



Taxicab Services Commission

November 18, 2025

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held virtually

Microsoft Teams



Attendees:

Commission members present:

Elizabeth “Buffy” Ellis, David Mohebbi, Charles Kauffman,
Joyce Plaxen, Reza Raoofi

Commission members absent:

Becaye Traore, Afework Kidane, Reza Raoofi, Willie Sumo

MCDOT Staff: Ulysses Delaney, Walton Harris Kristopher Starks, Ulysses Delaney, Antoinette Brunson,

Ex-Officio members Present:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Christopher Conkin – Director – Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Evan Glass – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee

Guests:

None

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:07 p.m.

Action Item:

- The Taxicab Services Commission failed to achieve a quorum for this meeting. Meeting minutes from the September 15, 2025, and the November 18, 2025, meeting must be approved at the January 20, 2026 meeting.

Discussion Items:

Discussion – Executive Regulations

- Montgomery County Department of Transportation staff provided updates on executive regulations recently passed by the Montgomery County Council including Executive Regulation 5-25, Taxicab Age of Vehicle, Executive Regulation 6-25 Taxicab insurance, Executive Regulation 8-25 Taxicab Geographic Areas of Service, and Executive Regulation 23-25 Taxicab Meter Rate

Discussion – Empower Ride Service

- Montgomery County Department of Transportation staff provided an update regarding Empower Ride Service, an unregulated Transportation Network Company currently providing service in Maryland, Virginia, and Washington D.C. area.
- Empower is currently involved in litigation before the Maryland Public Service Commission to determine if it is a Transportation Network Company.

Discussion – Expanding Transportation Services Improvement Funds Benefits to sedan operators

- Commission chair Ellis discussed the need to expand Transportation Services Improvement Fund benefits to sedan taxicab operators.
- Commission member Mohebbi suggested that the new meter rate would help taxicab operators and recruitment.
- Commission member Raoofi indicated that the County may need to assist with recruitment of taxicab operators and also the cost of placing a taxicab into revenue service.
- Commission member Mohebbi suggested additional incentives to help recruit and retain taxicab operators.

Discussion – Report from Taxicab Code Enforcement Inspectors

- Taxicab Code Enforcement Inspector Starks discussed the Executive Regulation 5-25 Taxicab – Age of Vehicles and urged taxicab operators and taxicab fleet owners to ensure that vehicles which are now permitted to remain in service longer continue to adhere to the Montgomery Code standards.
- Taxicab Code Enforcement Inspector Delaney discussed Medicaid and Call-n-Ride Complaints.

Discussion – 2026 Taxicab Service Commission meeting dates

- Commission Chair Ellis indicated that she would email commission members to poll how frequently the commission should meet in 2026 as well as a suggested dates.

New Business:

No new business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned:

Due to the commission failing to achieve quorum for this meeting, the meeting ended when all of the agenda items were concluded.

Meeting adjourned at 6:52 p.m.