



**City
of
Milwaukee**

DRAFT

*INTERDEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE
LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE BUREAU*

Memorandum

To: Ald. James A. Bohl, Jr., Chair
Taxicab Review Board

From: Richard Withers, Legislative Fiscal Analyst ext. 8532

Date: September 9, 2010

Re: Taxicab Review Board – Memo 10
A Comparison of Recent Rates and Charges

Information comparing flag drop and other taxi charges has been prepared for your office over the past 3 years in memoranda dated January 9, 2008, May 14, 2008, Nov. 12, 2008, and February 4, 2009, relating to taxicab “flag drop” rates and other charges and rates..

Status of Milwaukee Taxicab Charges

Common Council File # 080193 provided a temporary increase in the maximum “flag drop” charge for the first 1/8th mile from \$2.25 to \$3.50. The increase was effective until January 1, 2009, at which time the maximum charge was reduced to \$2.25 for the first 1/8th mile. The ordinance further provided an increase in waiting time from \$0.25 per minute to \$0.40 per minute. The increase in the rate for waiting time was also reduced back to \$0.25 per minute on January 1, 2009.

Taxicab Charges and Rates in Other Cities

There have been few changes in taxicab fares and charges in cities compared to Milwaukee in the last 3 years.

Baltimore taxicab maximum rate and charge structure, set by the Maryland Public Service Commission, has not changed. The maximum charges and rates are:

For entry into the taxi....\$1.80

For each 1/5 mile...\$0.20
For each hour of waiting...\$24.00.

Cincinnati permits a minimum trip charge of \$3.00 which has been in place since 1983. However, in March of 2007 the following maximum charges and rates were established with no change since:

For the first one-eighth mile . . . \$ 3.60
For each additional one-eighth mile . . . \$ 0.20
For each hour waiting. . . . \$24.00.

Columbus permits special rates upon approval of a "vehicle for hire board." A safety director maintains oversight and enforcement functions. The standard maximum charges absent approval of a special rate are:

For the first 1/9 mile...\$2.75 has been increased to \$3.00 for airport initiated rides
For each additional 2/9 mile...\$.45
For each minute waiting... \$.45
For each hour waiting...\$27.00.

Indianapolis (Marion County) charges and rates have not changed over the last 4 years: Companies are required to file rates with the City/County Controller. The maximum allowable rates are:

For entry into the cab... \$3.00
For each 1/5th mile...\$0.40
For each minute waiting... \$0.40
For each hour waiting... \$24.00.

Minneapolis maximum charges and rates have remained the same over the last 3 years:

For entry into the taxi...\$2.50 (minimum can be set at \$5.00)
For each 1/5th mile...\$0.38
For each hour of waiting...\$21.00 has been increased to \$24.00

Philadelphia gasoline surcharges were raised from \$0.40 to \$0.50 early in 2008 but were eliminated late in the year. The city increased its maximum charges in 2008 to the following:

For the first 1/10 mile (flag drop) or fraction...\$2.70
For each additional 1/7 mile...\$0.33 Was changed to \$0.23 per each additional 1/10th mile;
For each hour of waiting...\$22.00.

Portland (Oregon) modified its taxicab rate ordinance effective April, 2008, providing the following maximum charges and rates with no changes since:

For the first 1/10 mile...\$2.50
For each additional 1/10 mile...\$0.23
For each hour waiting...\$30.00.

The **Seattle** fuel surcharge (automatically adjusted) increased to \$2.00 from \$1.50 effective June, 2008, but was suspended on October 1, 2008. At the same time, Seattle set its maximum charges and rates at the following levels:

For the first 1/10 mile...\$2.50
For each additional 1/10 mile...\$0.20
For each hour waiting...\$30.00

The **St. Louis** fuel surcharge was raised in 2007 from \$1.00 to \$2.00 and was reduced back to \$1.00 in November of 2008. Maximum charges and rates are:

For the first 1/10th mile...\$2.50
For each additional 1/10th mile...\$0.17 the rate has been raised to \$0.20.
For each hour waiting...\$22.00 has been raised to \$24.00.

Please contact the Bureau if you have any questions or wish to have further information.

Attachment

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