Public Transportation Review Board to hear implementation plans for new taxicab ordinance

Tomorrow’s meeting of the city’s Public Transportation Review Board will include a presentation regarding implementation of the ordinance approved by the Common Council in November that is designed to improve taxicab service and to better ensure taxicab service availability throughout Milwaukee.

The Office of the City Clerk will deliver a presentation and field questions about implementing the new ordinance when the review board meets at 9 a.m. tomorrow (Friday, January 10, 2014) in room 301-B at City Hall, 200 E. Wells St.

Friday’s meeting will be televised live on the City Channel (Channel 25 on Time Warner Cable in the City of Milwaukee), and on U-Verse Channel 99. Online viewing is available by going to www.city.milwaukee.gov/Channel25.

The Council’s adoption of the ordinance established a system of affiliation that all (permittee) taxicabs in the city are required to belong to. It also requires taxicab fleet affiliations to receive, maintain and report dispatch information, and to assure that affiliated permittees and vehicle drivers comply with requirements that include driver training, driver appearance standards, vehicle inspection standards, written plans to assure passenger and driver security and rear-seat credit card payment capacity.

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The ordinance as approved also authorizes the addition of 100 new taxicab vehicle permits and provides for an annual review of the need for additional permits. The ordinance also requires fleet affiliations to provide citywide service on a 24-hour basis.

Alderman Robert J. Bauman, chair of the review board, said the follow-through for implementing the provisions of the ordinance is timely and important. “The Office of the City Clerk and specifically the License Division play a critical role in overseeing this process, and Public Transportation Review Board members need to be kept informed of how the changes and improvements are being implemented,” he said.

Tomorrow’s meeting of the Public Transportation Review Board will also include an update the city’s bike-sharing system, which was approved by the full Common Council in December. The project is on track to launch 28 bike-sharing kiosks across the city by the end of 2014.

In addition, the board will hear from a representative of the Amalgamated Transit Union Local 998 regarding opportunities to improve public transit in Milwaukee.