

7-30-14

Dear Harrisonburg City Council Members,

Over three years ago this Council voted to allow a fuel surcharge of \$0.75 per fare for Harrisonburg taxi cab drivers to offset rising gasoline costs. A "sunset" clause was included in this provision in the case that fuel cost fell below \$3.00/gallon: Unfortunately, gas prices have stayed above \$3.00 a gallon consistently since 2011 and have ranged from \$3.05 to \$3.94. The average price for gasoline in the last 36 months is \$3.45 (all statistics are for Virginia only and are available at Virginiagasprices.com). The average cost for a gallon of gas in Virginia as of today 7/29/14 is \$3.32.

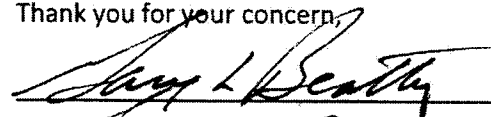
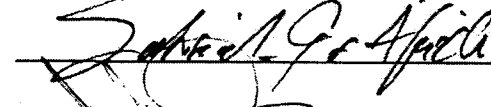
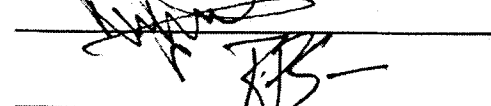
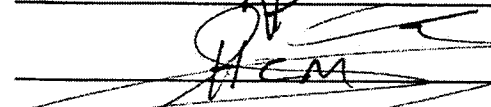
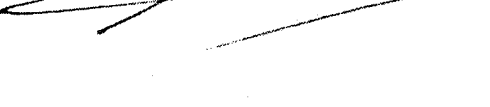
Under the city's provision, taxi cab drivers are allowed to charge an extra \$0.75 per fare by adding the surcharge from the "extras" button on the meter. The initial \$2.75 "load" fee and subsequent per mile rates were not altered on city taxi cab meters. Even though this surcharge and the normal city rates are found on the rate sticker inside of every taxi cab, the riding public is often confused by it. The perception from the general public is that the driver is over charging when he/she pushes the "extras" button. This has resulted in complaints from the riding public. And as a result some drivers charge the fuel surcharge, others do not. This has led to inconsistent fares for the public.

We would like to propose to this City Council that, the existing \$0.75 fuel adjustment surcharge be made permanent and added to the initial "load" fee.

Each individual cab company would be responsible for changing their own meters and the corresponding rate stickers located inside the cab. We do not think it necessary for HDOT to re-inspect every cab in service for this rate change

In short, prices go up. And our driver's costs are no different. Harrisonburg taxi cab drivers have not seen a permanent increase in fares in many years. Yet our operating cost in fuel cost alone has risen 36% in the last five years. We the cab company owners make this request on behalf of our hard working drivers. We hope this request will be dealt with in a timely and non partisan manner.

Thank you for your concern,

 - Rocktown Transportation
 - Royal Cab & Limousine
 - VALEY CAB LLC D.B.A. A13CCAB
 - Checked Cab
 - Green Taxi