



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday February 22, 2022

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams



**Attendees:**

**Commission members present:**

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

**Commission members absent:**

Belay Teklehayimanot, Nelson Biama, Joyce Plaxen, Afework Kidane

**MCDOT Staff:** Sam Oji, 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:**

Shawn Brennan - Department of Health and Human Services

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

**Action Items:**

- Commission member Creighton made a motion to approve the minutes from the October 26, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Kauffman and the minutes were approved unanimously by the members present.

**Discussion Items:****Resolution to reduce fees:**

- MCDOT staff member Harris provided information regarding the new fee schedule for taxicab drivers, Passenger Vehicle License holders, and fleet operators.
- Commission member Mohebbs expressed his interest in including the vehicle transfer fee, imposed when not transferring a sedan to a wheelchair accessible vehicle, to future discussions regarding fee reductions.
- Commission member Creighton suggested that the Commission send a letter to appreciation to the County Council for reducing fees.
- Commission member Traore discussed his interest in retaining the vehicle transfer fee as an incentive to increase the availability of wheelchair accessible vehicles.

**Taxicab survey results:**

- Guest Brennan discussed results of a recent survey of taxicabs and the taxicab industry by current and former taxicab clients.
- Commission member Mohebbs discussed issues raised in the survey including extended wait times.
- Commission member Creighton urged the County to keep the interconnectivity of transit and the taxicab industry front of mind.

**Transportation Services Improvement Fund recommendations:**

- MCDOT staff member Oji provided a status update regarding status of the Taxicab Services Commission recommendations regarding the Transportation Services Improvement Fund.

**Joint Health and Human Services and Transportation and Environment Committee meeting:**

- Commission chair Ellis and Commission member Mohebbs discussed their participation in a recent joint Health and Human Services and Transportation and Environment Committee meeting before the County Council.
- MCDOT staff member Harris mentioned that Councilmember Glass raised the issue of the need for viable transportation options for residents to houses of worship. Kate Chance, Liaison to the Faith Community, with the Montgomery County recently met with the Taxicab Services Commission to explore potential synergies that may exist.

- Commission member Creighton raised the issue of surges in rideshare request Sundays at 10 a.m.

**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 7:15 p.m.