



RESOLUTION NO. 40642

1 BY REQUEST OF DEPUTY MAYOR BLOCKER AND COUNCIL MEMBERS
2 BEALE AND USHKA

3 A RESOLUTION directing the City Manager to conduct a feasibility study to
4 determine the best methods to support sustainable and accessible options
5 for residents with disabilities living in Tacoma.

6 WHEREAS the City collects a 0.10 cent surcharge for each taxi, Uber, and
7 Lyft fare received in the City, and these funds have been specifically dedicated to
8 creating a sustainable and accessible ridership service for people with disabilities,
9 and

10 WHEREAS, since the passage of Substitute Ordinance No. 28251 in
11 September 2014, establishing this fee, the City has collected over \$350,000, and

12 WHEREAS the Tacoma Area Commission on Disabilities ("TACOD") has
13 devoted a portion of the past three years exploring the most viable means to
14 support a sustainable service and engage the most effective partners to deliver this
15 service, and

16 WHEREAS it has become clear that the City's commitment to provide
17 accessible taxi services that are wheelchair accessible requires an ongoing
18 partnering approach, potentially with county, state and federal sources, and

19 WHEREAS, drawing from current United States Census data, TACOD
20 estimates that a minimum of 9.8 percent of all Tacoma residents have a disability,
21 and over 53,000 Pierce County residents have an ambulatory disability which
22 includes the need for a wheelchair, walker, cane, or other form of movement
23 assistance, and
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WHEREAS, when this percentage of the County is applied to the City of Tacoma, approximately 12,000 Tacoma residents live with an ambulatory disability, and

WHEREAS current shuttle services offer narrow eligibility requirements that disqualify applicants who may encounter significant difficulties taking existing modes of public transportation, and

WHEREAS, in April 2020, TACOD met to address these immediate transportation concerns, and received input from several community members who participated on the remote Zoom platform and reaffirmed the need for accessible taxi services for many residents who remain isolated and, at times, are unable to reach essential services, including access to healthy food and medical services, and

WHEREAS TACOD is recommending that the City commission a feasibility study to explore accessible taxi models and potential sources of partnering for the purpose of offering people with disabilities in the City of Tacoma an accessible taxi option, and

WHEREAS the feasibility study findings will be reviewed by the Mayor and City Council in partnership with OEHR and TACOD in order to determine a way forward to build an accessible transportation option for people with disabilities in the City of Tacoma; Now, Therefore,



BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF TACOMA:

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That the City Manager is hereby directed to conduct an accessible transportation feasibility study to determine the best methods to support sustainable and accessible options for residents with disabilities living in Tacoma.

Adopted _____

Mayor

Attest:

City Clerk

Approved as to form:

City Attorney