

**GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**  
**DC Department of For-Hire Vehicles**



Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Oversight Hearing

Testimony of  
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Director

Before the

Committee on Public Works and Operations  
Chairperson, Brianne Nadeau  
Council of the District of Columbia

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John A. Wilson Building  
1350 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Good morning, Councilmember Nadeau, members of the committee, and staff. I am Jonathan Rogers, Director of the Department of For-Hire Vehicles (DFHV). Here with me today is our agency Chief of Staff, Dory Peters. Thank you for the opportunity to discuss DFHV's proposed budget for Fiscal Year 2027.

FY 2027 marks Mayor Bowser's final budget proposal for the District, and I would like to acknowledge her exceptional leadership and unwavering commitment throughout three consecutive terms as our Mayor.

From the broadest perspective, Mayor Bowser's "Grow DC" theme for FY 2027 reflects three key considerations that drove decision-making: how to drive growth in our economy to fund the services and programs residents count on, how to keep families in DC and attract new residents, and how to create a business environment that draws new investment and creates new jobs. Despite depleted federal funding sources, DFHV's proposed budget supports these goals and the agency mission of safety, accessibility, and affordability.

The federal dollars that once expanded our programs in unprecedented ways have been exhausted, and federal workforce reductions have introduced new pressures on our economy and commercial corridors. That being said, it's important to be clear: DC is still growing. Revenues have slowed, but the city maintains a strong

financial foundation on which we can build by making the kinds of strategic and targeted decisions that will allow DC to continue growing while delivering the high-quality services our residents depend on.

The FY27 proposed budget for DFHV positions us well to regulate and grow mobility in the District. Turning to the slides in our presentation now, we have illustrated the sources and uses of our FY 2026 operating budget as a point of comparison. Slide 2 breaks down our Special Purpose Revenue (SPR) and our Local Budget. SPR comes from licensing fees, permit applications from drivers and companies, a \$0.50 surcharge on taxi trips, and a 1 percent gross receipts fee from private rideshare trips. Local budget comes from the District's General Fund. Slide 3 shows how that budget is being spent this year, among programs, agency staffing, and other services. Slide 4 includes the proposed FY 2027 sources of operating budget, with SPR accounting for a larger share of the budget than the year prior. Slide 5 summarizes FY 2027 expenditures, which again focus mainly on personnel, with additional funds for programs and other services.

Currently and in FY 2027, DFHV will continue to safeguard the public by approving and monitoring for-hire operators, holding bad actors accountable for non-compliance. In this way, our agency ensures consumer protection and public

safety. We also administer important programs that improve accessible transportation, and serve specific populations such as veterans. In addition, we work with our local businesses to reduce unnecessary requirements that make it more difficult to recruit more drivers, grow their fleets, and ultimately move more of our residents and visitors.

I am proud of the progress we have made in the latest iteration of our Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) pilot, the rise in popularity of convenient e-hailing of taxis, and the overall growth of for-hire activity. Our Transport DC (TDC) program serves an average of nearly 2,000 unique passengers monthly, and has completed 5,545 trips for wheelchair users so far this fiscal year. This industry's drivers are ambassadors to visitors and reliable navigators for locals alike. Their work is vital to our city.

To conclude, DFHV's proposed FY 2027 budget fosters our agency's efforts to enhance the taxi, rideshare, and food and parcel delivery services in the District. With the resources allocated, I am confident we will continue to support our stakeholders and serve the public. Now more than ever, we are proud to *run through the tape*, alongside Mayor Bowser.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am happy to address any questions you may have at this time.