



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday July 26, 2022

6 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Commission members present:

Elizabeth “Buffy” Ellis, Charles Kauffman, David Mohebbi, Francis Creighton, Becaye Traore, Joyce Plaxen,

Commission members absent:

Belay Teklehayimanot, Afework Kidane, and Nelson Biama

MCDOT Staff: Walton Harris, Sam Oji, and Ulysses Delaney

Ex-Officio members Present:

Chris Conklin – Department of Transportation

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Tom Hucker – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee, Montgomery County Council

Guests:

None

The meeting was call to order at 6:03 p.m.

Action Items:

- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to approve the May 31, 2022, meeting minutes. Commission member Plaxen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by all members present.
- Commission member Creighton made a motion to request that the Montgomery County Department of Transportation explore ways to make payments to taxicab drivers based on the level of service provided to the community more equitable. Commission member Kauffman seconded the motion. The motion passed six to one.
- Commission member Kauffman made a motion for the Taxicab Services Commission to draft correspondence to the Director of Transportation which would then be conveyed to the Maryland Public Service Commission regarding Transportation Network Companies. Commission member Mohebbi seconded the motion. The motion passed six to zero with one abstention.

Discussion Items:**Regulations regarding the Transportation Services Improvement Fund**

- Staff provided an update regarding the approved fiscal year 2023 budget and changes to the Transportation Services Improvement Fund.

Status updates regarding meetings with Daniel Koroma with Business Solutions Group:

- Commission member Mohebbi discussed his recent meeting with Daniel Koroma with the Montgomery County Business Solutions Group. Mr. Koroma visited the headquarters of Regency Taxicab to explore how the Business Solutions Group could assist Regency Taxi and the taxicab industry.

Gas Payments to drivers:

- Staff provided an update regarding payments associated with a supplemental appropriation designed to provide temporary assistance to taxicab drivers impacted by the surge in gas prices.

Discussion – Gas prices and gas surcharge

- Commission member Mohebbi discussed the need to implement a surcharge to reward highly active drivers and to incentivize less active drivers to provide more trips.
- Director Conklin indicated his willingness to work with taxicab companies to explore a more equitable means to assist taxicab drivers moving forward.

Discussion – National Employment Law Project – Uber State Interference Report

- Commission Chair Ellis indicated that correspondence should be drafted from the Taxicab Services Commission to Director Conklin regarding unethical and, potentially, illegal activities allegedly perpetrated by Transportation Network Companies. That correspondence would then be shared with Mark Gorman, Director of Transportation, with the Maryland Public Service

Commission.

Meeting adjourned:

Commission member Kauffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission member Mohebbi seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the members present.

Meeting adjourned at 7:07 p.m.