



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday March 29, 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, Joyce Plaxen, Afework Kidane

**Commission members absent:**

Belay Teklehayimanot, Nelson Biama, Becaye Traore

**MCDOT Staff:** Walton Harris, Denise James, Robert Hardesty, Hellen Ojwang

**Ex-Officio members Present:**

None

**Ex-Officio members Absent:**

Chris Conklin – Department of Transportation

Tom Hucker – Montgomery County Council

**Guests:**

None

The meeting was call to order at 6:05 p.m.

**Action Items:**

- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Creighton and the minutes were approved unanimously by the members present.

- Commission members voted to ratify correspondence to the Montgomery County Council and County Executive.

#### **Discussion Items:**

#### **Transportation Services Improvement Fund – Budget Process:**

- MCDOT staff member Harris provided a status update, and additional information regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget process, as it pertains to recommendations from the County Executive regarding the Transportation Services Improvement Fund.
- Commission chair Ellis requested that MCDOT staff provide Commission members with an email regarding upcoming public hearing dates for FY23 budget

#### **Taxicab surcharge regulation change:**

- MCDOT staff member Harris provided information regarding the current regulation regarding implementing a fuel surcharge fee. Staff also provided information detailing measures taken by surrounding jurisdictions to address the increased costs of gas.
- Commission member Mohebbi discussed his involvement in drafting language for the 2009 regulations pertaining to fuel surcharge regulation.
- Commission member Mohebbi suggested the County enact emergency legislation to implement a surcharge for all taxicab trips.
- Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to recommend that MCDOT staff explore the most expeditious process to implement surcharge of \$1.50 for every taxicab trip in Montgomery County.
- Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to recommend that MCDOT immediately implement a \$1.50 surcharge to be added to every taxicab trip in Montgomery County. The motion was seconded by Commission member Kauffman.
- Commission members Plaxen and Creighton were electronically disconnected from the meeting and were not able to vote on the motion on the floor.
- Commission Chair Ellis indicated that she would contact Commission members after the meeting to request a vote on Commission member Mohebbi's second motion and ratify the vote at the next Taxicab Services Commission meeting.

#### **Ridership Data:**

- MCDOT staff member Harris discussed ridership data for traditional sedan trips and wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) trips.

#### **Meeting adjourned:**

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.