

New For-Hire Transportation Regulations

King County and the City of Seattle recently adopted new for-hire transportation ordinances. The [full ordinances are available](#) for you to review and here's a summary of major changes:

For-hire Drivers

- **Minimum age** to apply for a for-hire driver license is now age 20
- **For-hire driver's licenses are now regional** (will no longer have a City or County designation)
- **Enhanced regional for-hire driver's license** will be an optional license type beginning September 1, 2024, and will require an annual fingerprint-based background check in addition to the third-party criminal background check and driving history report required for all applicants
- **TNC driver permits will no longer authorize operating as a taxicab driver** once the permit expires, so taxicab and for-hire vehicle drivers will need a regional for-hire driver's license

Medallions

- Beginning 2024, **medallion renewal dates will be based on the date of application (if expired), or the last renewal date**, and owners will **not be required to pay license fees for prior years**
- **New reciprocity endorsements** expand where City-only and County-only medallions can pick up passengers
- **"Dual" medallion owners will have the option to split** into one City medallion and one County medallion with jurisdictional reciprocity endorsements for each beginning September 1, 2024
- All **for-hire vehicle medallions convert to taxicab medallions** by March 31, 2026, and must meet all taxicab requirements, including use of a smart taximeter system
- Beginning September 1, 2024, if a medallion will not operate for 60 or more days, the owner shall file for a **temporary deactivation of up to one year**
- Medallions relinquished between January 31, 2015, and September 1, 2024, will have one year from September 1, 2024, to renew or transfer the medallion before permanent retirement

General

- **SEA Airport minimum fare** of \$20 for trips originating from SEA beginning December 18, 2023
- The **maximum vehicle model year** is now 15 years old beginning January 27, 2024
- All taxis must operate using a **smart taximeter system** by March 31, 2026

Associations and Companies

- To operate after March 31, 2024, a taxicab association or for-hire vehicle company, licensed or registered in 2023, must obtain a transitional regional dispatch agency license
- A transitional regional dispatch agency must adopt a smart taximeter system by March 31, 2026

King County and City of Seattle staff will be implementing the ordinances in the coming months, including issuing new director's rules, policy guidance, application forms, and other materials.