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March 5, 2012

Dear A Card Holder:

You are receiving this letter because you may be eligible for a “single operator” taxi permit from the SFMTA. The SFMTA Board of Directors has authorized the issuance of 50 of this new kind of part-time taxi permit.

A “Single Operator Permits” (SOP) will be issued to individual drivers based on A-Card seniority as a San Francisco taxi driver. A-Card seniority is defined in the Transportation Code Section 1102(b) as follows:

[T]he seniority status of each Driver Permit Holder based on the original issuance date of the Driver Permit, or the issuance date of the most recent Driver Permit if the Driver has been issued a new Driver Permit . . . after failure to timely renew his or her Driver Permit.

The proposed features of a Single Operator Permit include the following:

1. The driver would be able to operate the vehicle according to his or her own schedule, so long as the vehicle is operated at least 40 and not more than 60 hours per week and not more than 12 hours in a 24-hour period.
2. The permit holder would be responsible for all costs of operating the vehicle, which are anticipated to be approximately \$3,000 per month. (Vehicle purchase, maintenance and repair, annual meter and vehicle inspection fees, insurance and radio/color fees). Some taxi companies are putting together package deals for single operator permit holders.
3. The SFMTA would charge a lease fee. However, the lease fee would be waived if the permit holder responds to a certain number of dispatch requests per month. The amount of the lease fee and the number of required responses to dispatch requests have not yet been determined.
4. The Single Operator Permit holder would be able to designate additional drivers who could fill the shifts that the Single Operator cannot or does not want to work, up to the maximum 60 hours per week. This is intended to minimize the cost of operation by allowing up to 60 hours of operation per week even though the Single Operator does not want to work full time, and to provide a safety net if the Single Operator is ill or injured and cannot work for some period of time.
5. If a driver on the medallion waiting list accepts a Single Operator Permit, their waiting list status would not be affected.
6. A Single Operator Permit Holder could terminate the permit at his or her option at any time by notifying the SFMTA in writing.
7. A Single Operator could make their own arrangements for mechanical service and vehicle parking, or make such arrangements through a color scheme.
8. A Single Operator would be required to affiliate with an existing color scheme for radio service.

9. A Single Operator would have to go through the same medical screening, criminal history and driving record check as medallion applicants. In addition, they would have to complete a few hours of special training related to traffic safety, financial planning and service to people with disabilities.

Please fill out the enclosed Single Operator Permit questionnaire if you are interested in receiving a Single Operator Permit and we will notify you as the program is implemented.

Please note that Single Operator Permits will be the subject of discussion at the Taxi Advisory Council meeting at 1:00pm on March 12, 2012, and a Town Hall meeting on 1:30-4:30pm and 5:00-8:00pm on March 13, 2012. Both meetings will be held at the 2nd Floor Atrium conference room at One South Van Ness Avenue. If you have questions, please contact us at 415-701-4400, or write to SFTaxi@sfmta.com.

Thank you for your decades of service as a San Francisco taxi driver.

Best wishes,
Christiane Hayashi
Deputy Director, SFMTA Taxi Services

SINGLE OPERATOR PERMIT QUESTIONNAIRE

For A-Card Holder: Name

1. Our records indicate that you received your first San Francisco taxi driver permit (A-Card) in **DATE**. If you disagree, please write the year that you first received your San Francisco taxi driver permit: _____.
2. If you had a Single Operator Permit, how do you think you would choose to work? *(This is for our information and your answer does not limit you to the shifts that you specify on this form.)*

a. Which days/hours during the week would you want to work?

b. How many drivers do you think that you would sign up on your permit in order to fill the shifts that you yourself are not working?

c. Would you prefer to purchase, insure and maintain your own vehicle, or would you prefer to have that service provided for a cost by a color scheme?

3. Do you have any questions or concerns about the Single Operator Permit that you would like us to consider?

If you are interested in a Single Operator Permit we hope you will join us at the Taxi Advisory Council meeting at 1:00pm on March 12, 2012, and/or the Town Hall meeting on 1:30-4:30pm and 5:00-8:00pm on March 13, 2012. Both meetings will be held at the 2nd Floor Atrium conference room at One South Van Ness Avenue.

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