

**CITY OF EL PASO, TEXAS
AGENDA ITEM
DEPARTMENT HEAD'S SUMMARY FORM**



DEPARTMENT: Streets and Maintenance/PD Code Enforcement

AGENDA DATE: 5/13/25

PUBLIC HEARING DATE: 5/28/25

CONTACT PERSON NAME: Randy Garcia, Intermim Director, Streets **PHONE NUMBER:** 915-212-7015

2nd CONTACT PERSON NAME: Arthur S. Alvarado, Director, PD Code En **PHONE NUMBER:** 915-212-6026

DISTRICT(S) AFFECTED: All

STRATEGIC GOAL:

7 - Enhance and Sustain El Paso's Infrastructure Network

SUBGOAL:

7.3 - Enhance a regional comprehensive transportation system

SUBJECT:

Approve and ordinance amending Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.48 (Loading Zones, Bus and Taxi Stands), of the El Paso City Code to perform the following: Amend Chapter 12.48 (Loading Zones, Bus and Taxi Stands) heading to ADD "Rideshare Zones"; Amend section 12.48.010 (Loading Zone -Authority to Designate) to ADD Paragraph C; Amend Section 12.48.030 (Loading Zone - Pick-Up and Discharge of Passengers) to replace "Passenger" with "Rideshare or Taxi", and to ADD "For a Maximum of Five Minutes"; Amend Section 12.48.040 (Public Carrier Stops, Stands and Route -Authority to Designate) Paragraph A to ADD "Rideshare Zones" and "Rideshare Zone"; Amend Section 12.48.050 (Use of Stands by Buses and Taxicabs) heading to ADD "Rideshae Vehicles", and to ADD Pargraph E; Amend Section 12.48.060 (Use of Stands by Other than Those Designated for) to DELETE "Or Other Than", and to ADD "Or other than a Rideshare Vehicle in a Rideshare Zone". The penalty as provided in Chapter 12.84 of the El Paso City Code.

BACKGROUND / DISCUSSION:

City Council recommended establishment of a Rideshare Hub Zone after Sociable City Assessment Plan presentation. This ordinance change would established 24 hour designated passenger loading zones along Baltimore Dr., within the Cincinnati Entertainment District to improve public safety awareness.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH:

August 2023 to May 2024 - twelve city departments including the El Paso Police Department, Code Enforcement and Planning and Inspections participated in approximately 29 meetings with over 100 stakeholders.

PRIOR COUNCIL ACTION:

09-24-2024 - Sociable City Assessment Action Plan - including recommendations to create a rideshare zone.

AMOUNT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING:

N/A

REPORTING OF CONTRIBUTION OR DONATION TO CITY COUNCIL:

N/A

NAME	AMOUNT (\$)

*****REQUIRED AUTHORIZATION*****

DEPARTMENT HEAD:



(If Department Head Summary Form is initiated by Purchasing, client department should sign also)

ORDINANCE NO. _____

AN ORDINANCE AMENDING TITLE 12 (VEHICLES AND TRAFFIC), CHAPTER 12.48 (LOADING ZONES, BUS AND TAXI STANDS), OF THE EL PASO CITY CODE TO PERFORM THE FOLLOWING: AMEND CHAPTER 12.48 (LOADING ZONES, BUS AND TAXI STANDS) HEADING TO ADD “RIDESHARE ZONES”; AMEND SECTION 12.48.010 (LOADING ZONE—AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE) TO ADD PARAGRAPH C; AMEND SECTION 12.48.030 (LOADING ZONE—PICK-UP AND DISCHARGE OF PASSENGERS) TO REPLACE “PASSENGER” WITH “RIDESHARE OR TAXI”, AND TO ADD “FOR A MAXIMUM OF FIVE MINUTES”; AMEND SECTION 12.48.040 (PUBLIC CARRIER STOPS, STANDS AND ROUTE—AUTHORITY TO DESIGNATE) PARAGRAPH A TO ADD “RIDESHARE ZONES” AND “RIDESHARE ZONE”; AMEND SECTION 12.48.050 (USE OF STANDS BY BUSES AND TAXICABS) HEADING TO ADD “RIDESHARE VEHICLES”, AND TO ADD PARAGRAPH E; AMEND SECTION 12.48.060 (USE OF STANDS BY OTHER THAN THOSE DESIGNATED FOR) TO DELETE “OR OTHER THAN”, AND TO ADD “OR OTHER THAN A RIDESHARE VEHICLE IN A RIDESHARE ZONE”. THE PENALTY AS PROVIDED IN CHAPTER 12.84 OF THE EL PASO CITY CODE.

WHEREAS, from August 2023 to May 2024, twelve city departments including the El Paso Police Department, Code Enforcement, and Planning and Inspections participated in approximately 29 meetings with over 100 stakeholders; and

WHEREAS, on May 21, 2024, the third-party consultant, Responsible Hospitality Institute, presented its report and recommendations to City Council; and

WHEREAS, on September 24, 2024, the El Paso City Council heard updates on the Sociable City Assessment Action Plan, including recommendations to create a rideshare zone in the El Paso City Code; and

WHEREAS, the city of El Paso now wishes to amend title 12, chapter 12.48 based on the Sociable City Assessment Action Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED BY THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EL PASO:

SECTION 1, Amend Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.48 (LOADING ZONES, BUS AND TAXI STANDS), heading, to Add:

Chapter 12.48 LOADING ZONES, BUS, TAXI STANDS, AND RIDESHARE ZONES.

SECTION 2, Amend Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.48 (LOADING ZONES, BUS AND TAXI STANDS), section 12.48.010 (loading zone—authority to designate), to Add:

12.48.010 Loading zone—Authority to designate.

The traffic engineer is authorized to designate, in locations appropriate to the needs of traffic and the convenience of the public, loading zones for either of two types of use:

- A. Zones for Commercial Vehicles Only. In a loading zone designated for commercial vehicles only, loading and unloading will be restricted between the hours of seven a.m. to seven p.m., unless otherwise specified on posted signs. A "commercial vehicle" means any motor vehicle (other than a motorcycle or passenger car) designed and used primarily for the transportation of property; or any motorcycle or passenger car which has been reconstructed so as to be used primarily for the transportation of property and is being so used; or any motorcycle or passenger car which has been reconstructed so as to be used primarily for the transportation of property and is being so used; or any motorcycle or passenger car which is being used primarily for the transportation of property and which has permanently displayed (not by magnetic or other removable signs) legible words identifying the business concern by which the vehicle is used.
- B. Zones for General Use. In a loading zone designated for general use, loading and unloading will be restricted between the hours of seven a.m. to seven p.m., unless otherwise specified on posted signs.
- C. Zones for Rideshare Use. In a loading zone designated for rideshare use, loading and unloading of passengers will be permissible twenty-four (24) hours per day, unless otherwise specified on posted signs.

SECTION 3. Amend Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.48 (LOADING ZONES, BUS AND TAXI STANDS), section 12.48.030 (loading zone—pick-up and discharge of passengers), to Add:

12.48.030 Loading zone—Pick-up and discharge of passengers.

The driver of a rideshare or taxi vehicle may stop temporarily at a loading zone for a maximum of five minutes, even during the restricted hours, for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers, but only when such stopping does not interfere with any other vehicle lawfully in or about to enter such zone for loading or unloading merchandise or materials.

SECTION 4. Amend Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.48 (LOADING ZONES, BUS AND TAXI STANDS), section 12.48.040 (public carrier stops, stands and route—authority to designate), paragraph A, to Add:

12.48.040 Public carrier stops, stands and routes—Authority to designate.

- A. The traffic engineer is authorized and required to establish bus stops, bus stands, rideshare zones and stands for passenger common-carrier motor vehicles on such public streets in such places and in such number as may be determined to be of the greatest benefit and convenience to the public. Each such bus stop, bus stand, rideshare zone, or other stand shall be designated by appropriate signs or markings approved by the traffic engineer and installed by the city. When a passenger common-carrier company requests such designated stop areas for the

loading and/or unloading of its passengers in the city right-of-way, such company shall pay the city for all costs related to the design and installation of the requested stop areas.

B. The traffic engineer is authorized and required to establish reasonably direct routes on city streets from state and federal roadways to destinations within the city and back to such state and federal roadways for those passenger common-carrier motor vehicles that operate under authority of permits issued by the surface transportation board or its successor agency. To become effective, the routes established by the traffic engineer and any amendments thereto shall require city council approval by resolution. Common-carrier passenger motor vehicles operating under permits issued by the surface transportation board or its successor agency shall not operate over city streets except on such routes as established by the traffic engineer and approved by the city council. The description of the routes established pursuant to this section shall be available to the public from the office of the traffic engineer and made available to the public electronically. Any passenger common carrier company may make a request to the traffic engineer to amend the routes to accommodate its access to facilities used by such common-carrier or to load and/or unload its passengers. The traffic engineer shall follow the procedures of this section in developing a route and presenting an amendment to the city council for its consideration.

SECTION 5. Amend Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.48 (LOADING ZONES, BUS AND TAXI STANDS), section 12.48.050 (use of stands by buses and taxicabs) heading, to Add:

12.48.050 Use of stands by buses, taxicabs, and rideshare vehicles.

- A. The operator of a bus shall not stand or park such vehicle upon any street at any place other than a bus stand so designated as provided herein.
- B. The operator of a bus shall not stop such vehicle upon any street at any place for the purpose of loading or unloading passengers or their baggage other than at a bus stop, or bus stand, so designated as provided herein, except in case of an emergency.
- C. The operator of a bus shall enter a bus stop, or bus stand, on a public street in such a manner that the bus when stopped to load or unload passengers or baggage shall be in a position with the right front wheel of such vehicle not further than eighteen inches from the curb and the bus approximately parallel to the curb so as not to unduly impede the movement of other vehicular traffic.
- D. The operator of a taxicab shall not stand or park such vehicle upon any street at any place other than in a taxicab stand so designated as provided herein. This provision shall not prevent the operator of a taxicab from temporarily stopping in accordance with other stopping or parking regulations at any place for the purpose of and while actually engaged in the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers.
- E. The operator of a taxicab and rideshare vehicle may stand or park such vehicle in a designated rideshare zone not to exceed a maximum of five minutes for the purpose of loading/unloading passengers.

SECTION 6. Amend Title 12 (Vehicles and Traffic), Chapter 12.48 (LOADING ZONES, BUS AND TAXI STANDS), section 12.48.060 (use of stands by other than those designated for), to Delete and to Add:

12.48.060 Use of stands by other than those designated for.

No person shall stop, stand or park a vehicle other than a bus in a bus stop, a taxicab in a taxicab stand, or other than a rideshare vehicle in a rideshare zone when any such stop or stand has been officially designated and appropriately signed, except that the driver of a passenger vehicle may temporarily stop therein for the purpose of and while actually engaged in loading or unloading passengers when such stopping does not interfere with any bus or taxicab waiting to enter or about to enter such zone.

SECTION 7. Except as herein amended, Title 12 of the El Paso City Code shall remain in full force and effect.

ADOPTED this _____ day of _____, 2025.

CITY OF EL PASO

Renard U. Johnson, Mayor

ATTEST:

Laura D. Prine, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:



Mona M. Heydarian
Assistant City Attorney

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:



Randy Garcia, Interim Director
Streets and Maintenance Department