COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT
MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Date: April 8, 2015

Agenda Item #: 4

Consider and develop recommendations relating to the renewal of the taxicab franchises for Austin Cab I, Incorporated d.b.a. Austin Cab, the Greater Austin Transportation Company, d.b.a. Yellow Dab Company, and the Lone Star Cab Company

Vote: On a 4/0 vote, the committee voted to forward item 4 to Austin City Council.

Sponsors/Department: Austin Transportation Department

Summary of Discussion: Discussed timeline and proposed council readings, consequences of letting franchise agreements expire; franchise expectations, specifically focused on accessibility and green fleets; extension options; franchise recommendations; possible state regulations for TNCs.

Public Comments:

- Michael Elder: Discussed dispatch concerns and his recommendations for improvements.
- Joseph Iley: Favors extending agreements for a year; concerned about accessibility.
- Ed Kargbo: Favors reporting requirements; offered up taxi data and to meet with committee members.
- Hannah Riddering: Feels "The Formula" works, though it may need to be tweaked, concerned about dispatch acceptance; supports green vehicle incentives;
- Brad Ryker: Concerned over the loss of taxicab drivers to TNCs;
- Helwoza Lovitz: Believes the taxicab industry needs to improve and welcomes accessibility improvements
- Syed Pervatr, ceded time to David Passmore: Requested committees take time to make decision.
- Joan Khabele: Wants an increase in taxicab permits.

Direction: The committee directed staff to bring the item to Council for first reading only.

Recommendation: Recommending to the Council to move forward with existing Franchise Agreements for the purposes of first reading only.