

EUGENE CITY COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM SUMMARY



Work Session: Public Passenger Vehicles

Meeting Date: November 19, 2014
Department: Planning and Development
www.eugene-or.gov

Agenda Item Number: C
Staff Contact: Laura Hammond
Contact Telephone Number: 541-682-6021

ISSUE STATEMENT

The City Council is asked to provide direction on a proposed change to the City's Public Passenger Vehicle code (3.345). The purpose of the proposed change is to update the code to acknowledge the emergence of new technologies and business models while also ensuring all public passenger vehicles operating in Eugene meet community safety standards.

BACKGROUND

Eugene City Code 3.345 provides licensing regulations for public passenger vehicle (PPV) services. This code was last amended in 1992. Since that time, new technologies for providing PPV services have evolved including smartphone application-based models.

A small change to Subsection (6) of Section 3.345 of the code could be made to more clearly authorize smartphone application-based business models in Eugene. The proposed change would allow public passenger vehicle (PPV) companies to use online, application-based technology to display and charge fares, in addition to the current methods of meters and postings.

While the potential change removes code-based obstacles for businesses like Uber and Lyft it would also apply to existing PPV companies that may want to add this type of technology to their current services. A draft of the proposed change is included in Appendix A.

If the proposed change to the code moves forward and is adopted, updates to the administrative rules (R-3.345) would also be considered in order to better align the rules with new service models. Existing rules which ensure public health and safety, including insurance requirements, vehicle safety and maintenance requirements, and criminal background and driving record checks would remain in place. For example, the rules currently require:

- Commercial General Liability insurance of \$1,500,000 and General Aggregate insurance of \$2,000,000 as required by Oregon Statute;
- Vehicle inspections conducted by a certified mechanic every six months;
- Safety equipment including operable seat belts and fire extinguisher;
- Criminal history and driving records checked annually.

RELATED CITY POLICIES

Eugene Code Chapter 3, Section 3.345 –Licensing Regulations Public Passenger Vehicle Services

COUNCIL OPTIONS

1. Direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on an ordinance to modify the code as described in Attachment A.
2. Take no action at this time.

CITY MANAGER'S RECOMMENDATION

The City Manager recommends scheduling a public hearing on an ordinance to modify the code as described in Attachment A.

SUGGESTED MOTION

Move to direct the City Manager to schedule a public hearing on an ordinance to modify the code as described in Attachment A.

ATTACHMENTS

- A. Draft Ordinance

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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