



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday April 27, 2021

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

MCDOT Staff:

Sam Oji, Walton Harris, Denise James,

Hellen Ojwang, and Robert Hardesty

Commission members Present:

Elizabeth (Buffy) Ellis, Chair

Robert Alexander, David Mohebbi, Nelson Biama, Belay Teklehayimanot, Francis Creighton, Becaye Traore; Joyce Plaxen, Afework Kidane, and Charles Kauffman

Ex-Officio members Present:

Christopher Conklin

Commission members Absent:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Tom Hucker, Councilmember – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee

Guests:

Shawn Brennan – Department of Health and Human Services

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m.



Action Items:

- Commission member Mohebbi made the motion to approve the minutes from the February 23, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Plaxen. The minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:**Discussion regarding the Taxicab Services Commission's goals and objectives**

- Commission chair Ellis requested that the names and affiliations of each member of the Taxicab Services Commission (TSC) be added to the taxicab page of the county's website.
- Taxicab Office staff discussed the inclusion of taxicab related articles in the county's GO Montgomery Newsletter. Staff indicated that the Taxicab Office would need assistance from the taxicab industry to produce content of topical issues for articles.
- Taxicab Office staff discussed the possibility of Narcan training for drivers, and whether drivers received information regarding a training opportunity provided by the Department of Health and Human Services.
- Commission member Kauffman raised the issue of expanding the role of the TSC to include all other forms of public transportation.
- Commission chair Ellis requested the TSC take more time to explore the issue of changing the scope of the commission's responsibilities.
- Commission guest Shawn Brennan discussed the potential distribution of a survey to older adults and people with disabilities regarding their use of taxicabs and to solicit ideas of how taxicab could improve service.
- Commission member Kauffman suggested that funds from the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) be used for a marketing campaign to advertise wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) services and other services covered by the TSIF.

Discussion regarding the Transportation Services Improvement Fund Data

- Staff provided a brief historical timeline of the Transportation Services Improvement Fund as well as current revenue generated and expenditures from the fund.
- Ex-Officio commission member Conklin suggested that commission members create a list of potential funding opportunities for the fund.
- Commission Chair Ellis requested that each commission member provide suggestions on uses of the TSIF before the May 25 TSC meeting.

Discussion regarding unregulated taxicab service

- Taxicab Office staff provided a summary regarding outreach efforts to unregulated taxicab companies that serve primarily Latino clients. MCDOT is continuing to work with the Office of Community Partnerships on language and a comprehensive outreach strategy to engage those who operate unregulated taxicab service. An additional goal is to reassure the clients who use this service that regulated taxicab services in Montgomery County remain a viable and reliable form of transportation.

Commission member Kauffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission Member Alexander. The meeting was adjourned at 7:33 p.m.