Metropolitan Transit System

FOR-HIRE VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION

Taxicab Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) Policy - Fee Waiver Guidelines

Effective 11/24/2026

The MTS Taxicab WAV Policy establishes recommendations to maintain and increase the number of taxicab WAV operating. Taxicab WAVs are an important transportation option for individuals with disabilities and those with mobility impairments and MTS finds there is not enough in operation to support the current demands and needs of the public. One of MTS's strategies to maintain current Taxicab WAV numbers, and to add more Taxicab WAVs, is to waive certain FHVA fees, as the cost to operate, maintain and/or buy can be a barrier. The following guidelines establish how MTS will administer the Taxicab WAV Fee Waivers.

Goal:

The goal for the amount of taxicabs MTS aims to be a taxicab WAV is within the Taxicab WAV Policy, Exhibit A. FHVA's has a Taxicab WAV aspirational goal of 2.5% of the total number of taxicabs in operation. Each year, MTS will calculate what the goal is by multiplying 2.5% by the total number of operating taxicabs. **For FY 2027, it is MTS's aim to have a total of 19 Taxicab WAV permits.** To maintain and increase the number of Taxicab WAV Permits, one incentive is FHVA Fee Waivers.

Fee Waivers:

For FY 2027, per the 2027 Fee Schedule, the following fees may be waived for a taxicab WAV:

1) Annual Regulatory Fee, per Section 1.2 of 2027 Fee Schedule; and
2) Permit Application Fees, described in Sections 2.1 and 2.2, of 2027 Fee Schedule

Allocation of Fee Waivers:

For FY 2027, MTS will allocate a total of 19 Taxicab WAV Fee Waivers. Priority will first be given to:

1) Current (as of 12/1/2026) and active Taxicab WAV permits (i.e. non-surrender); and
2) then any new permits.

The fee waiver allocations for new or transferred permits resulting in the placement of a Taxicab WAV will be processed in the order received by FHVA as described in these guidelines.

No more than 19 Taxicab WAV Permits fee waivers will be approved for FY 2027. The Taxicab Fee Waiver will apply for at least 2 years. In other words, if provided a Fee Waiver in

CY 2027, the taxicab WAV will be provided taxicab WAV fee waivers for both CY 2027 and CY 2028, so long as these Taxicab Fee Waiver Guidelines (e.g. re-applying each year for the fee waiver as required by the guidelines) are followed, and so long as no MTS FHVA significant budget or policy changes occur.

Please note, if a fee waiver was previously received in CY 2026, then the fee waiver is guaranteed for CY 2027 as that would be the 2-year period (i.e. the fee waiver is not also guaranteed for CY 2028 in the instance the fee waiver was first granted in CY 2026 and again granted in CY 2027).

Renewal of Taxicab WAV Permits

A Taxicab WAV that has received a FHVA Fee Waiver should be in operation for as long as feasible, but no less than 2 years. If a permit holder requests to replace a Taxicab WAV permit to be a non-Taxicab WAV, the following repayments are applicable:

Time Period	Repay Amount
Request to replace with a taxicab non-WAV within the same Year	Full amount of fees waived must be repaid
Request to replace with a taxicab non-WAV after 1 year	½ of Fees Waived must be repaid
Request to replace with a taxicab non-WAV after 2 years	No repayment of Fees Waivers due

If received a Fee Waiver, it is FHVA's aim that the Permit Holder does not replace the taxicab WAV with a non-taxicab WAV for at least two (2) years. If it is replaced with a taxicab non-WAV within CY 2027, then an invoice will be emailed for the full amount waived (i.e. no prorated fee would apply). If it is replaced with a taxicab non-WAV or voided in CY 2028, then an invoice will be emailed for ½ of the amount waived. If a taxicab WAV is replaced or with a taxicab non-WAV in CY 2029, there is no repayment of fee waiver due. If any invoice for repayment of fee waivers are not repaid, Permit Holders will not be able to replace the permit or replace it with a non-Taxicab WAV (i.e. the request to replace the vehicle will not be processed).

Please note, if a fee waiver was previously received in CY 2026, then the rules relating to repayment would be applicable for CY 2026 and CY 2027.

Current Taxicab WAV Permits

- FHVA will email a "Fee Waiver Request Form" to all current Taxicab WAV permit holders in or around December 1, 2026. If interested in participating in the Taxicab WAV

Fee Waiver Program, the completed form must be submitted by **email only** to Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com by December 31, 2026. Failure to submit the form by the December 31 deadline will result in losing your priority in the allocation of fee waivers. In other words, if this deadline is missed, the fee waiver request will be processed as if it was a new permit and will be processed in the order received, depending on if any remaining allocations are available.

- Taxicab WAV permit must be active and in good standing at the time a fee waiver request is submitted in order to be approved.

- Permit holders must make a good faith effort to maintain the taxicab WAV in active status and provide service in accordance with MTS Ordinance No. 11.

New Permit Applications

- New permit applicants must complete and submit by **email only** the New Taxicab WAV Fee waiver Request Form to FHVA (form will be available on FHVA website) between January 1, 2027, and May 31, 2027. Email to Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com.

- When the interest form is received by email, FHVA will review interest forms, contact applicant and advise on next steps for permit application and fee waivers. FHVA will communicate with prospective applicants on the number of remaining taxicab WAV Fee Waiver allocations that are available.

- Priority is given to permit applicants based on the order of when MTS has received both: Interest Form AND request for a taxicab WAV pre-inspection. The pre-inspection appointment must be scheduled and completed within 30 days of the request for an appointment. FHVA staff will use its best efforts to schedule the inspection as soon as practicable.

- A new application must be submitted no later than when the request for a taxicab WAV per-inspection occurs. If the application is later determined to be denied (e.g. applicant background check results do not comply with MTS Ordinance No. 11), the Fee Waiver will no longer be processed.

- If a new permit applicant applies for both a taxicab WAV and a non-taxicab WAV, then the fee waiver will be pro-rated accordingly. For example, the permit application fee will be waived by 50%, since half of the vehicles are taxicab WAV.

- Permit holders must make a good faith effort to maintain the taxicab WAV in active status and provide service in accordance with MTS Ordinance No. 11.

******MTS will use its best efforts to implement these Fee Waiver Guidelines to ensure fair access to the Fee Waivers and to meet the intent of the MTS Taxicab WAV Policy. MTS will use its sole discretion in interpreting these guidelines****.**

- Reference Documents: Taxicab WAV Policy; Taxicab WAV Aspirational Goal Exhibit A; CY2027 Fee Schedule