

**From:** Steve Pint  
**Sent:** Friday, November 09, 2012 11:06 AM  
**To:** Ferrara, Tom (CI-StPaul)  
**Cc:** Craig Hartog; Michelle Reinke  
**Subject:** RE: Fare Increase Input?

Hi Tom,

Sorry we didn't have anyone at the public hearing and I appreciate you wanting our feedback. Regarding deregulation of rates, it is a bad idea. Rates nationally are regulated and it is for one primary reason and that is to protect the consumer since a metered rate is not necessarily transparent. If rates were deregulated, it would be an anarchy and the City would receive hundreds of calls a week complaining about getting ripped off by a cab driver.

On the minimum fare, the company that wants it increased doesn't even charge the current maximum allowed rate of \$2.20 per mile and a \$2.50 flag. They currently charge \$2.00 per mile with a \$2.00 flag. They want to advertise lower rates but make up for it in the first mile or two by stating it is a City mandated minimum. Furthermore, if they simply raise their rates to the new proposed rates, they hit their \$8 minimum at the 2 mile mark. I'm sure they will state most of their runs go less than 2 miles which might be accurate. But should those consumers really pay \$8 for a 1 mile run? Or worse yet \$8 for a 0.5 mile run?

I have attached an Excel spreadsheet that shows the math for the company that I assume is asking for the \$8 minimum. I pulled their current rates off of their website. My math doesn't account for the flag increment but in the case of St. Paul Yellow Taxi, it is only 1/20<sup>th</sup> so it is insignificant in the total cost (\$0.10).

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,

Steve

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