Memorandum

MIAMI-DADE COUNTY

Date: May 30, 2025

To: Honorable Chairman Anthony Rodriguez
and Members, Board of County Commissioners

Agenda Item No. 2(B)(1)
June 26, 2025

From: Daniella Levine Cava
Mayor

Subject: Report Regarding Taxicab Rates

Executive Summary

This report, prepared by the Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTPW), responds to Section 31-87 of the Code of Miami-Dade County (Code) which requires a biannual investigation and preparation of a report concerning the existing maximum taxicab rates. The code further requires a public hearing, concerning the report, regarding maximum rates, every two years. At such hearing, all interested parties shall have an opportunity to be heard. The Board of County Commissioners shall consider the Department's report and all evidence produced at the hearing and, by resolution, shall determine and set the appropriate rates which shall be no less than the previous maximum rates adjusted by the CPI, unless the County Commission finds that no change in rates or a reduction in rates is in the public interest. DTPW analyzed the Consumer Price Index (CPI) for all urban consumers in the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach market, which increased by 5.44% for Transportation and 2% for Fuel, from December 2022 to December 2024.

DTPW does not recommend an increase in the rates this year due to the minor impact of the CPI increase, rates having been recently changed in December 2022, and increasing rates will cause the taxi industry to be less competitive with transportation network companies. In addition, approval of new rates would require all taxicab meters to be reprogrammed by a third party, carrying a cost to taxi operators of up to $225 per vehicle, depending on the provider and the availability of chips and parts.

Background

Section 31-87 of the Miami-Dade County Code delineates the method for the establishment of taxicab rates in Miami-Dade County. Taxicab rates are set by the Board following a public hearing. The current maximum taxicab rates have been in effect since December 2022, when the Board approved an adjustment of 21 percent. The Code provides for a biannual investigation and preparation of a report concerning the existing maximum rates. The investigation considers the changes in the CPI over the preceding two years and what the maximum rate would be if adjusted to reflect those changes.

Until 2016, the County regulated taxicab rates by adopting, via resolution, uniform meter rates and flat fare zone rates, which were adjusted periodically based on the relative changes in the CPI, rate studies and other related factors. However, in 2016 the Board adopted Ordinance No. 16-43 which, among other things, established that taxicab operators could provide service at a rate below the maximum rate adopted by the Board. This shift from a mandated uniform rate would allow taxicab companies to establish their own rates to be more competitive with transportation network companies, while protecting the public by providing a maximum amount that can be charged for a taxicab fare.

The Board adopted Resolution No. R-700-22 in July 2022, increasing the maximum taxicab meter rate by 21 percent, eliminating the taxicab flat fare zone rates and additional charges for the transportation of extra passengers or hand baggage, creating a minimum $15.00 taxicab rate for trips originating at Miami International Airport (MIA) or PortMiami and establishing a 30 percent surcharge above the maximum taxicab meter rate for larger vehicles. This surcharge does not apply to wheelchair accessible vehicles providing taxicab services to wheelchair users. Additionally, all vehicles authorized to charge the 30 percent surcharge must display a 30 percent surcharge decal inside the vehicle. The maximum taxicab metered rate is calculated at:

- $2.95 for first 1/6 of a mile.
- $0.85 for each additional 1/6 mile until 1 mile.
- $0.55 for each 1/6 mile after that.
- $0.40 per minute ($24 per hour) wait charge.

The elimination of the taxicab flat fare zone rates for trips beginning or ending at MIA, although supported by the taxicab industry and MIA, has received some criticism from visitors and residents. In April 2023, the City of Miami Beach Commission adopted a resolution urging the Board to reinstate the previous three taxicab flat rate zones to and from MIA, citing the higher fare being charged to passengers traveling to and from the City.

Similarly, the 30% surcharge has been the subject of numerous complaints received by DTPW. Passengers are unhappy for being charged a 30% large vehicle surcharge for a single passenger ride. Currently 61% of Miami-Dade's taxi fleet are SUVs or vans which qualify for the 30% surcharge; thus, the likelihood of being transported by one of these vehicles is very high.

Since the last adjustment became effective in December 2022, the Transportation CPI for the Miami-Fort Lauderdale-West Palm Beach market has increased from 263.241 to 277.579, a change of 5.44%. Similarly, the Fuel CPI for the same market has increased from 212.376 to 216.678, a change of 2%.

For comparison, the table below shows current maximum taxicab rates and what the new rates would be if the Board decided to adjust the rates to the same level of the CPI increase for Transportation.

Table 1
Maximum Taxicab Meter Rate Comparison

	Flag Drop	Each Additional Mile	Wait Time	Equiv. 5-mile trip cost
Current	$2.95 1st 1/6 of a mile or less and $0.85 for each 1/6 of a mile for 1st mile	$0.55 per additional 1/6 of a mile ($3.30/mi)	$24/hr.	$20.40

New Rates with 5.44% increase (projected)	$3.11 1st 1/6 of a mile or less and $0.90 for each 1/6 of a mile for 1st mile	$0.58 per additional 1/6 of a mile ($3.48/mi)	$24/hr.	$21.53

DTPW does not recommend an increase in the rates during the current year. Rates were recently changed in December 2022 and a new increase will cause the taxi industry to be less competitive with transportation network companies. In addition, approval of new rates would require all taxicab meters to be reprogrammed by a third party which carries a cost to taxi operators of up to $225 per vehicle, depending on the provider and the availability of chips and parts. The slight CPI increase and current economic conditions outweigh the need for annual adjustments.

Pursuant to Section 31-87 of the Code, this report will be placed on the next available Board meeting agenda. Should you require additional information, please contact Stacy L. Miller, P.E., DTPW Director and CEO at (786) 469-5406.

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