

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE REPORT relative to extending the existing taxi franchise agreements set to expire June 30, 2020.

Recommendation for Council action:

DIRECT the Los Angeles Department of Transportation (LADOT) to extend the current taxi cab franchises for eight months with the ability for Council to revoke or terminate them at any time within that period upon adoption of a new regulatory model.

Fiscal Impact Statement: The LADOT reports that this action will not impact the General Fund. With the proposed extension, fees will continue to be collected, if ordered, until a new permit fee structure is put in place.

Community Impact Statement: None submitted.

SUMMARY

In a report to Council dated February 20, 2020, LADOT requests a four-month extension of the existing taxi franchise agreements to allow for additional time to approve fees. According to LADOT, nine existing ordinances grant franchises to taxi companies, giving them the exclusive right to provide taxicab service in the City of Los Angeles. These ordinances and the subsequent franchise agreements were set to expire December 31, 2019. In October of 2019, Council approved the elimination of franchise agreements and an extension of the Franchises through June 30, 2020, to give time to LADOT to restructure the taxicab permitting program.

In March 2020, LADOT diverted staff to respond to the COVID19 pandemic emergency. The Department was not able to complete all of the steps necessary to implement a taxicab permit system by July 1, 2020. Furthermore, LADOT developed a draft permit fee program with information and presented it to the City Administrative Office (CAO). The CAO has not approved and finalized these fees, and the Department requests additional time to allow for this review.

At its special meeting held June 19, 2020, the Transportation Committee discussed this matter with LADOT staff. During the public comment period, representatives of the taxi industry and taxicab drivers expressed support for an extension of the franchises, requested they be extended for a full twelve months. Committee recommended that Council approve LADOT's recommendation, as amended to extend the existing taxi franchises for eight months.

Respectfully Submitted,

TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE

<u>MEMBER</u>	<u>VOTE</u>
BONIN:	YES

MARTINEZ: ABSENT

KORETZ: YES

jaw

-NOT OFFICIAL UNTIL COUNCIL ACTS-