  
1234 dispatch agency, or regional dispatch agency, fails to provide a supervisor as required by  
1235 the director, the director may prohibit all affiliated taxicabs from using the taxicab zone;

1236           21. Require affiliated vehicles to operate on an approved taximeter, smart  
1237 taximeter system, or application dispatch system as required in this chapter;

1238           22. Remit fares made via electronic payment to regional for-hire drivers within  
1239 two business days after the ride was completed;

1240           23. Remit fares made via electronic payment through the smart taximeter  
1241 system to regional for-hire drivers in amounts not less than the amount received by the  
1242 transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency for each transaction;

1243           24. Comply with applicable business license requirements for any jurisdiction  
1244 for which the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency operates;  
1245 and

1246           25. Meet any other requirement established by the director by rule as authorized  
1247 by this chapter.

1248           B. A transitional regional dispatch agency that is not affiliated with taxicabs at  
1249 the time of being issued a transitional regional dispatch agency license does not need to:

1250               1. Affiliate with taxicabs;  
1251               2. Have or operate a taximeter;  
1252               3. Comply with taximeter rates; or  
1253               4. Provide a supervisor at a taxicab zone because for-hire vehicles are not  
1254 permitted to operate at a taxicab zone.

1255           C. Persons not previously licensed as a taxicab association or registered as a for-  
1256 hire vehicle company may apply for a transitional regional dispatch agency license in a  
1257 manner determined by the director.

1258           D.1. Transitional regional dispatch agencies and regional dispatch agencies shall  
1259 maintain accurate and complete operational records for all affiliated vehicles and shall  
1260 submit quarterly reports, in an electronic format approved by the director.

1261               2. Reports shall include the following:  
1262                   a. a total count of ride per origination ZIP Code;



1263           b. a total count of ride per destination ZIP Code;  
1264           c. a total count of unfulfilled ride requests by ZIP Code;  
1265           d. a total count of rides provided by a wheelchair accessible vehicle by ZIP  
1266 Code;  
1267           e. a total count of unfulfilled ride requests for a wheelchair accessible vehicle  
1268 by ZIP Code;  
1269           f. a list of vehicle collisions; including the vehicle medallion number, regional  
1270 for-hire 'driver's license number, and if known, whether the collision was the fault of the  
1271 regional for-hire driver; and whether the collision resulted in any injuries;  
1272           g. a list of crimes committed against drivers;  
1273           h. a list of passenger complaints; and  
1274           i. any other data required by the director to ensure compliance.  
1275           3. Transitional regional dispatch agencies and regional dispatch agencies shall  
1276 retain records related to the reports required under subsection D of this section for the  
1277 current year and at least the two prior calendar years. Records may be maintained  
1278 electronically.  
1279           4. If a public records request is made of the county for documents that have  
1280 been designated by a licensee as confidential or proprietary, the county may provide third  
1281 party notice to the providing party prior to disclosure.  
1282           E. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall  
1283 store, and upon request permit the director to review, all records required by this chapter  
1284 for affiliated drivers and vehicles including, but not limited to, copies of regional for-hire  
1285 driver's licenses, taxicab and for-hire vehicle medallions, lists of all affiliated drivers and

their affiliated vehicles, passenger feedback, new driver training records, dispatch records, and proof of vehicle insurance and vehicle registration. In addition, the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency shall:

1. Retain records, electronically or otherwise, for the current year and at least the prior two calendar years;

2. Provide the director with any other information the director may reasonably require upon request; and

3. Timely respond to the director's request for information.

F. The director may authorize a transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency to submit regional for-hire driver's license applications on behalf of its affiliated drivers, in a manner approved by the director.

G. A transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency may maintain a rating system for drivers and passengers to rate each other following a trip.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 42.

A. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall put in writing all policies that affect affiliated medallion owners, vehicle owners, and regional for-hire drivers.

B. Prior to implementing or changing a policy, the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency shall post a copy of the draft policy in the transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency office, and send via electronic transmittal a copy of the draft policy to the affiliated medallion owners, vehicle owners and regional for-hire drivers. Affiliated medallion owners, vehicle owners and regional for-hire drivers shall have a minimum of twenty days to provide input on the draft policy

before the policy takes effect. Notwithstanding this twenty-day timeline, a policy proposed for purposes of addressing an emergent issue may be temporarily established for up to thirty days. After thirty days, medallion owners, vehicle owners, and regional for-hire drivers shall be given an opportunity to provide input before the policy may be permanently adopted.

C. A transitional regional dispatch agency and regional dispatch agency shall make known to the regional for-hire driver the amount of the fare for each trip provided by that driver.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 43.

A. Regional taximeter rates are in this subsection A.

1. Unless specified elsewhere in this section or prescribed by the director by rule, it shall be unlawful for anyone operating a taxicab licensed by King County to advertise, charge, demand or receive any greater or lesser rate than the following regional taximeter rates:

- a. drop charge: for passengers for first 1/9 mile: \$2.60;
- b. Per mile: For each 1/9 mile or fraction thereof after the first 1/9 mile: \$0.30;
- c. For every one minute of waiting time: \$0.50, charged at \$0.30 per 36 seconds. Waiting time rates are charged when taxicab speed is less than 11 miles per hour or when a taxicab driver is asked to wait for the customer; and
- d. Additional per passenger charge for more than two persons, excluding children under twelve years of age: \$0.50.

1331           2. The director may adjust or prescribe new regional taximeter rates and other  
1332 rates, such as minimum fares for trips, or both, by rule. In determining new regional  
1333 taximeter rates, the director may consider, among other things, the following factors:

- 1334           a. operational data supplied by either a regional dispatch agency or data  
1335 obtained by the director through other sources, or both;
- 1336           b. the public's need for adequate for-hire transportation services at reasonable  
1337 rates consistent with the provision, maintenance, and continuation of such services;
- 1338           c. the rates of other for-hire transportation providers operating in similar areas;
- 1339           d. rates paid by passengers using other modes of transportation;
- 1340           e. the need to cover all operating costs incurred by the owner and driver;
- 1341           f. other regulatory, access, or similar fees paid by drivers to serve the  
1342 transportation needs of the region; and
- 1343           g. alignment with rates established by the city of Seattle.

1344           3. Regional taximeter rates are exclusive of any per-trip fee established by the  
1345 Port of Seattle and set forth in any operating agreement or tariff, a temporary fuel  
1346 surcharge authorized by the director, or any toll or charge established for roads, bridges,  
1347 tunnels, or ferries.

1348           4. A regional dispatch agency's affiliated taxicabs shall have regional taximeter  
1349 rates programmed into its smart taximeter system. Variations from regional taximeter  
1350 rates are permitted, as follows:

- 1351           a. Variations from regional taximeter rates may be applied to contract trips,  
1352 upfront fares, dynamic pricing, fare splitting, trip bidding, flat fares, minimum trip fares  
1353 or when operating on an application dispatch system;

1354           b. The director may prescribe by rule variations from regional taximeter rates;

1355           c. Unless prescribed otherwise by the director by rule, any variation from

1356 regional taximeter rates shall be established by a regional dispatch agency and not by an

1357 individual driver. A regional dispatch agency shall not vary a rate so that it results in a

1358 higher dispatch or other fee to be paid by an affiliated driver;

1359           d. Variations from regional taximeter rates shall be applied in a manner that

1360 does not discriminate on the basis of a protected class or on the basis of the ride's

1361 geographic beginning or endpoints;

1362           e. Unless a trip is dispatched via an application dispatch system, an upfront

1363 fare shall be based on the estimated time and distance calculated by the smart taximeter

1364 and multiplied by the regional taximeter rate. If the passenger rejects an upfront fare, the

1365 regional taximeter rates apply; and

1366           f. If a flat rate between two defined points has been established, the flat rate

1367 shall be made available to the passenger prior to accepting a ride. Regional dispatch

1368 agencies must maintain a list of all established flat rates, including their defined origin

1369 and destination points, and make such list available for inspection upon request of the

1370 director.

1371           5. Contract rates shall be in writing, be retained by the regional dispatch agency,

1372 and be available for inspection upon request of the director.

1373           6. Before a licensee may use a smart taximeter system that is integrated with an

1374 application dispatch system, the director must first determine the application dispatch

1375 system rates are transparent under subsection B. of this section.

1376           B. Application dispatch system rates are in this subsection B.

1377 1. Before using an application dispatch system, or using a smart taximeter  
1378 system as an application dispatch system, the transitional regional dispatch agency or  
1379 regional dispatch agency shall provide to the Director either written documentation or a  
1380 physical demonstration, or both, that the application dispatch system rate structure is  
1381 transparent to the passenger prior to confirming the ride. Application dispatch system  
1382 rates do not need to be filed with the director unless this chapter specifies otherwise. The  
1383 director shall determine that the rate structure is transparent if:

1384 a. one of the following methodologies is used:

1385 (1) the rate by either distance or time, or a combination of distance and time,  
1386 and the total fare or fare range is clearly displayed on the application dispatch system to  
1387 the passenger upon requesting a ride, but before confirming the ride; or

1388 (2) the cost of the ride is made clear to the passenger prior to confirming the  
1389 ride through an alternative method deemed acceptable by the director;

1390 b. any additional or higher charges such as tips, waiting time, tolls, or any  
1391 other charges not included in subsection B.1.a. of this section shall be clearly identified  
1392 by specific amount, if known, or by category, on the application dispatch system before  
1393 confirming a ride; and

1394 c. the receipt showing all charges paid by the customer is available to the  
1395 regional for-hire driver in the application dispatch system.

1396 2. During an abnormal disruption of the market, lasting for no longer than  
1397 twelve consecutive hours in King County, a transitional regional dispatch agency or  
1398 regional dispatch agency shall not raise its normal range of fare more than two times the  
1399 fare that would otherwise be applicable.

1400 C. For-hire vehicle rates are in this subsection C.

1401 1. For-hire vehicles must charge for service based on: a written contract; flat  
1402 rate per trip or by zone; or by an hourly rate with minimum increments of thirty minutes.  
1403 Flat charges by zone or hourly rate may vary by time of day. Zone boundaries shall be  
1404 set by the director by rule and shall be consistent across all for-hire vehicle operators.

1405 2. Records of all for-hire vehicle rates in place prior to implementing a smart  
1406 taximeter system shall be maintained by the for-hire vehicle company and be made  
1407 available for inspection upon request by the director. All rates and charges shall be  
1408 conspicuously available in the interior of the for-hire vehicle.

1409 3. The for-hire vehicle rate structure shall remain in effect until the vehicle  
1410 transitions to a taxicab or March 31, 2025, whichever occurs sooner. After March 31,  
1411 2025, all for-hire vehicles shall have transitioned to taxicabs and are subject to the  
1412 regional taximeter rates and application dispatch system rate requirements under this  
1413 chapter.

1414 4. If using an application dispatch system, the director must first determine that  
1415 the rates are transparent to the passenger under subsection B. of this section.

1416 D. If the director establishes a minimum fare or flat rate from one location to  
1417 another location, or based on the factors identified in subsection A.2. of this section, such  
1418 minimum fare or flat rate shall apply whether the trip originated via a taximeter, a smart  
1419 taximeter, or, if specified by the director, an application dispatch system.

1420 E. Other rate and fare requirements are in this subsection E.

1421 1. It is unlawful to charge additional fees for carrying individuals with  
1422 disabilities and their equipment or to charge rates higher to passengers with a disability

than are charged to other persons. To promote equitable access to for-hire transportation for persons with disabilities, and to ensure that wheelchair accessible vehicle service is reliably available at reasonable and predictable rates, the director may prescribe by rule fares for wheelchair accessible trips or other conditions on the rates, fares, fees, and other surcharges, or both, for providing wheelchair accessible transportation services to persons with disabilities.

2. The director is authorized to establish a fuel surcharge to the regional taximeter rate, or that can be added as an amount to the passenger's total fare at the end of the trip, any time the price of fuel, as published by the American Automobile Association for the local area, exceeds a fuel surcharge trigger price established in accordance with a rule adopted by the director. The surcharge shall be an amount necessary to recoup the increased fuel costs.

3. A toll or charge established for roads, bridges, tunnels, or ferries while passengers are being transported can be added to the 'passenger's total fare at the end of the trip.

4. Discriminatory charges are prohibited. For the purposes of this subsection E.4., "discriminatory charges" means policies or practices that result in higher charges or rates being applied to passengers belonging to a protected class compared to other passengers.

#### NEW SECTION. SECTION 44.

A. The director may prescribe by rule the implementation of a discrete licensing program for emerging for-hire transportation models that do not fit within the parameters of this chapter or K.C.C. chapter 6.64.



1446 B. The director shall determine whether a proposed business activity is an  
1447 emerging business type or a nontraditional business activity that falls outside the  
1448 parameters of any existing license under this chapter or K.C.C. chapter 6.64, and whether  
1449 the proposed business activity presents potential risks to the public health, safety, and  
1450 welfare such that, for the protection of the public, the activity must be regulated and  
1451 licensed.

1452 C. The director may grant the applicant an emerging for-hire transportation  
1453 license to operate in the proposed business activity on a pilot basis.

1454 D. The emerging for-hire transportation license shall be renewed annually for a  
1455 maximum of two years, after which the license shall expire. The emerging for-hire  
1456 transportation license shall be a personal privilege and not property. The emerging for-  
1457 hire transportation license shall not be transferrable to another location, person, or  
1458 business entity.

1459 E. The director may attach conditions to the emerging for-hire transportation  
1460 license as are reasonably required to protect the public health, safety, and welfare from  
1461 risks including, but not limited to: adverse impact on public health; public safety;  
1462 increased demand on government services; increased environmental impacts; or increased  
1463 traffic or congestion in the public way. The director may attach any such conditions  
1464 when the emerging for-hire transportation license is issued, or the director may attach,  
1465 remove, or modify conditions at any time during the term of the permit, upon reasonable  
1466 notice to the licensee.

1467 F. The director may determine at any time during the term of the emerging for-  
1468 hire transportation license that the licensed 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. If a license is revoked, the licensee 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.

G. If the director determines that a type of emerging business model that has been issued an emerging for-hire transportation license should be regulated by ordinance, the director shall convey the determination to the council prior to the expiration of the license. The license shall not be extended beyond two years unless an ordinance regulating the emerging business model is effective and the emerging business has obtained any necessary license under that ordinance.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 45. The director may establish, in conjunction with the city of Seattle and the Port of Seattle, a shared process to receive and, when appropriate, resolve consumer feedback and may communicate the process to consumers.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 46.

A. Upon receiving a written complaint involving the conduct of a licensee, where the conduct may be a violation of this chapter, the director shall review the complaint, and if appropriate:

1. Issue a notice of complaint to the licensee, and if applicable, the affiliated transitional regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, advising them of the allegation or allegations made in the complaint;

1492 2. Require the licensee and, if applicable, the affiliated transitional regional  
1493 dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency, to respond in writing or by contacting the  
1494 issuing inspector to provide a response to the allegation or allegations in the notice of  
1495 complaint within fifteen calendar days from the date the notice of complaint was issued;

1496 3. Investigate the allegations in the written complaint and the response  
1497 submitted by the licensee and if applicable, the response submitted by the transitional  
1498 regional dispatch agency or regional dispatch agency representative; and

1499 4. Make a finding as to the validity of the allegations in the written complaint. If  
1500 the complaint is found to be valid the director may take enforcement action consistent  
1501 with this chapter.

1502 B. Failure to respond to a notice of complaint, either in writing or by contacting  
1503 the issuing inspector, within fifteen calendar days shall constitute a waiver of the  
1504 licensee's and, if applicable, the affiliated agency's right to respond to the allegations in  
1505 the written complaint and shall be prima facie evidence that the allegations are valid.

1506 NEW SECTION. SECTION 47.

1507 A. It is a violation for any person to not meet or maintain compliance with any  
1508 requirement of this chapter or rule issued by the director. If the director determines that  
1509 any of this chapter's requirements or rules have been violated, the director may issue:

- 1510 1. A citation;
- 1511 2. A license action; or
- 1512 3. A citation and a license action.

1513 B. The director shall reject a license or medallion application if it has a material  
1514 misstatement or omission.

1515

1516 C. In determining a monetary penalty, the director shall consider the gravity of  
1517 the violation; the number of past violations committed; the size of the business of the  
1518 violator; the deterrent effect of monetary penalties; and the good faith of the violator in  
1519 attempting to achieve compliance after notification of the violation.

1520 D. A person shall pay all fees, surcharges, and monetary penalties that are owed  
1521 under this chapter. If the person cited fails to pay a monetary penalty imposed under this  
1522 chapter, the monetary penalty may be referred to a collection agency. The cost to the  
1523 director for the collection services will be added to the penalty. Alternatively, the  
1524 director may pursue collection in any other manner allowed by law. The director shall  
1525 refuse to issue a license, endorsement, or medallion at the time of renewal if the person  
1526 has outstanding fees, surcharges, or monetary penalties issued under this chapter.

1527 E. Each day a person violates or fails to comply with one of the requirements of  
1528 this chapter may be considered a separate violation for which a citation may be issued.

1529 F. It is a misdemeanor for any person to violate the operating standards  
1530 established in this chapter if the person demonstrates a habitual disregard for the  
1531 standards in this chapter. The director may refer such a person for prosecution as an  
1532 alternative to the citation and license action procedures outlined in this chapter.

1533 G. The director may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin any acts or practices  
1534 when necessary to achieve compliance.

1535 H. Nothing in this section limits or precludes any action or proceeding to enforce  
1536 this chapter, and nothing obligates or requires the director to issue a citation or license  
1537 action prior to the imposition of criminal penalties.

1538           NEW SECTION. SECTION 48. The following shall be assessed for violations  
1539 of the listed sections or subsections of this chapter:

1540           A. The director shall assess a Class A penalty, which is a one-hundred-twenty-  
1541 five-dollar civil penalty for a first offense, a two-hundred-fifty-dollar penalty for a second  
1542 offense, or a five-hundred-dollar civil penalty for a third or subsequent offense:

- 1543           1. Section 11.M. of this ordinance;
- 1544           2. Section 20.A., B., D., L., N., Q., and U. of this ordinance;
- 1545           3. Section 21.B, M, and N. of this ordinance;
- 1546           4. Section 22.A.1., 2.,and 3. of this ordinance;
- 1547           5. Section 33.D., E., and F. of this ordinance; and
- 1548           6. Section 36.A.4., 5., 6., 7., and 8. of this ordinance;

1549           B. The director shall assess a Class B penalty, which is a two-hundred-fifty-  
1550 dollar civil penalty for a first offense, a five-hundred-dollar civil penalty for a second  
1551 offense, or a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for a third or subsequent offense:

- 1552           1. Section 20.C., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., and M. of this ordinance;
- 1553           2. Section 21.A., D., G., I., J., K., and L. of this ordinance;
- 1554           3. Section 22.A.4. and 5. of this ordinance;
- 1555           4. Section 36.A.3, 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14., and 15. of this ordinance; and
- 1556           5. Section 36.B.2, and 3. of this ordinance;

1557           C. The director shall assess a Class C penalty, which is a one-thousand-dollar  
1558 civil penalty for an offense:

- 1559           1. Section 21.F. of this ordinance;

1560           2. Section 41.A.1., 3., 4., 5., 6., 7., 8., 9., 10., 11., 12., 13., 14., 15., 16., 17., 18.,  
1561   19., 20., 21., 22., and 23. of this ordinance; and

1562           3. Section 42.A., B., and C. of this ordinance;

1563           D. The director shall assess a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for the first  
1564   offense and suspend the license or medallion for the second and subsequent offenses:

1565           1. Section 37.A. and C. of this ordinance;

1566           2. Section 41.D. and E. of this ordinance; and

1567           3. Section 43.A.4. of this ordinance;

1568           E. The director shall assess a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for each offense.  
1569   It is a criminal misdemeanor for the second and subsequent offenses, which the director  
1570   may refer for prosecution:

1571           1. Section 11.A. of this ordinance;

1572           2. Section 27 of this ordinance; and

1573           3. Section 31.B. of this ordinance;

1574           F. The director shall act as listed on a license or medallion for offenses violating  
1575   the following:

1576           1. Section 13.A., B., E., F., G., H., I., J., K., L., and M. of this ordinance, denial;

1577           2. Section 20.O., R., and S. of this ordinance, revocation;

1578           3. Section 21.C., E., and H. of this ordinance, suspension;

1579           4. Section 25.G. of this ordinance, revocation;

1580           5. Section 28.E. of this ordinance, denial;

1581           6. Section 31.A. of this section, revocation;

1582           7. Section 31.B.1.a., 2., 3., 4., 5., 6., and 7. of this ordinance, denial;

1583           8. Section 33.H. of this ordinance, summary suspension;  
1584           9. Section 34.C. of this ordinance, suspension;  
1585           10. Section 34.D. of this ordinance, suspension of the regional for-hire driver's  
1586 license wheelchair accessible vehicle endorsement;  
1587           11. Section 36.A.1. and 2. of this ordinance, summary suspension;  
1588           12. Section 38.A. of this ordinance, revocation;  
1589           13. Section 39.A. of this ordinance, denial; and  
1590           14. Section 41.A.24. of this ordinance, suspension;  
1591           G. The director shall suspend a license or medallion, or shall deny a license or  
1592 medallion application at renewal:  
1593               1. Section 31.D. of this ordinance;  
1594               2. Section 32.A. of this ordinance;  
1595               3. Section 36.B.1. of this ordinance; and  
1596               4. Section 41.A.2. of this ordinance;  
1597           H. The director shall assess a two-hundred-fifty-dollar civil penalty for the first  
1598 offense and a one-thousand-dollar civil penalty for second and subsequent offenses of  
1599 section 12 of this ordinance;  
1600           I. The director shall revoke a license or deny a license application at renewal for  
1601 an offense of section 21.O. of this ordinance;  
1602           J. The director shall assess a two-hundred-fifty-dollar civil penalty for the first  
1603 offense and summarily suspend the medallion for the second and subsequent offenses of  
1604 subsections 33.A. and G. of this ordinance; and

1605 K. For rules promulgated in accordance with subsections 20.V.V, 36.A.16, and  
1606 D.2.A.25, the Director shall specify any applicable civil penalty or license action in the  
1607 rule itself.

1608 L. Any violation not enumerated in this section 48 that does not pose a threat or hazard to  
1609 life, safety, or property shall have a civil penalty of up to five-hundred-dollars. Any  
1610 violation not enumerated in this section 48 that poses a threat or hazard to life, safety, or  
1611 property shall have a civil penalty of up to one-thousand-dollars.

1612 NEW SECTION. SECTION 49.

1613 A. The director may issue citations and suspend, summarily suspend, deny, or  
1614 revoke any license, endorsement, or medallion of any person for violating or failing to  
1615 comply with any applicable provision of this chapter.

1616 B. Notwithstanding any other provision of this chapter, the director may  
1617 summarily suspend a license, endorsement, or medallion issued under this chapter, with  
1618 the suspension to take effect immediately by order of the director prior to any hearing  
1619 upon finding that:

1620 1. There is reasonable cause to believe that the licensee has engaged in activity  
1621 that causes or will cause a clear, substantial, and imminent hazard to life, safety, property,  
1622 or privacy of the driver, passenger, or public, or any combination thereof; or

1623 2. There is a lapse in coverage or the coverage of any surety bond or public  
1624 liability insurance policy required to be filed with the director is less than the minimum  
1625 requirements in section 32 of this ordinance.

1626 C. The following applies to license actions:



1. a. Whenever any license, endorsement, or medallion is revoked or summarily suspended the revocation or summary suspension is effective upon issuance of the notice. Such notice may be appealed in accordance with the procedures of section 50 of this ordinance. If a timely appeal is not filed by the licensee, the notice of revocation or summary suspension shall be final.

b. A final order of revocation shall extend for twelve months, except for a final medallion revocation. Upon the final order of revocation of a medallion, where all appellate proceedings, if any, have been concluded, a medallion owner shall immediately surrender the taxicab medallion plate or for-hire vehicle medallion decal to the director and has sixty days to transfer the medallion as prescribed by section 28 of this ordinance.

c. A final order of summary suspension shall extend until the license, endorsement, or medallion expires or until evidence satisfactory to the director is produced showing that the violation is cured, whichever occurs first;

2. If the licensee does not file a timely appeal in accordance with section 50 of this ordinance, the notice of suspension shall be final. Suspensions are effective upon the date included in the notice of suspension or if timely appealed under section 50 of this ordinance, when an order on appeal affirming such notice becomes final. Suspensions shall extend until the license or endorsement expires or until evidence satisfactory to the director is produced showing that the violation is cured, whichever occurs first; and

3. Except in the case of revocation or summary suspension, whenever a timely appeal is filed in accordance with section 50 of this ordinance, a licensee may continue to operate pending a final decision on appeal; however, an applicant not licensed in the

preceding license year may not engage in the activity for which the license is required pending a final decision on appeal.

NEW SECTION. SECTION 50.

A. A citation or license action shall include the following:

1. The name and address of the person to whom the citation or license action is issued;
2. The address of the location, if relevant, where the violation occurred;
3. A separate statement of each provision violated;
4. The date of the violation;
5. The applicable monetary penalty;
6. A statement that the person cited must respond to the citation or license action within twenty-four calendar days after service;
7. A statement that a response must be sent to the hearing examiner and received not later than 4:30 p.m. on the day the response is due;
8. Contact information for where the citation or license action is to be filed;
9. A statement that the citation or license action represents a determination that a violation has been committed by the person named in the citation or license action and that the determination shall be final unless appealed in accordance with this chapter; and
10. A statement certified under penalty of perjury by the director's representative issuing the citation or license action setting forth facts supporting issuance of the citation or license action.

B. The citation or license action shall be addressed to the person allegedly responsible for the violation, and be served by first-class mail, electronically, or in

1672 person. Service by first-class mail shall be deemed complete three days after the mailing.

1673 If a citation or license action sent electronically or by first class mail is returned as

1674 undeliverable, the citation or license action may be served in person. The director shall

1675 respond to inquiries concerning the facts and process of the decision and request for any

1676 files that detail the facts on which the director based the ruling.

1677 C. A person cited must respond to a citation in one of the following ways:

1678 1. Pay the amount of the monetary penalty specified in the citation within thirty  
1679 calendar days of issuance, in which case the record shall show a finding that the person  
1680 cited committed the violation;

1681 2. Timely request in writing a hearing to mitigate, by explaining the  
1682 circumstances surrounding the commission of the violation, and providing an address to  
1683 which notice of the hearing may be sent; or

1684 3. Timely request in writing a hearing to appeal, by disputing the commission of  
1685 the violation, and providing an address to which notice of the hearing may be sent.

1686 D. The director's license action is final unless the person cited timely requests in  
1687 writing a hearing to appeal the license action and provides an address to which notice of  
1688 such hearing may be sent.

1689 E. If requesting a hearing, a response to a citation or license action must be  
1690 received by the hearing examiner no later than twenty-four calendar days after the date  
1691 the citation is served. When the last day of the appeal period so computed is a Saturday,  
1692 Sunday, or holiday, the period shall run until 4:30 p.m. on the next business day. If a  
1693 person fails to respond to a citation or license action within twenty-four calendar days of

1694 service, the citation and monetary penalty or license action shall become the final order  
1695 of the director and is unreviewable by the hearing examiner.

1696 F. Appeals of license actions shall be heard by the Hearing Examiner of the  
1697 jurisdiction issuing the license action, and the Hearing Examiner shall decide the appeal  
1698 under both the King County Code and the analogous Seattle Municipal Code. The King  
1699 County hearing examiner is bound by any interpretation of the analogous Seattle  
1700 Municipal Code by the city hearing examiner in a license action appeal. Appeals of  
1701 citations shall be heard by the hearing examiner of the jurisdiction issuing the citation,  
1702 and the hearing examiner shall decide the appeal under the King County Code. The  
1703 hearing for a license action or a citation shall be held within forty-five calendar days after  
1704 written response is received by the hearing examiner, except that hearings for summary  
1705 suspensions shall be held within ten business days of the request, unless a later date is  
1706 agreed to by the person issued the license action. With the exception of summary  
1707 suspension hearings, notice of the time, place, and date of the hearing shall be sent to the  
1708 address specified in the request for hearing not less than ten calendar days before the  
1709 hearing.

1710 G. Hearings to appeal the citation or license action shall be conducted in  
1711 accordance with the procedures and rules of the hearing examiner. The issues heard at  
1712 the hearing shall be limited to those that are raised in writing in the response to the  
1713 citation or license action and that are within the jurisdiction of the hearing examiner. The  
1714 hearing examiner may issue subpoenas for the attendance of witnesses and the production  
1715 of documents. The director shall have the burden of proving by a preponderance of the

evidence both that the violation occurred and the appropriateness of the remedy the director has imposed.

H. A citation or license action shall not be deemed insufficient for failure to contain a detailed statement of the facts constituting the specific violation that the person is alleged to have committed or by reason of defects or imperfections, but only if the lack of detail, or the defects or imperfections, do not prejudice substantial rights of the person. A citation or license action may be amended before the conclusion of the hearing to conform to the evidence presented if substantial rights of the affected person are not thereby prejudiced.

I. The certified statement or declaration authorized by chapter 5.50 RCW shall be prima facie evidence that a violation occurred and that the person listed on the citation or license action is responsible. The certified statement or declaration authorized under penalty of perjury and any other evidence accompanying the report shall be admissible without further evidentiary foundation. In cases where the person seeks to mitigate the citation, the person may explain the circumstances surrounding the commission of the violation. In cases where the person disputes the citation or license action, the person may rebut the 'director's evidence and establish that the violation or violations preceding the citation or license action did not occur or that the person appealing the citation or license action is not responsible for the violation.

J. In a mitigation hearing, the hearing examiner shall determine whether the person's explanation justifies reduction of the monetary penalty. However, the monetary penalty may not be reduced unless the director affirms or certifies that the violation has been corrected prior to the mitigation hearing. Factors that may be considered in whether

1739 to reduce the penalty include: whether the violation was caused by the act, neglect, or  
1740 abuse of another; or whether correction of the violation was commenced before the  
1741 issuance of the citation but full compliance was prevented by a condition or circumstance  
1742 beyond the control of the person cited. The hearing examiner shall enter an order finding  
1743 that the person cited committed the violation and assess a monetary penalty.

1744 K. If the citation or license action is sustained at the hearing, the hearing  
1745 examiner shall enter an order finding that the person committed the violation and impose  
1746 the applicable monetary penalty or enter an order affirming the license action. The  
1747 hearing examiner may reduce the monetary penalty of a citation in accordance with  
1748 subsection J. of this section. If the hearing examiner determines that the violation did not  
1749 occur, the hearing examiner shall enter an order dismissing the citation or denying the  
1750 license action.

1751 L. Failure to appear for a requested hearing will result in the hearing examiner  
1752 entering an order finding that the person committed the violation and assessing the  
1753 penalty specified in the citation or finding that the person committed the violation and  
1754 affirming the license action. For good cause shown and upon terms the hearing examiner  
1755 deems just, the hearing examiner may set aside an order entered upon a failure to appear  
1756 and schedule a new hearing date.

1757 M. If a license action involving a vehicle is upheld, and the vehicle is to be  
1758 temporarily or permanently placed out of service, the director shall initiate the temporary  
1759 deactivation process authorized under this chapter and the licensee shall immediately  
1760 surrender all applicable vehicle medallion plates or decals to the director.

1761 N. The decision of the hearing examiner shall be final and conclusive unless  
1762 review is timely filed with the appropriate court.

1763 O. The hearing examiner may affirm, modify, or reverse the decisions of the  
1764 director.

1765 P. The director may contract with a third party to serve as the hearing examiner  
1766 for purposes of this chapter, if done in conjunction with the city of Seattle.

1767 NEW SECTION. SECTION 51. The director shall issue a joint annual report  
1768 with the city of Seattle on the state of for-hire transportation in the region on or before  
1769 April 30 of each year, and the director shall make the annual report, for the previous  
1770 calendar year, publicly available on the director's website. The report may include but is  
1771 not limited to the following:

1772 A. The number of licensed vehicles providing for-hire transportation services in  
1773 King County and the City of Seattle during the reporting period and during the preceding  
1774 year;

1775 B. The number of licensed regional for-hire drivers in King County and the City  
1776 of Seattle during the reporting period and during the preceding year;

1777 C. The numbers and nature of complaints;

1778 D. The results of any survey of taxicab response times and any changes in  
1779 response times from the previous year;

1780 E. What, if any, organizations have been authorized to operate as an emerging  
1781 for-hire transportation model; and

1782 F. Any other information or recommendations deemed appropriate by the  
1783 director.

1784           NEW SECTION. SECTION 52.

1785           A. The director is authorized to implement, enforce, and administer this chapter.

1786       The director is authorized to adopt, revise, or rescind rules, and regulations deemed  
1787       necessary, appropriate, convenient, or efficient to implement, enforce and administer this  
1788       chapter under the procedures specified in K.C.C. chapter 2.98.

1789           B. The director may suspend or suspend and modify requirements of this chapter  
1790       by rule related to licensing and operating standards, fees, and rates. In suspending or  
1791       suspending and modifying requirements of this chapter, the director shall analyze one or  
1792       more of the following nonexclusive factors:

1793               1. Whether the action would serve the public interest, including the public's  
1794       need for safe, reliable, and effective for-hire transportation;

1795               2. Whether technology has changed such that the requirements are no longer  
1796       necessary;

1797               3. Whether such action would improve the economic viability for drivers and  
1798       vehicle owners; and

1799               4. Whether such action would encourage and enable companies and agencies to  
1800       innovate and improve customer service and increase access to for-hire transportation  
1801       options.

1802           C. The director may establish rules either for taxicabs or for-hire vehicles, or for  
1803       both, to operate when equipped with an automated driving system, and may establish  
1804       associated penalties. Unless granted such authority by the director by rule, an  
1805       autonomous vehicle providing for-hire transportation services is prohibited from  
1806       autonomous operation.



1807            NEW SECTION. SECTION 53. Notwithstanding the existence or use of any  
1808 other remedy, the prosecuting attorney may seek legal or equitable relief to enjoin an act  
1809 or practice that constitutes or will constitute a violation of this chapter or an applicable  
1810 rule adopted under this chapter.

1811            NEW SECTION. SECTION 54.

1812            A penalty issued under chapter 6.64 K.C.C., regarding matters now in the scope  
1813 of this chapter, that was either not appealed or was upheld after review, and that remains  
1814 unpaid as of the effective date of this ordinance, shall remain due and payable after the  
1815 effective date of this ordinance.

1816            SECTION 55. Ordinance 2165, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.98.060 are  
1817 hereby amended to read as follows:

1818            A.1. Prior to the adoption, amendment or repeal of any rule, each department  
1819 shall give at least forty-five days' notice of its intended action, except rules being  
1820 adopted, amended or repealed under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created  
1821 under section 1 of this ordinance) shall give at least fourteen days' notice of intended  
1822 action, by:

1823            a. filing a notice with the executive department responsible for archives and  
1824 records management functions;

1825            b. providing, at least in writing or by electronic format, the notice to: all  
1826 persons and other parties who have made timely request of the agency for advance notice  
1827 of its rulemaking proceedings on a specific topic; the clerk of the council; and each  
1828 member of the county council; and

1829 c. giving public notice by one publication in the official newspaper of King  
1830 County.

1831 2. The notice shall include:

1832 a. reference to the authority under which the rule is proposed;

1833 b. a statement of either the terms or substance of the proposed rule or a  
1834 description of the subjects and issues involved; and

1835 c. the time, place and manner, including at least in writing or by electronic  
1836 format, in which interested persons may present their views on the rule. To the extent  
1837 practicable, the department should permit persons to present their views at a public  
1838 meeting, according to rules established by the department.

1839 B. The department giving the notice required in this section shall consider all  
1840 comments received by the prescribed time and shall make reasonable efforts to provide  
1841 written responses to the comments before the rule is adopted.

1842 C. Adoption of a rule by a department other than a county board, commission,  
1843 committee or other multimember body is accomplished by the department's director or  
1844 the sheriff, assessor or director of elections, for the director or other elected official's  
1845 respective department, signing the proposed rule. Adoption of a rule by a county board,  
1846 commission, committee or other multimember body is accomplished by majority vote in  
1847 favor of the rule by the members of the body, as evidenced in the approved minutes of the  
1848 body, and in compliance with the Open Public Meetings Act of 1971, chapter 42.30  
1849 RCW, as applicable.

1850 D. A rule adopted under this section is not valid unless adopted in substantial  
1851 compliance with this section. In any proceeding, a rule shall not be considered invalid on

the ground of noncompliance with the procedural requirements of this section if two years or more have elapsed from the effective date of the rule.

SECTION 56. Ordinance 2165, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 2.98.080 are hereby amended to read as follows:

A. Emergency rules adopted under K.C.C. 2.98.070 take effect upon filing with the executive department responsible for archives and records management functions. Rules adopted under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this ordinance) shall take effect on the date of filing with the executive department responsible for archives and records management. All other rules adopted under this chapter take effect thirty days after the date of filing with the executive department responsible for archives and records management functions, unless a later date is required by statute or specified in the rule.

B. The executive department responsible for archives and records management functions shall compile and index all rules adopted by each department. Compilations shall be supplemented or revised as often as necessary and at least once every year.

SECTION 57. Ordinance 18398, Section 8, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.601.025 are hereby amended to read as follows:

Subject to appropriation by the county council, the following county departments and agencies are authorized to absorb the operational and business costs accepting electronic payments, including transaction processing costs, for the specified fees, fines, charges, fares or other payments listed:

A. The department of executive services, records and licensing services division, for payments for animal shelter, care and control and pet licensing purposes, including all

1875 fees, donations and penalties in K.C.C. 11.04.035, and for payments of for-hire licensing,  
1876 regulatory fees and penalties in K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under  
1877 section 1 of this ordinance) and K.C.C. 4A.750.100;

1878 B. District court for court-related fees, fines and other charges;

1879 C. The department of natural resources and parks, parks and recreation division,  
1880 for park services and facilities usage provided to the public;

1881 D. The department of natural resources and parks, wastewater treatment division,  
1882 for sewage capacity charges;

1883 E. The department of natural resources and parks, solid waste division, for  
1884 municipal solid waste fees;

1885 F. The department of public health for public health environmental permits and  
1886 community health clinic fees;

1887 G. The department of local services, permitting division, for permitting and  
1888 environmental review permit fees;

1889 H. The department of information technology for geographic information system  
1890 course fees; and

1891 I. The Metro transit department for public transportation fares.

1892 SECTION 58. Ordinance 10498, Section 6, as amended, and K.C.C. 4A.750.100  
1893 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

1894 A. The ~~((following fees shall apply until the director adopts fees under subsection~~  
1895 ~~B. of this section))~~ director may set the amount for the fees listed in this subsection. The  
1896 records and licensing services division shall make the fees available on the division's  
1897 website. The fees are:

1. Taxicab or for-hire vehicle (~~((license))~~) medallion fees

Annual (~~((Taxicab license))~~) Medallion fee \$450.00

Annual medallion reciprocity endorsement fee

Annual Wheelchair accessible taxicab (~~((license))~~) ~~No fee~~  
medallion fee

Annual Wheelchair accessible taxicab medallion  
reciprocity endorsement fee

(~~((Taxicab license))~~) Medallion or medallion \$45.00

reciprocity endorsement late fee

(~~((For hire vehicle license))~~) \$450.00

(~~((For hire vehicle license late fee))~~) \$45.00

Change of vehicle associated with the medallion  
fee

Change or transfer of medallion owner  
corporation, limited liability company, or  
partnership members fee

Vehicle equipment change fee \$75.00

(~~((Change of owner))~~)

~~July/Dec~~ \$450.00

~~Jan/June~~ \$225.00

Replace taxicab plate fee \$25.00

~~Vehicle inspection rescheduling fee~~ \$25.00;

Wheelchair accessible vehicle and installed  
equipment inspection fee

Special inspection fee (for tests and inspections  
conducted on vehicles without a medallion)

Change of agency affiliation fee

1899

2. For-hire driver fees, except transportation network company drivers

Annual Regional For-hire Driver license fee \$85.00

Driving history report ((abstract)) fee: Per charge  
authorized by  
RCW  
46.52.130

Driving abstract per RCW 46.53.130

Third-party driving history report

((License)) ((1)) Late fee (10% of the annual \$15.00  
license fee rounded to the nearest whole dollar)

((ID-photo)) \$5.00

Criminal background check fee

Fingerprinting fee per charge  
authorized by  
RCW  
10.97.100

Third-party background check (regional for-  
hire driver's license)

Fingerprint-based background check

(enhanced regional for-hire driver's license)

Replacement license \$5.00

Training ((fee)) fees per contract

Rescheduling fee \$15.00;

1900 3. ~~((Taxicab association license))~~ Regional dispatch agency fee or transitional

1901 regional dispatch agency ((or for hire vehicle company)) fee

~~((One to fifteen vehicles))~~ Annual regional \$250.00

dispatch agency license fee:

~~((Sixteen to twenty five vehicles))~~ \$500.00

50 or fewer affiliated vehicles

51 or more affiliated vehicles

~~((Twenty six or more vehicles))~~ \$1,000.00

Late regional dispatch agency license renewal fee \$100.00; and

50 or fewer affiliated vehicles

51 or more affiliated vehicles

Annual transitional regional dispatch agency

license fee:

50 or fewer affiliated vehicles

51 or more affiliated vehicles

Late transitional regional dispatch agency license

fee

50 or fewer affiliated vehicles

51 or fewer more affiliated vehicles

Additional trade names registration fee

1902 4.a. A transportation network company shall pay a quarterly fee of thirty-five  
1903 cents per ride on a schedule determined by the director for all rides originating in:

1904 (1) unincorporated King County; or

1905 (2) any municipality that contracts with the county for the county to license  
1906 transportation network companies that operate in the municipality.

1907 b. The fee is for the regulatory and enforcement costs related to the company  
1908 and its drivers and endorsed vehicles.

1909 B. By February 15, 2015, the director shall review the fees in subsection A. of this  
1910 section in coordination with the city of Seattle. The purpose of the review shall be to  
1911 determine the fees that are needed to cover the director's regulatory and enforcement  
1912 costs. Thereafter, the director may adjust any fee in subsection A. of this section as  
1913 authorized in K.C.C. 6.64.026 and section 8 of this ordinance. In adjusting fees, the  
1914 director shall consider at least the following factors:

1915 1. The projected costs and annual budget for regulatory and enforcement costs  
1916 related to transportation network companies, taxicabs, for-hire vehicles and for-hire  
1917 drivers;

1918 2. The need for increased enforcement activities; and

1919 3. The total number of trips across transportation network companies, taxicabs  
1920 and for-hire vehicles.



C. In addition to the fees under subsection A. of this section, each taxicab licensee, for-hire vehicle licensee or transportation network company shall pay a fee surcharge of ten cents per ride as prescribed in K.C.C. 6.64.111 and section 9 of this ordinance.

D. After November 16, 2015, the director may adjust the fee surcharge in subsection C. of this section under K.C.C. 6.64.026 and Section 9 of this ordinance. In adjusting the fee surcharge, the director shall consider at least the following factors:

1. Reimbursement already made for purchasing and retrofitting wheelchair accessible taxicabs, for-hire vehicles or transportation network company endorsed vehicles;

2. The estimated need for purchasing and retrofitting wheelchair accessible taxicabs, for-hire vehicles or transportation network company endorsed vehicles in the upcoming year; and

3. Factors that may affect the supply, demand and financial viability of wheelchair accessible taxi rides.

E. Any late fee established in this Section applies when an application for license renewal is received later than one business day after the expiration date of the prior license or a scheduled payment for a fee is overdue.

SECTION 59. Ordinance 18230, Section 79, as amended, and K.C.C. 6.01.150 are each hereby amended to read as follows:

A. The office of the hearing examiner is designated to hear appeals by parties aggrieved by actions of the director pursuant to any business license ordinance. For appeals under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this

ordinance) the office of the hearing examiner is designated to hear such appeals unless a different party is designated by the director. The examiner may adopt reasonable rules or regulations for conducting its business. Copies of all rules and regulations adopted by the examiner shall be delivered to the director, who shall make them freely accessible to the public. All decisions and findings of the examiner shall be rendered to the appellant in writing, with a copy to the director.

B. For-hire transportation appeals under chapter 6.64 and shall be filed in accordance with K.C.C. 20.22.080 and the hearing process conducted in accordance with K.C.C. chapter 20.22. Appeals under K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this ordinance) shall be filed in accordance with section 50 of this ordinance and the hearing process conducted in accordance with that same section. Subsections C. through H. of this section do not apply to this subsection B.

C. Any person entitled to service under K.C.C. 6.01.130 may appeal any notice and order or any action of the director by filing at the office of the director within seven days from the date of service of such order, a written appeal containing;

1. A heading in the words: "Before the Office of the Hearing Examiner";
2. A caption reading: "Appeal of ....." giving the names of all appellants participating in the appeal;
3. A brief statement setting forth the legal interest of each of the appellants in the business or entertainment involved in the notice and order;
4. A brief statement in concise language of the specific order or action protested, together with any material facts claimed to support the contentions of the appellant;

1966           5. A brief statement in concise language of the relief sought, and the reasons why  
1967 it is claimed the protested order or action should be reversed, modified, or otherwise set  
1968 aside;

1969           6. The signatures of all parties named as appellants, and their official mailing  
1970 addresses; and

1971           7. The verification (by declaration under penalty of perjury) of at least one  
1972 appellant as to the truth of the matters stated in the appeal.

1973           D. As soon as practicable after receiving the written appeal, the examiner shall fix  
1974 a date, time and place for the hearing of the appeal. The date shall be neither less than ten  
1975 days nor more than sixty days from the date the appeal was filed with the director. Written  
1976 notice of the time and place of the hearing shall be given at least ten days before the date of  
1977 the hearing to each appellant by the examiner either by causing a copy of the notice to be  
1978 delivered to the appellant personally or by mailing a copy thereof, postage prepaid,  
1979 addressed to the appellant at the appellant's address shown on the appeal.

1980           E. At the hearing the appellant shall be entitled to appear in person and be  
1981 represented by counsel and offer such evidence as is pertinent and material to the action of  
1982 the director.

1983           F. Only those matters or issues specifically raised by the appellant in the written  
1984 notice of appeal shall be considered in the hearing of the appeal.

1985           G. Failure of any person to file an appeal in accordance with the provisions of this  
1986 section shall constitute a waiver of his right to an administrative hearing and adjudication  
1987 of the notice and order, or any portion thereof.

H. Enforcement of any notice and order of the director shall be stayed during the pendency of an appeal therefrom which is properly and timely filed.

SECTION 60. Ordinance 18230, Section 16, as amended, and K.C.C. 20.22.070 are hereby amended to read as follows:

A. K.C.C. 20.22.080 applies to all appeals to the office of the hearing examiner. If there is a direct conflict between the appeal provisions in K.C.C. 20.22.080, and the appeal provisions found in subsection B. of this section, the appeal provisions found in subsection B. of this section shall control.

B. The provisions for appealing the following decisions are found in the following chapters of the King County Code:

1. Career service review, K.C.C. chapter 3.12A;
2. Appeals under K.C.C. Title 6, except for for-hire transportation, K.C.C. chapter 6.64 and K.C.C. chapter X.XX (the new chapter created under section 1 of this ordinance), shall follow this chapter;
3. Discrimination and equal employment opportunity in employment by contractors, subcontractors and vendors, K.C.C. chapter 12.16;
4. Unfair housing practices, K.C.C. chapter 12.20;
5. Denial of C-PACER applications, K.C.C. chapter 18.19;
6. Regional motor sports facility, K.C.C. 21A.55.105;
7. Abandoned, wrecked, dismantled or inoperative vehicles, K.C.C. chapter 23.10;
8. Citations, K.C.C. chapter 23.20;
9. Penalty appeals, K.C.C. chapter 23.32;

2011 10. Transit Rider suspension appeals, K.C.C. 28.96.430;

2012 11. Other appeals that are prescribed by ordinance.

2013

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