

Fairfax County Taxicab Regulation: 2015 Certificate Demand Analysis

**Transportation Advisory Commission
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Fairfax County Taxicab Industry

- Industry provides both on-demand and contract transportation services
- Current taxicab fleet
 - Five authorized operators (companies)
 - 654 taxicab certificates
 - 45 wheelchair-accessible certificates
 - Code requirement of 4% WAC taxis
 - Over 830 licensed drivers
- Per 2013 reports, about 2.4M trips/year and \$40 million in annual revenue

Current Fairfax County Taxicab Fleet

Company Name	Owner	Authorized Certificates	Authorized WACs	Fairfax Operations
Fairfax Yellow	TGI/Murphy Brothers	305	21	1968
Springfield Yellow	Paul Wallace Management	125	5	1982
Fairfax Red Top	TGI/Fairfax Taxi	111	6	1989
White Top	L&Z Transportation	73	3	1994
enviroCAB	Transdev	39	10	2014
		654	45	

Regional Comparison

Jurisdiction	2013 Census Population	Authorized Cabs	Persons per Taxi	2013 Percent Households w/ out Car
Alexandria	148,892	767	194	9.6%
Arlington County	224,906	847	266	11.9%
Fairfax County	1,130,924	654	1,729	4.2%
Montgomery County	1,016,677	770	1,320	7.9%
Prince George's County	890,081	775	1,149	9.7%
District of Columbia	649,111	6,500	100	36.7%

Transportation Network Companies

- TNCs compete directly with county taxicabs
 - But 2015 legislation precludes local regulation of TNCs
- TNCs subject to lesser regulatory oversight
 - State law imposes certain requirements on TNCs, including registration, insurance and background-checks

TNCs / UberX	Local Cab Companies
Regional dispatch	Dispatch from affiliated company
Rate/fare flexibility, including “surge pricing” in times of highest demand	Rates set by Board and codified in County Code
Driver payments made on per-trip basis	Weekly payments to company due upfront, either as stand dues or lease payment

Fairfax County Code § 84.1-2-1

Operator's Certificate Required

“No person will operate or permit to be operated a taxicab in the County without having been approved for and been issued operator certificates by the County.”

Fairfax County Code § 84.1-2-5

Establishment of Public Convenience and Necessity

- Number of operator certificates established by Board after May 1 in odd-numbered years
 - Provides certainty to applicants prior to June 30 certificate application deadline
 - Board may revise the number by subsequent resolution
- Applicants requesting more certificates than Board has authorized bear burden to establish demand
 - Applicant must provide “factual documented evidence” indicating the demand for excess certificates

Staff's Taxicab Demand Formula

- In 1997, Board asked for an objective and quantifiable basis for adjusting numbers of taxicabs
- Staff-developed formula is based on data and criteria generally identified as reflecting demand for taxicab service
- County has relied on formula since 1998

Taxicab Demand Formula Analysis

- Formula calculates the growth over time in several factors that drive demand for taxicabs
 - Factors
 - Average trips per certificate
 - Mass transit / tourism economic activities
 - Population
 - Time: Growth over period since certificates last awarded
- Weighted result applied to current number of certificates to derive recommended change in total number of certificates
- Total number subject to 10% discretionary adjustment (e.g., complaints, competition)

2013 Demand Analysis

Demand Criteria	Percent Change	x	Formula Weight	=	Weighted Change
Average Trips per Certificate Growth Rate	3.5%	x	50%	=	1.8%
Mass Transit / Tourism Composite Growth Rates	8.2%	x	30%	=	2.4%
Population Growth Rate	8.8%	x	20%	=	1.8%
<i>Total Weighted Change 2004-2012</i>			100%	=	6.0%

2013 Certificate Authorization Process

First Award of Certificates Since 2005

May 2013

- Staff recommends 35 new certificates (6% x 576 certificates = 35)
- CPC applies 10% adjustment to increase number by 4, or a total of 39 recommended new certificates

June 2013

- Board of Supervisors authorizes 39 new certificates
- Seven applicants file applications requesting a total of 313 certificates

August 2013

- Amended applications request a total of 421 certificates

November 2013

- Staff report recommends approval of 39 certificates
- After public hearing, CPC recommends that Board authorize 78 certificates

February 2014

- After public hearing, Board approves **78 new certificates**, a 13% increase in fleet size

2014 Board Directives

- Add new element to demand formula: number of households without a car
- Incorporate the need for new taxicabs into transportation planning assessment process, where appropriate
 - DCCS to seek input from community and industry groups to more adequately assess the needs of taxicab passengers

Staff is Soliciting Public Input

The screenshot shows a web browser window displaying the Fairfax County website. The address bar shows the URL: <http://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/consumer/public-comment-taxicab-service.htm>. The page features the Fairfax County Virginia logo and a navigation menu with options like Home, Living Here, Doing Business, Visiting, and Departments & Agencies. A search bar is also present.

The main content area is titled "Fairfax County Seeks Public Comment on Taxicab Service". It includes the following text:

Do you have any comments or concerns about taxicab service in Fairfax County? If so, we welcome your input!

Fairfax County periodically evaluates whether the number of taxicabs authorized to operate in the county is sufficient to meet demand. **Please let us know whether you think the number of taxicabs is about right or should be adjusted.** If you believe more taxicabs are needed, we would appreciate your recommendation and reasons. Please send your comments to DCCS-RALB@fairfaxcounty.gov or contact us at 703-324-5903, TTY 711.

Currently, five companies are authorized to operate 654 taxicabs in the county. Of these 654 taxicabs, 45 have been designated as wheelchair accessible. In addition to providing service, the county sets taxicab rates and addresses public safety matters such as insurance coverage, vehicle inspection, and driver licensing. More information about taxicab service in Fairfax County is available on the county's [Taxicab Services](#) Web page.

The county also operates three programs that helps make taxicab service more affordable for some county residents.

- [TaxiAccess](#) provides subsidized taxicab service to county residents who are registered with MetroAccess.
- [Dial-A-Ride](#) provides subsidized taxicab service for income-eligible county residents.
- [Seniors on the Go!](#) offers subsidized taxicab service to seniors 65 years of age or older who meet certain income criteria.

If you have a complaint about a particular taxicab ride, please complete and submit a [Consumer Complaint Form](#) or the [Taxicab Survey](#), or contact us at 703-324-5966, TTY 711.

At the bottom of the page, there is a footer with contact information and awards. The footer includes:

Contact Fairfax County: [Phone](#), [Email](#) or [Twitter](#) | Main Address: 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035
Technical Questions: [Web Administrator](#)

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BEST OF THE WEB 2011 FINALIST

2015 Demand Analysis

- Short review period (2013-2014) means formula elements unlikely to show significant growth
- Preliminary analysis suggests no need for additional certificates
- Analysis of company data, reported April 15, should provide better picture of industry during most recent two-year period

Preliminary 2015 Demand Analysis

For Period 2013-2014

Demand Criteria	Percent Change	X	Formula Weight	=	Weighted Change
Average Trips per Certificate Growth Rate ¹		x	45%	=	
Mass Transit / Tourism Composite Growth Rate	1.87%	x	30%	=	0.56%
Population Growth Rate	0.18%	x	20%	=	0.04%
Percent of Households without a Vehicle ²	2.60%	x	5%	=	0.13%
<i>Total Weighted Change 2013-2014</i>			100%	=	

1. Result derived from data reported by industry in April 15 reports

2. Growth rate from 2012-2013 period used as a proxy due to lack of 2014 data

Questions?

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