



November 10, 2009

Urban Transportation Commission
505 Barton Springs Road, Ste 800
Austin, Texas 78704
512-974-7092

Re: Electric/Green Taxis

Dear Commissioners:

It has come to the attention of the Taxi Drivers Association of Austin that the city of Austin is considering authorization of electric vehicles (“golf carts”) as a taxi service in the downtown area. After discussion of this matter with our members, we believe the city of Austin should only allow these vehicles to operate if they meet the same requirements as taxicabs.

Recently, these electric golf carts have been working the downtown streets without any apparent standard of regulation. Why? These are motorized vehicles for hire and they should probably have the same city controlled price structure as taxicabs. They should have meters. They should be required to have safety devices such as seatbelts, fire extinguishers and airbags.

Our association supports the free market system. We also know that a level playing field is paramount in a government regulated system. The electric vehicles are competing with the gas-powered taxicabs for the same downtown business. We believe the rules, regulations and requirements should be the same for all.

Sincerely,

Taxi Drivers Association of Austin