

APPENDIX D

REGULATORY CONSIDERATIONS FOR
THE SHARED MOBILITY LANDSCAPE

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The Seattle Department of Transportation, Seattle Department of Finance and Administrative Services, King County Records and Licensing Services, and King County Metro jointly developed a set of forward-thinking regulatory considerations to address the current and future landscape of shared mobility providers. These considerations establish common values for shaping the future of shared mobility services in Seattle.

Streamline regulation

We will streamline code requirements and permitting processes with the intent to add new services to our mobility ecosystem, ensure regulatory compliance, and improve the customer experience.

Defer core governing functions to the State

Certain regulatory functions should be consistent across jurisdictional boundaries. The State should regulate safety standards, minimum vehicle emission requirements, and insurance and liability regulations, among others. Where standards are not established at the federal, State or regional level, the City should establish basic safety principles. Absent statewide standards, then core governing functions could happen at a more regional level.

Support umbrella platforms

Whether regulated at the local, regional, or statewide level, shared mobility services that provide similar services should be regulated equitably across service types to maximize public good, and minimize disruption to emerging mobility innovations. We prefer an umbrella licensing model based on service type, rather than "mode," because of the constant blurring of shared mobility functions. We should provide regulatory flexibility to allow for small startups and businesses with limited resources to innovate.

Establish appropriate levels of data sharing

We require historic and, in some cases, real-time data to understand the impacts and benefits of shared mobility services. Data collected should clearly connect to an identified need. We can then use appropriate levels of data sharing for regulatory compliance, planning, policymaking, and effective right of way management. Proprietary information has been identified in other industries and exempted from disclosure, but that must be balanced against the public interest in data about the industry.

Ensure services operating in Seattle are equitable and accessible

New mobility services should be accessible and compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act or provide equitable alternatives that maximizes the customer experience. Furthermore, local and statewide legislation should prevent discriminatory practices and ensure equitable service throughout Seattle.

Maintain local control of the public right of way

The City of Seattle should continue to manage the right of way to ensure traveler safety and effective operation.

Daylight rates for customers

The customer should know how much they can expect to pay and estimated fares should not differ significantly from the actual fare paid.

Ensure a living wage for those employed in the shared mobility industry

Employees and contractors of shared mobility service providers and digital platform companies should earn a living wage. The shared mobility labor force should not need to work unsafe amounts of hours to make enough money to live in the Seattle region.

Maintain auditing and enforcement at the local level

Auditing needs to happen at the local or regional level and requires driver information. We should employ the “trust but verify” approach to onboard drivers and ensure compliance with driver standards to provide consumer protection and safety.