



Office of Mayor Charlie Hales
City of Portland

PRESS RELEASE

THURSDAY, DEC. 18, 2014

PORTLAND, OR – Today, Portland Mayor Charlie Hales announced the process for reviewing and updating Portland’s private for-hire transportation (PFHT) system. The City will convene a task force to move this process forward, and the City is committed to developing a new regulatory framework that includes innovative transportation network companies (TNCs). City Council will receive task force recommendations to accomplish this by April 9, 2015.

Beginning January 14, the newly formed PFHT Innovation Task Force will meet to study, discuss and make recommendations about all facets of Portland’s private for-hire system, including taxi cabs, transportation network companies, limousines, pedicabs and shuttle services. Mike Greenfield, former director of Administrative Services for the State of Oregon, will chair the committee.

The process initially will focus on taxi cabs and transportation network companies, with discussion and recommendations on the following areas: whether to continue to limit the total number of permits granted, whether to have a regulated pricing system, mandated criteria (including insurance, inspections and background checks), and accessibility. In addition, the task force will explore how regulatory changes could improve driver earnings and working conditions.

The task force will address mandated safety criteria and other policy recommendations to City Council at an April 9th Council hearing. The Portland Bureau of Transportation will then be immediately directed to issue permits based on Council’s approval of mandated safety recommendations, allowing TNCs to legally operate. Additionally, Council will direct PBOT to initiate a study period to monitor the market. This will better inform the Task Force and Council as they continue their work on regulations for taxicabs, pedicabs, shuttles and limousines to create a modern private for hire transportation system for Portland.

Members of the task force are still being selected. Those who have accepted to date include:

Mike Greenfield, retired State of Oregon executive (Chair)
Raihana Ansary, Portland Business Alliance

Leslie Carlson, Brink Communication
Chris Bebo, Oregon Restaurant and Lodging Association
Darren Buckner, Workfrom.co
JoAnn Herrigel, Elders in Action
Kayse Jama, Center for Intercultural Organizing
Jeff Lang, Gales Creek Insurance Services
Richard Lazar, Technology Association of Oregon
Dan Lenzen, Venture Hospitality and Real Estate
Sue Stahl, Commission on Disability

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