



January 19, 2012

To: OCTAP Steering and Safety Committees
From: Patrick Sampson, OCTAP Administrator
Subject: Adoption of the Proposed Taxicab Fare Increase

Overview

The Orange County Taxi Administration Program (OCTAP) Regulations require each member agency to accept the taxi fare schedule approved by the OCTAP Steering Committee. The OCTAP Administrator conducts a regular study of comparable taxicab fares, along with Consumer Price Index (CPI) and other consumer data, and presents the findings and a recommendation to the OCTAP Steering Committee. The OCTAP Steering Committee, based on staff recommendations, may pursue changes to the approved taxi fare structure, after conducting a public hearing. There have been five fare adjustments approved by the OCTAP Steering Committee since it was established, in 1998.

Background

On July 7, 2011, the OCTAP Administrator presented an Interim Fare Study to the OCTAP Steering Committee, and recommended a taxi fare increase averaging 4.87 percent as follows:

\$3.00 for the flag drop and first 1/6 mile
\$0.45 for each 1/6 mile, after the first 1/6 mile
\$31.00 per hour wait time

Based on the OCTAP Administrator's recommendations, the Steering Committee directed staff to schedule a public hearing to allow the public to comment on the recommended change. On October 6, 2011, during the regular OCTAP Steering Committee meeting, a public hearing was held to allow the public an opportunity to provide input on the proposed increase. No members of the public commented on the proposed fare increase.

Discussion

On September 2, 2011, the Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA) posted a public notice regarding the public hearing schedule on October 6, 2011, to discuss the proposed taxicab passenger fare increase. The public notice was posted in both Orange County Register and the Excelsior (Spanish translation). OCTAP received no comments from the public between the posting date and the public hearing date.

During the OCTAP Steering Committee meeting on October 6, 2011, the public hearing was closed with no public comments received. A vote of a majority of all member agencies, 18 or more, is required in order to take action on the proposed taxicab fare increase. There were not enough member agencies present during the October 6 meeting, so the adoption of the taxi fare increase was continued until the January 19, 2012 Steering Committee meeting.

On December 1, 2011, a comment was received from a taxicab company expressing its opposition to the fare increase. The comment stated that the economy is more financially challenged than they were four years ago, and increasing the fare would discourage more taxi riders to utilize taxi service.

Recommendation

Should the committee wish to approve an increase to the taxicab meter rate, the OCTAP Administrator's recommendation would be to adopt the proposed taxi fare increase averaging 4.87 percent as follows.

- \$3.00 for the flag drop and first 1/6 mile
- \$0.45 for each 1/6 mile, after the first 1/6 mile
- \$31.00 per hour wait time

Attachments:

- A – Orange County Taxicab Meter Rate Historical Data
- B – CPI Historical Data
- C – Fuel Price Historical Data