



Office of the City Manager

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 22, 2022

To: Honorable Mayor and Members of the City Council

From: Dee Williams-Ridley, City Manager

Submitted by: Lisa Warhuus, Director, Health, Housing, and Community Services

Subject: Increase Taxi Scrip Window Daily Cash Redemption Limit

RECOMMENDATION

Adopt a Resolution authorizing Berkeley Rides for Seniors & the Disabled (BRSD) to increase the Taxi Scrip Window daily cash redemption limit from \$800 to \$1,000, one day per week.

FISCAL IMPACTS OF RECOMMENDATION

Funds are currently available to support the increase as follows: \$62,088 in Measure B (132-51-505-542-2038-000-444-612990) and \$289,000 in Measure BB (136-51-505-542-2038-000-444-612990).

CURRENT SITUATION AND ITS EFFECTS

Through its implementation of Measures B and BB, the City distributes taxi vouchers (“scrip”) to seniors and people with disabilities, who use the scrip to pay for taxi rides. The taxi drivers who receive scrip then come to the City to receive cash for the value of the scrip. The current cash drawer amount allows BRSD to disburse \$800 per day, one day per week, to taxi drivers. Occasionally, taxi drivers earn a total in excess of \$800 of taxi scrip in a given week. Increasing the daily cash redemption limit to \$1,000 will help ensure drivers are reimbursed for the total amount earned each week.

BACKGROUND

Transportation is one of the most significant issues facing seniors and people with disabilities. To address this need, Alameda County voters approved the reauthorization of Measure B in 2000 and the passage of Measure BB in 2014, which enable the Alameda County Transportation Commission to continue to administer the proceeds from the one half cent transportation sales tax from each Measure. The inception date for the new Measure B was April 1, 2002 and Measure BB began on April 1, 2015.

Measure B and BB funds are critical resources in the Berkeley community to support the needs of disabled and senior Berkeley residents. The City of Berkeley utilizes these funds to administer the BRSD Taxi Scrip program and the BRSD High Medical Need (supplemental taxi scrip) Program which both increase transportation options for disabled and senior community members in Berkeley.

Increase Taxi Scrip Window Daily Cash  
Redemption Limit

CONSENT CALENDAR  
March 22, 2022

ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE IMPACTS

By allowing a larger daily cash redemption limit, taxi drivers will be required to make fewer trips to the cash window, saving on transport to and parking in the downtown area.

RATIONALE FOR RECOMMENDATION

Berkeley taxi drivers are required by Berkeley Municipal Code Ordinance 7,336-NS to provide service to recipients of BRSD taxi scrip. Increasing the daily cash redemption limit to \$1,000, one day per week, will allow taxi drivers more economic flexibility throughout the month, which is more suited to the current reality of the program

ALTERNATIVE ACTIONS CONSIDERED

Keeping the weekly limit at \$800 will require some tax drivers to make multiple trips to the cash window and delay receiving payments.

CONTACT PERSON

Mary Triston, Transportation Services Coordinator, Aging Services, HHCS (510) 981-5135

Attachments:

1: Resolution

RESOLUTION NO. ##,###-N.S.

INCREASE BERKELEY RIDES FOR SENIORS & THE DISABLED TAXI SCRIP  
WINDOW DAILY CASH REDEMPTION LIMIT

WHEREAS, the City of Berkeley Municipal Code Ordinance 7,336-NS provides for the use of taxi scrip as payment; and

WHEREAS, Alameda County voters passed Measure B in 2000 and Measure BB in 2014, which enabled the Alameda County Transportation Commission to continue to administer the proceeds from the one-half cent transportation sales tax from each Measure; and

WHEREAS, Berkeley taxi drivers are providers of critical transportation services to Berkeley residents with disabilities and seniors; and

WHEREAS, funds are available to support an increase in the daily cash redemption limit as follows: \$62,088 in Measure B (132-51-505-542-2038-000-444-612990) and \$289,000 in Measure BB (136-51-505-542-2038-000-444-612990).

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City of Berkeley that the Berkeley Rides for Seniors & the Disabled Taxi Redemption Window daily cash redemption limit be increased from \$800 to \$1,000, one day per week.

