



**ADMINISTRATIVE ISSUANCE:  
REVISED UNION STATION FAST PASS PILOT  
Series/Number: AI-2019-06  
Approved November 26, 2019  
Effective November 26, 2019**

## **I. BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE**

The Department of For-Hire Vehicles (“Department”) is charged with the continuance, development, and improvement of the District’s public vehicle-for-hire industry, and with the overall regulation of for-hire vehicles. *See* D.C. OFFICIAL CODE §§ 50-301.07 and 50-301.13. The Department is committed to increasing competition, expanding consumer choice, and ensuring equitable access to transportation. Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (“WAV”) licensed by the Department provide approximately 36,000 trips per month. The Department seeks to encourage WAV operators to provide trips to passengers in wheelchairs by providing additional income opportunities. The Department also seeks to evaluate the efficacy of this incentive to achieve policy or service goals. This Administrative Issuance (“AI”) provides guidance for WAV operators who are eligible to receive a Union Station Fast Pass and priority access to the Union Station taxi line. Beginning with October 28, 2019 to April 30, 2019, selected WAV operators will have priority access to transport passengers at Union Station.

## **II. DEFINITIONS**

“Access Point” – the merge point in front of Union Station, which is identified by signage and is for the use of Union Station Fast Pass holders to gain priority access to the Union Station taxi line.

“Union Station Fast Pass” – a pass created by the Department that permits certain WAV vehicles priority access to the taxi line at Union Station.

## **III. AUTHORITY**

D.C. OFFICIAL CODE §§ 50-301.07(c) (2), (3), (19), and 50-301.13; 31 DCMR §§ 503, 602, and 810.2.

## **IV. PROCEDURES**

### *A. Eligibility for Priority Pass; Selection, Notification & Distribution, and Lost Passes*

Licensed taxicab operators who drive WAV and provide trips to wheelchair users in the Transport DC program are eligible for selection to receive a Union Station Fast Pass. In addition, operators must also have completed the required WAV trainings. Operators will be selected every month.

The Department shall determine the criteria (such as number of wheelchair pick-ups) for receiving a Union Station Fast Pass. The criteria will be posted on the Department's web site and drivers notified of changes or updates. The Department will determine who is qualified for each month's pass using validated Transport DC program data. Operators who qualify will automatically receive a Union Station Fast Pass. No additional application is required.

For each month's Union Station Fast Pass:

- The Department shall use Transport DC program data from two months prior to the eligible month (e.g. for March's Union Station Fast Pass, DFHV will evaluate January's Transport DC data) to determine qualification.
- The Department shall determine qualification, identify qualified participants, and contact operators to distribute the Union Station Fast Pass during the month prior to the eligible month (e.g. for March's Union Station Fast Pass, selection will be completed during February).
- Selected operators will be notified by email and telephone of their selection by the 25<sup>th</sup> calendar day of the month prior to the eligible month (e.g. for March's Union Station Fast Pass, operators will be notified by February 25). The operator must appear at the Department to receive the pass.

In the event an operator loses a pass, he or she must notify the Department immediately. The Department will replace a Union Station Fast Pass one time in any three-month period.

*B. Union Station Fast Pass & Union Station Taxi Line Use*

Each pass will be colored-coded for the one-month period of authorized use and will identify the operator by name, photograph and operator identification number (FACE ID). The Union Station Fast Pass can only be used during the specified period.

Operators with a Union Station Fast Pass will access the access point by approaching Union Station from Columbus Circle. Operators must adhere to all signage directing Union Station Fast pass holders to the access point.

Operators holding a Union Station Fast Pass may use the access point for priority access to the Union Station taxi line from 6:30 am to 10:30 pm. Operators may not use the Union Station Fast Pass for priority access beyond these hours.

DFHV advises operators to display on the rearview mirror their Union Station Fast Pass only when at Union Station. At other times (such as driving), operators should remove their Union Station Fast Pass from the rearview mirror and store it securely.

### *C. Compliance & Enforcement*

Upon request by a Department's Vehicle Inspection Officer or Union Station's Traffic Control Officer, the operator must show their Union Station Fast Pass. Each selected participant must continue to comply with the rules and regulations outlined in Title 31. The Department's VIO on duty at Union Station will ensure compliance with the pilot program and Title 31 requirements. All operators must adhere to the on-duty VIO's instructions. Additional concerns, questions or disputes about The Union Stations Fast Pass use can be directed to Michael Tietjen, Program Manager, at (202) 645-9001.

Improper use of the Union Station Fast Pass will result in civil sanctions and removal from the pilot. Improper use includes, but is not limited to, falsely reporting Transport DC trip data, sharing a Union Station Fast Pass or failing to adhere to a VIO's instructions on site at the Union Station taxi line.

This pilot may be revoked at any time at the discretion of DFHV or at the request of Union Station management.

## **V. FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **1. Is there an application to obtain a Union Station Fast Pass?**

No. The Department will select participants based on the number of WAV trips provided to wheelchair users in the Transport DC program completed each month.

### **2. I am a taxicab company; can I apply for a Union Station Fast Pass?**

No. The pilot is created for taxicab operators who drive a WAV.

### **3. I have a WAV; can I pick up non-WAV passengers when I use the Union Station Fast Pass?**

Yes. The Union Station Fast Pass is an incentive and allows the access to the front of the Union Station taxi line. Operators are being rewarded for their choice to drive a WAV and serve District residents and visitors who use wheelchairs. Union Station Fast Pass holders can transport any passenger.

### **4. I have been selected as a participant, can I show a photocopy of my pass using my phone or computer tablet?**

No. Only the original pass provided by the Department is accepted.

### **5. Can I request the pass be mailed to me?**

No. Operators must appear at the Department to pick-up the pass.

### **6. Can another taxi operator use my pass?**

No. The pass is only valid for the operator who has been selected to participate in the pilot.

### **7. If I provide more than 50 WAV rides in a month, can the excess number of rides be applied to the count of WAV rides provided the next month?**

No. Selection is based on the number of trips completed each month.

**8. What if I need additional information regarding the Union Station Priority Pass Pilot?**

Contact Program Manager, Michael Tietjen, at [Michael.Tietjen@dc.gov](mailto:Michael.Tietjen@dc.gov).

**SO ORDERED:**

**DEPARTMENT OF FOR-HIRE VEHICLES**

**BY:**   
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DAVID DO  
Director