

Licenses and Consumer Services
Staff Report on Pedicabs
August 13, 2008

A Pedicab is defined as a nonmotorized three-wheel bicycle used to carry passengers for hire. Pedicabs commonly carry up to two passengers. Minneapolis has licensed the occupation of Pedicab operations since 1984. Over the past 15 years we have licensed one or two Pedicabs each year. Currently we have one license which expired on May 1 and has not been renewed.

Staff was directed to review a proposed change to Chapter 305.70 of the Minneapolis Code of Ordinances which currently restricts the hours of operation for Pedicabs after 10:00 p.m. Pedicabs are also prohibited from operating on weekdays during the high traffic periods of 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. Staff was further directed to review the existing restrictions related to routes in Chapter 305.90. Staff from both the Police Traffic Control Division and the Public Works Transportation Division assisted with this ordinance review.

Hours of Operation: Staff supports eliminating the restriction of operating during evening hours in Section 305.70 and changing the rush hour restrictions between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. and 6 p.m. on weekdays to apply to the core downtown area only. Staff is recommending that vehicles are equipped with common battery powered head lights and tail lights for use after dusk.

Authorized Routes: A review of traffic patterns and route restrictions in Section 305.90 found that many restrictions do not contribute to traffic congestion or safety concerns. Staff is recommending prohibiting Pedicabs on public sidewalks and repealing the following route restrictions: 3rd Avenue Bridge, Hennepin Avenue Bridge, and the bus lanes of Hennepin Avenue, Marquette Avenue, and 2nd Avenue South.

Other Amendments: Staff further recommends three more amendments to Chapter 305. Pedicab operators are required to 1) have in his or her possession a valid State Motor Vehicle Drivers License 2) post the following information on their vehicle: fare rates, license decal, licensee's name and phone number and 3) comply with all applicable federal, state, and local traffic laws.

Staff conducted a best practices study of other cities that allow Pedicabs to operate on the public streets. The results of that study are attached.

If approved, these amendments are intended to open a market for environmentally friendly, non-motorized, transport for hire vehicles in the city of Minneapolis.



**Licenses and Consumer Services
Pedicab Survey
August, 2008**

14 Cities Regulate Pedicabs

#	City - Ranked Alphabetically	Pedicab License?	How Many Pedicab Licenses?	Yellow Page Listing?	Route Restrictions/Prohibitions/Requirements	Other Regulations
1	Austin, TX 512-974-2000	Yes	8 companies/ 96 pedicabs	Yes	Police Dept barricades streets prohibiting vehicles/pedicabs on evenings/ weekends. Pedicabs may operate within the barricaded area only with approval from the specific business within the barricade (hotel for example). Pedicabs cannot cruise for business within the barricaded areas. Loading/unloading prohibited in fire lanes.	
2	Boston 617-343-4475	Yes effective June, 2008	21 pedicab licenses	Yes	Not allowed on Commonwealth Ave which is a divided highway.	Fees are not regulated or charged to passengers. Clients pay based on satisfaction.
3	Dallas 214-670-	Yes	0	Yes	Not allowed in West End which is defined as the Entertainment District. This area is	Applicant submits a proposed route and staging areas which are not in the street.

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	5111				restricted to horse drawn carriages.	Subject to approval by the City Engineers.
4	Denver 720-913-1311	Yes	Unknown	Yes	No restrictions.	
5	Detroit 313-224-4636	Yes	1	Yes	Route is limited to downtown.	Primarily used for special events. Not aware of hour restrictions. Insurance required for license.
6	Los Angeles 213-473-5901	Yes	Undetermined	Yes	No restrictions.	Applicant applies for a License Certificate under the category of Transportation for hire. LA is not a regulatory office.
7	Miami 888-311-3233	Yes	Undetermined	Yes	Prohibited from beachfront, sidewalks, boardwalks, and tourist-heavy roads.	Occupational Use License required for all businesses.
8	Minneapolis	Yes	1 delinquent	Yes	Downtown bike lanes and Third Ave Bridge; limited to sidewalks on Hennepin Ave bridge.	Operations prohibited after 10 p.m. and during morning and afternoon rush hours.

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9	San Diego 619-236-5555	Yes	500	Yes	Currently no restrictions. Proposing that pedicabs are restricted from streets with a speed limit greater than 25 mph and streets with high traffic/ congestion which are mainly streets near the beach.	Balboa Park permits issued by lottery on first Saturday of the month. Required for park access/events for one month. Must have a pedicab license to be eligible for this permit.
10	San Francisco 415-701-2311	Yes	unknown	Yes	Routes must be approved by the Police Chief.	
11	Seattle 206-684-2489	Yes	0	Yes	No restrictions.	Receive a business license to operate. Seattle is not a regulatory licensing department.
12	St. Louis 314-622-4000	Yes	3 vehicles	Yes	No restrictions.	Tend to operate at the ballpark or the football stadium.
13	Tampa 813-274-	Yes	2 companies	Yes	No restrictions.	Receive a business license to operate. Tampa is not a regulatory licensing

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	8211					department.
14	Toronto, Ontario 416-392-7600	Yes	unknown	Yes	No restrictions.	

6 Cities Do Not Regulate Pedicabs

1	Chicago 312-744-5000	No	Unknown	Yes		Pedicab companies exist in Chicago but are not regulated by the city. License is not required.
2	Houston 713-837-0311	No	n/a	Yes		
3	New York 212-new-york	Currently No	325 maximum licenses proposed.	Yes 300-400 pedicabs currently in		2007 Lawsuit by Pedicab industry challenging the city's 2007 cap of 325 licenses (30 per business) is upheld by State Supreme Court. City is appealing

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				operation		and until resolution, a moratorium on Pedicab licenses is in effect.
4	Philadelphia 215-686-2448	No	n/a	Yes		
5	Washington, DC 202-727-1000	No	n/a	Yes		
6	Phoenix 602-534-2671	No Not yet.	n/a	Yes		Discussions initiated within past two months. No policy direction yet.
3 Cities do not have Pedicabs						
1	Atlanta	No		No		

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	404-330-6000					
2	Baltimore 443-263-2220	No	0	No		
3	Riverside 951-826-5311	No	n/a	No		