



**SAN DIEGO COUNTY
REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
STAFF REPORT**

**Item No.
15**

Meeting Date: **JANUARY 6, 2011**

Subject:

**Amendment to Authority Policy 9.12 (Ground Transportation Permits)
authorizing additional daily taxicab service at San Diego International Airport**

Recommendation:

Adopt Resolution No. 2011-0012, amending Authority Policy 9.12 – Ground Transportation Permits – authorizing additional daily taxicab service at San Diego International Airport.

Background/Justification:

The Airport Authority Board regulates the taxicab service at SDIA to ensure a sufficient number of safe, properly equipped taxicabs are available for the traveling public throughout the operating day. The Board, through Authority Code 9.12, authorizes issuance of 450 ground transportation service permits, using a vehicle decal system that supplies a daily maximum of 180 taxicabs at the Airport. When passenger demand conditions warrant, additional Airport permitted taxicabs are summoned for pick-up operations at the Airport.

In January 2010, the Airport Authority Board adopted recommendations from the Comprehensive Ground Transportation Management Plan (CGTMP) that identified a need for additional taxicab service, particularly during evening and non-peak operating hours. In response, the Airport has increased its oversight and strengthened communication links with radio service operators to quickly summon taxicabs when shortages are forecasted. As a long-term improvement, staff is proposing two related modifications to the permit program to ensure there is an ample supply of taxicabs to respond to peak demand and late evening flight arrivals.

In September 2010, the Board authorized a comprehensive management approach to improving ground transportation service delivery at SDIA by offering to work with local taxicab and shuttle van industry groups through Memorandums of Agreement (MOAs). The taxicab industry has responded positively to the offer and has formed into a business entity, San Diego Transportation Association (SDTA), which has a goal of providing an ample supply of properly equipped taxicabs at the Airport at all times. SDTA and the Authority are working to finalize the MOA, which directly addresses taxicab availability and other performance objectives designed to improve ground transport conditions at the Airport.

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The proposed modification to the vehicle permit program will increase access opportunities for permitted taxicabs and with the industry's willingness to accept responsibility for maintaining a sufficient inventory of taxicabs at the Airport, there should be dependable, convenient taxicab service for passengers throughout the operating day.

To ensure daily taxicab service levels are sufficient to meet varying levels of passenger demand, staff proposes two improvement measures: A. A modification to the current decal system re-distributing existing permits to allow an additional forty-five (45) daily taxicabs, and B. the introduction of a new program feature designed to further augment the Airport taxicab fleet to respond to late afternoon and evening flight operations.

The first measure amends Code 9.12 by modifying the vehicle decal system to allow an additional 45 already-permitted taxicabs to operate daily at the Airport, increasing the total daily taxicab inventory from 180 to 225. The total number of permits issued remains unchanged at 450. The positive effect of more taxicabs, on a daily basis, will be felt primarily during the morning and afternoon demand periods where there are occasional delays in service availability. The taxicab owners and drivers favor this measure because it maintains the current number of permittees and mitigates the loss of individual daily trip opportunities for the drivers. If approved, modification to the decal system can be implemented by the end of January 2011, given the new operational relationship being fostered with SDTA.

The second measure introduces a new program feature that focuses on serving late afternoon operations and evening flight arrivals. Working with the taxicab industry and MTS, staff has developed a plan that authorizes an additional seventy-five (75) taxicabs to operate at SDIA daily between the hours of 2:00pm – 2:00am, and on an on-call basis. The group division may be changed and further optimized as data on service availability dictates. The basis of the evening-augment program is to encourage a higher degree of predictability in the evening inventory and ensure there are sufficient taxicabs to respond to varying levels of demand, without unduly affecting the business interests of existing taxicab operators.

Summary: If approved, these two improvement measures will increase the daily taxicab inventory at the Airport from 180 taxicabs to 225, and provide as many as 300 taxicabs from 2:00 pm until the end of the operating day. Data collected from the Airport's Automated Vehicle Inventory (AVI) system and close observation by staff of passenger wait times and conditions in the taxi hold lot support the proposed increases. Staff and CSRs will continue to closely monitor conditions at the Airport to maintain a balance between passenger demand and taxicab availability. The program can be fully implemented 30 days after Board authorization.

Industry Outreach: In working to frame the provisions of the MOAs governing the taxicab industry partnerships, the taxicab companies have expressed a commitment to work with their respective radio services and accept responsibility for ensuring there is an ample supply of taxicabs available. The issue of dependable taxicab availability is a central provision in the MOAs and requires industry and Airport to work together in maintaining current taxicab service levels that ensure convenient access for arriving passengers at SDIA.

Staff recommends Board approval of the following measures for improving taxicab service at SDIA:

1. Authorize redistribution of existing permits, which allow one hundred and eighty (180) taxicabs per day, to allow two hundred and twenty-five (225) taxicabs per day at SDIA.
2. Authorize an augment to the daily inventory with an additional seventy-five (75) permitted taxicabs for a total not to exceed three hundred (300) taxicabs from 2:00pm until the end of the operating day.
3. Amend Authority Code to authorize the change in permits and accurately reflect the number of taxicabs serving SDIA each day. Attached are recommended changes to the Authority Code Section 9.12 (a) (1).

Fiscal Impact:

There is no additional revenue from ground transportation service permit fees and a negligible increase in "trip" fees forecast for these measures. No additional training or administrative expense is forecasted and financial cost for implementation is minimal.

Environmental Review:

- A. CEQA Review: This Board action, as an administrative action, is not a project that would have a significant effect on the environment as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), as amended. 14 Cal. Code Regs. §15378. This Board action is not a "project" subject to CEQA. Cal. Pub. Res. Code §21065.
- B. California Coastal Act Review: This Board action is not a "development" as defined by the California Coastal Act. Cal. Pub. Res. Code Section §30106.

Equal Opportunity Program:

Not applicable.

Prepared by:

VERNON D. EVANS
VICE PRESIDENT, FINANCE/TREASURER

RESOLUTION NO. 2011-0012

A RESOLUTION OF THE BOARD OF THE SAN
DIEGO COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY
AMENDING AUTHORITY CODE SECTION 9.12 –
GROUND TRANSPORTATION PERMITS
AUTHORIZING ADDITIONAL DAILY TAXICAB
SERVICE AT SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL
AIRPORT

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors ("Board") of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority ("Authority") regulates the taxicab service at San Diego International Airport ("Airport") to ensure a sufficient number of safe, properly equipped taxicabs are available for the traveling public throughout the operating day, and

WHEREAS, the Board currently authorizes a maximum of four hundred and fifty (450) ground transportation service permits that supply a daily maximum of one hundred and eighty (180) taxicabs at the Airport, and

WHEREAS, the Board approved a Comprehensive Ground Transportation Management Plan on January 7, 2010, with the recommendation to increase the daily taxicab inventory at the Airport to meet passenger demand during peak travel times and late evening flight arrivals, and

WHEREAS, the Board authorized a comprehensive management approach to improving taxicab service at the Airport by formally engaging with local taxicab companies that serve the Airport to increase daily taxicab service delivery, and

WHEREAS, the local taxicab industry has expressed a desire to formally engage with the Authority through one or more Memorandums of Agreement that call for, among other provisions, improved communication and coordination in providing an ample supply of taxicabs throughout the operating day, and

WHEREAS, the Board has considered two proposals to: (1) increase the daily taxicab inventory by modifying the present decal system to allow for an additional forty-five (45) taxicabs each day, and (2) further allow an additional seventy-five taxicabs (75) Airport access during the hours of 2:00 pm to 2:00 am, for a not-to-exceed total of three hundred (300) taxicabs authorized each day, and

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WHEREAS, the Airport has in place the means and methods to adequately monitor inventory conditions at the taxicab hold lot and passenger queue at the transportation plazas, and

WHEREAS, the Airport staff and local taxicab industry will be working closely with the appropriate taxicab radio service to maintain an optimal balance between taxicab supply and passenger demand to preclude either undue passenger delay or excessive wait time in the taxicab hold lot, and

WHEREAS, the proposals for redistributing the present decal system to allow for additional taxicabs does not increase the current number of ground transportation permits in service at the Airport and serves to mitigate adverse economic impacts on Airport taxicab service providers.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED the Board hereby AMENDS Authority Code Section 9.12 (Attachment A) to authorize forty-five (45) additional taxicabs to service the Airport on a daily basis for a not to exceed total of two hundred and twenty-five (225), and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED the Board hereby AMENDS Authority Code Section 9.12 (Attachment A) to authorize a further addition of seventy-five (75) taxicabs to access the Airport from 2:00 pm until 2:00 am for a not-to-exceed total of three hundred (300) taxicabs each day, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board DIRECTS that conditions in the taxicab hold lot and transportation plazas be closely monitored to ensure there exists an optimal balance between taxicab supply and passenger demand to preclude excessive wait times in the taxicab hold lot or passenger delay on the transportation plazas, and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board FINDS that this action is not a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act ("CEQA"), Cal. Pub. Res. Code §21065; and is not a "development" as defined by the California Coastal Act. Cal. Pub. Res. Code §30106.

PASSED, ADOPTED, AND APPROVED by the Board of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority at a regular meeting this 6th day of January, 2011, by the following vote:

AYES: Board Members:

NOES: Board Members:

ABSENT: Board Members:

ATTEST:

**TONY R. RUSSELL
DIRECTOR, CORPORATE SERVICES/
AUTHORITY CLERK**

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

**BRETON K. LOBNER
GENERAL COUNSEL**

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SAN DIEGO COUNTY REGIONAL AIRPORT AUTHORITY

CODES

- ARTICLE 9 - SAN DIEGO INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT**
PART 9.1 - GROUND TRANSPORTATION
SECTION 9.12 - GROUND TRANSPORTATION PERMITS

The Executive Director or his or her designee (the "Executive Director") of the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority (~~the "Authority"~~) may issue permits authorizing ground transportation service for the transportation of persons and baggage from or within the San Diego International Airport (~~the "Airport"~~). A valid permit is permission for the person to whom it is given, including said person's employee, driver or agent, to transport, by a vehicle to which a decal is affixed, passengers and baggage over and upon the non-dedicated private streets within the Airport, in accordance with the rules, regulations, and standing time limits established and designated by the Executive Director from time to time.

(a) Vehicle Restrictions.

(1) ~~The total number of authorized vehicle decals for Taxicab permits shall not exceed 450 for the Airport. A reserve list shall be retained and may be used by the Executive Director for possible replacements. The operating authority of vehicle decals for Taxicabs shall be restricted to two days every five days not to exceed 180 authorized decals each day through the establishment of a number system. The Authority will issue four hundred and fifty (450) permits.~~ Said permits shall serve the Airport in accordance with an established decal system that allows ~~only~~ two hundred and twenty five (225) taxicabs per day to serve the airport. An additional seventy-five (75) taxicabs are authorized from 2:00pm until 2:00 am -for a not to exceed total of three hundred (300) taxicabs

he total number of authorized taxicab permits at the Airport shall not exceed six hundred (600) for the Airport, comprised of 450 permits and 150 provisional "P" permits.

(2) The total number of authorized Vehicle for Hire operators shall not exceed nine. Only the Vehicle for Hire operators with valid vehicle permits from the permit period of January 1, 2002 through December 31, 2002, will be issued Vehicle for Hire permits.

(3) No Vehicle for Hire operator may transfer a vehicle decal except as provided in Section 9.09 of this Code. Authorized Vehicle for Hire operators may increase the number of vehicle decals for their fleet each calendar year by higher of two vehicles or 10% of the then existing fleet.

(4) A vehicle decal shall not be issued for any Taxicab or Vehicle for Hire which is older than ten years. Any new or replacement vehicle not currently permitted shall not

be more than seven years old, or does not pass inspection as provided in this Code. No vehicle decal for a Vehicle for Hire, except a Taxicab, shall be issued for a sedan or station wagon type of automotive equipment. Station wagons are defined as vehicles built on an automotive chassis with four outward opening doors similar to a sedan. Nothing in this provision shall preclude a limousine from being issued a ground transportation service Vehicle for Hire permit.

(5) The Authority's Board of Directors (the "**Board**") reserves the right to increase or decrease the number of ground transportation service permits and vehicle decals or otherwise further limit or restrict the days or times for operation of the Permit Holders as provided herein or as may be provided pursuant to a duly adopted resolution.

(b) Permit Terms and Fees.

A ground transportation service permit may be issued any time during the calendar year and shall not exceed the expiration date. Irrespective of the date of issuance of any permit, every ground transportation service permit shall expire at the end of the permit term period during which it was issued unless any such permit is sooner terminated, suspended, revoked or cancelled. No permit shall be extended nor shall any permit be renewed or transferable except transfer of a permit as provided in this Code.

(1) The trip fee or any other fees and charges for a ground transportation service provider shall be set by resolution of the Board.

(c) Automated Vehicle Identification.

All authorized Airport Ground Transportation Service Provider vehicles shall display a vehicle identification decal and automated vehicle identification transponder.

(1) No person shall remove, damage or tamper with a vehicle decal or transponder unless given written authorization by the Authority.

(2) No person shall evade or attempt to evade an Airport Automated Vehicle Identification reader.

(d) Vehicle Inspections.

Each vehicle for which there is an application for a decal shall be inspected by the Authority or an approved Inspection Station prior to issuance of a vehicle decal, and at other times as deemed advisable by the Authority.

[Resolution No. 2002-02 dated September 20, 2002.]

[Superseded by Resolution No. _____ dated _____.]

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SAN ORG



San Diego International Airport



SDIA Taxicab Permit Improvement Program

Vernon D. Evans, CPA

Vice President Finance/Treasurer and CFO

January 6, 2011

Agenda

- Background
- Improvement Proposal 1 – Increase In Daily Taxicab Service Levels with 45 Additional Taxicabs
- Improvement Proposal 2 – Introduces an Evening Augment of 75 Additional Taxicabs
- Taxicab Industry Outreach
- Staff Recommendations

Background

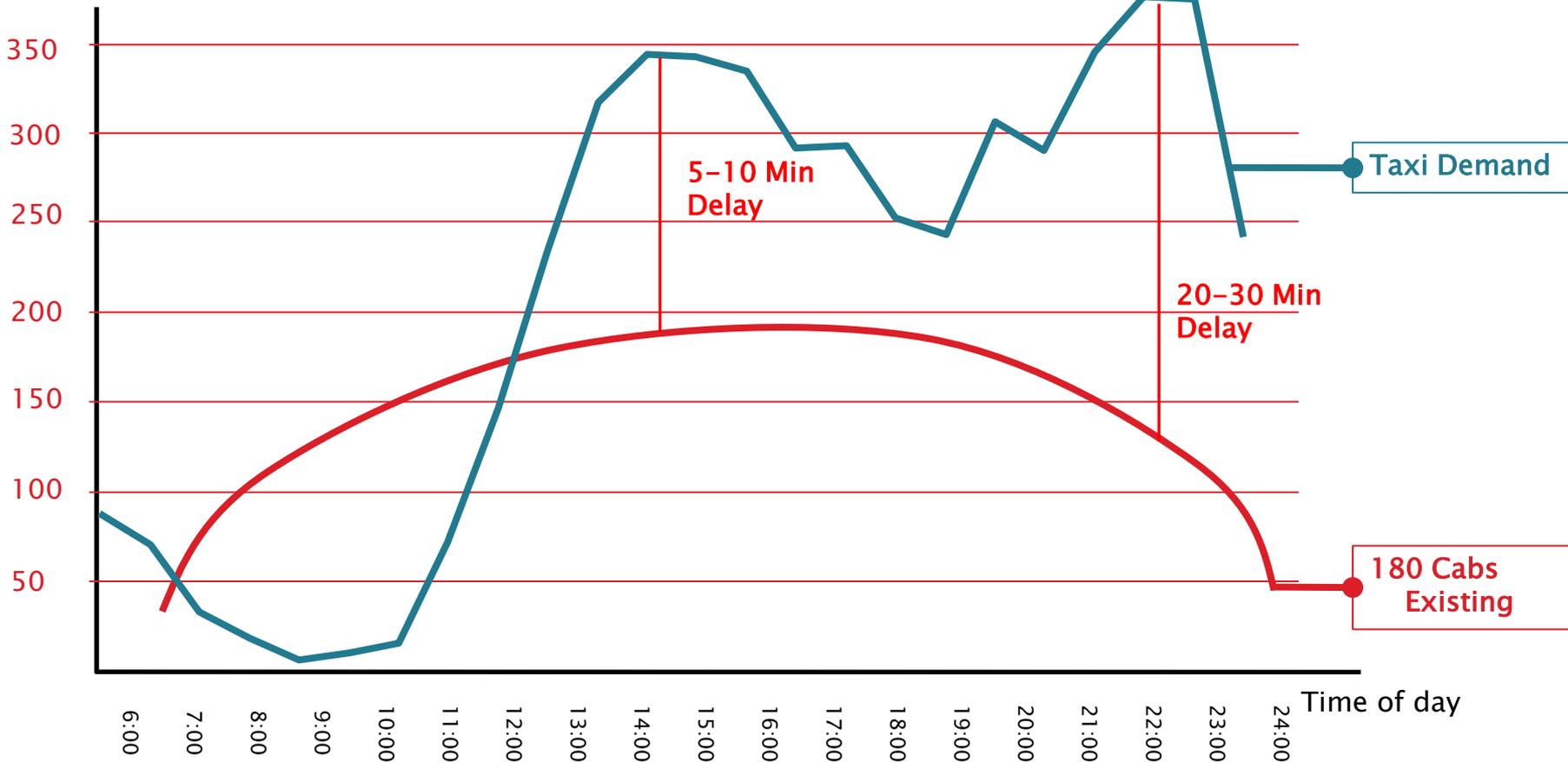
- Total of 300 taxicabs serve airport.
- Present Code 9.12 authorizes 180 taxicabs each day.
- Additional Airport taxicabs called as need arises.

Background

- Current demand for taxicabs exhausts taxicab inventory some evenings and peak travel hours.
- Comprehensive Ground Transportation Management Plan (CGTMP) verified systemic shortages and recommended corrective actions
 - Increase daily taxicab inventory
 - Augment inventory specifically to meet time-of-day service needs

Typical Daily Taxi Demand VS Typical Taxicab Supply

Number of Taxicabs
Number of Taxi Trips



SOURCE: Jacobsen Daniels Working Paper #4, Taxicab Operations, Comprehensive Ground Transportation Management Plan

Taxicab Improvement Proposal

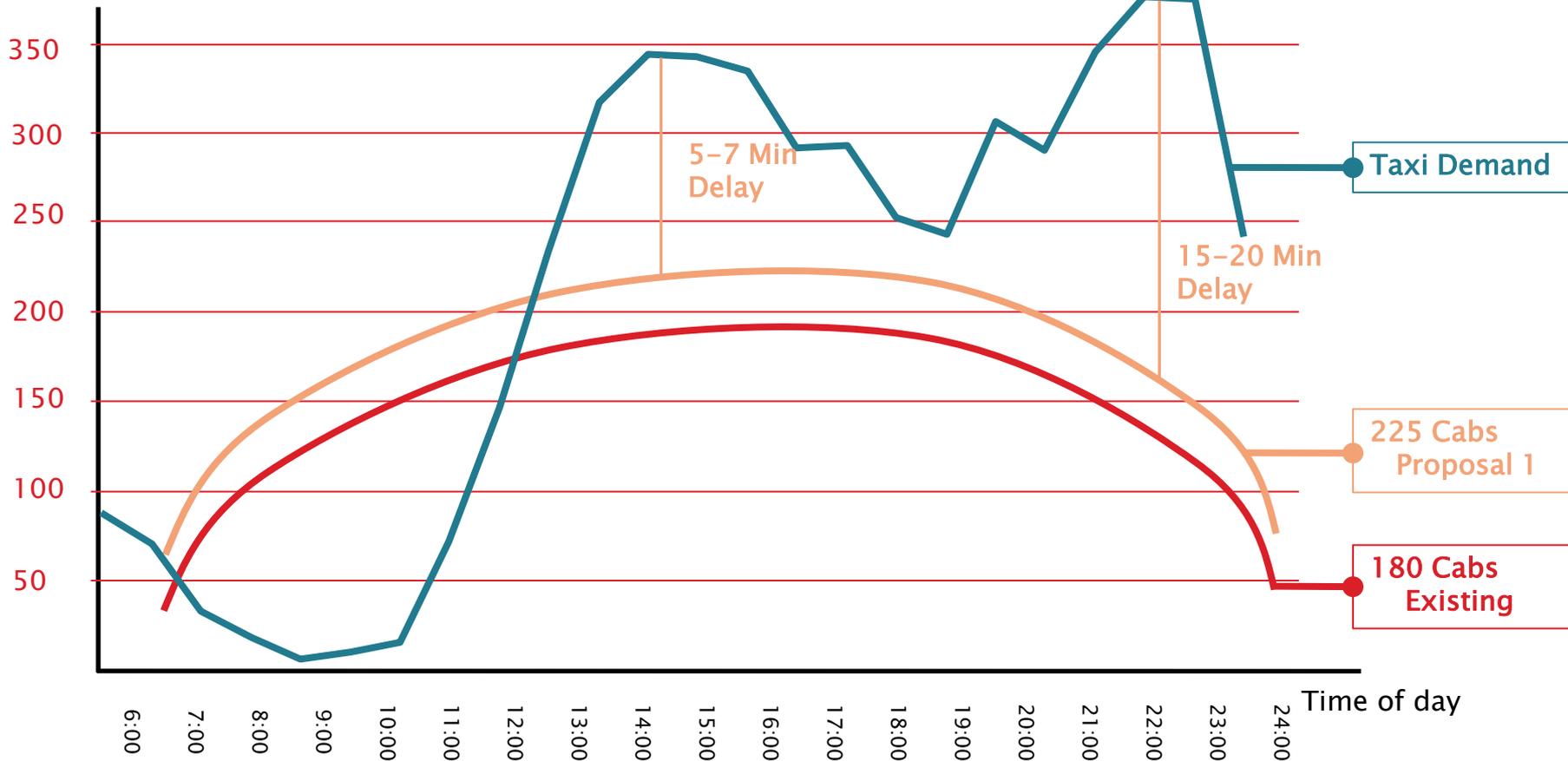
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Modifies present vehicle decal system to allow 45 additional taxicabs per day

- No new Service Permits issued – Redistributes existing airport permits
- Increases daily services levels from 180 to 225 using airport taxicab inventory
- Airport permitted taxicabs only – ensures quality assurance standards
- Can be implemented by January 31, 2011

Typical Daily Taxi Demand VS Typical Taxicab Supply

Number of Taxicabs
Number of Taxi Trips



SOURCE: Jacobsen Daniels Working Paper #4, Taxicab Operations, Comprehensive Ground Transportation Management Plan

Taxicab Improvement Proposal

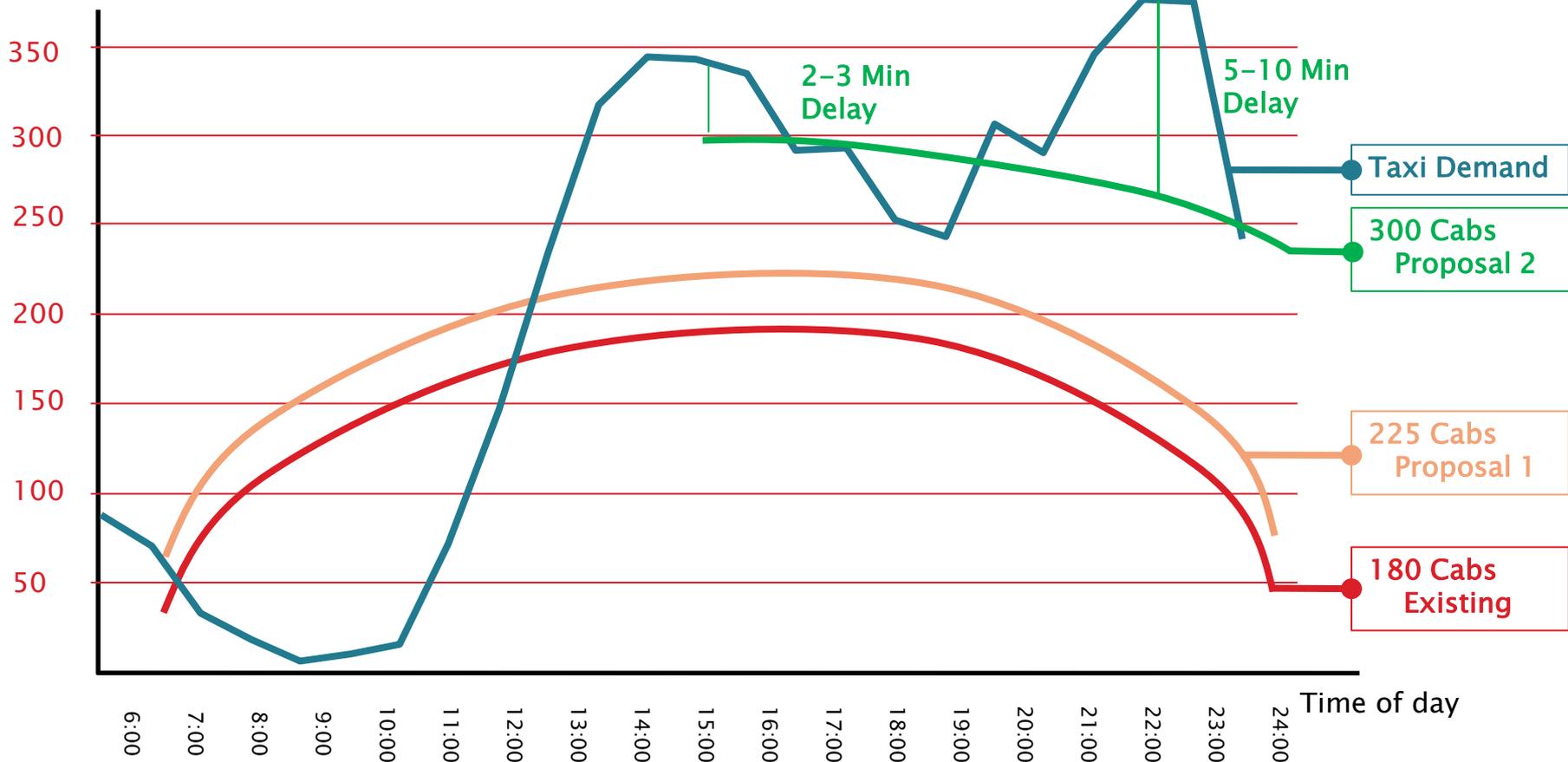
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Increase allowable taxi inventory to include off-day Authority permitted taxicabs.

- Allowed to operate between 2pm and midnight and on an on-call basis.
- Airport will have 225 regular taxicabs each day, augmented by 75 additional taxicabs from 2:00pm until 2:00 am.
- Total taxicabs not to exceed 300 per day.

Typical Daily Taxi Demand VS Typical Taxicab Supply

Number of Taxicabs



SOURCE: Jacobsen Daniels Working Paper #4, Taxicab Operations, Comprehensive Ground Transportation Management Plan

Taxicab Improvement Proposal Benefits

- Adds to evening and late night inventory with airport permitted taxicabs.
- Reduces delay in meeting passenger demand.

Taxicab Industry Outreach

- Several discussions with taxicab industry representatives.
- Taxicab owners / permit holders prepared to react quickly to new service level & schedule change.
- Dependable taxicab availability is central feature in *Airport/Taxicab Industry Partnership Program* MOA being developed.

Recommendations:

- Approve redistribution of existing decals to allow 225 taxicabs per day to service the airport.
- Approve implementation of evening augment of 75 additional taxicabs.
- Amend Code Section 9.12 (a) (1) to accurately reflect the number of taxicabs servicing SDIA each day.

Questions ?



San Diego International Airport