



Taxicab Services Commission

March 18, 2025

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held Virtually on MS Teams



Attendees:

Commission members present:

Elizabeth “Buffy” Ellis, David Mohebbi, Willie Sumo, Reza Raoofi, Charles Kauffman, Afework Kidane

Commission members absent:

Nelson Biama, Joyce Plaxen, Becaye Traore,

MCDOT Staff: Ulysses Delaney, Walton Harris, Kofi Bempah, Kristopher Starks, Ulysses Delaney, Sam Oji, Antoinette Brunson, Nataliia Padilla

Ex-Officio members Present:

Christopher Conkin – Director – Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Evan Glass – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee

Guests:

None

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

Action Item:

- Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to approve the January 21, 2025, Taxicab Services Commission meeting minutes. Commission member Kauffman seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all commission members in attendance.

Discussion Items:

Discussion – Taxicab Meter Rate Increase

- Commission member Sumo suggested that the taximeter not be increased due to the current fiscal and financial climate as well as the impact on passengers with limited incomes.

- Commission member Kidane suggested that the taximeter should be increased to assist taxicab operators who provide service in traditional sedan vehicles.
- Commission member Mohebbi indicated that wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) taxicab operators receive additional benefit due to the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) and traditional sedan operators need an increase in the meter rate.

Discussion – Conversation with Call-n-Ride Program Participant

- Commission Chair Ellis detailed a discussion with a Call-n-Ride Program participant who expressed interest in meeting with the chair to discuss deficiencies within the taxicab industry.
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Discussion – Report from Taxicab Code Enforcement Inspectors

- Code Enforcement Inspector Starks discussed the dearth of taxicabs, at night, in populous locations including Pike & Rose and Rockville Town Center.
- Commission member Raoofi attributed the lack taxicabs providing service in the evening to the diminishing number of taxicab operators in general.
- Commission member Sumo indicated that residents in more populous areas preferred using Uber and Lyft.
- Commission member Kidane indicated that he is providing services to an increasing number of subsidized customers.

Discussion – Taxicab Services Commission – Member recruitment

- Commission Chair Ellis discussed TSC membership and the effort to recruit new members.
- Commission member Kaufman suggested that the composition of the commission not be changed.
- Commission members Mohebbi, Kidane, and Sumo agreed with Commission member Kauffman's suggestion.

New Business

- Commission Chair Ellis suggested that the Commission have an in-person meeting in either the Summer or early Fall of 2025.
- Commission members Kaufman, Sumo, and Raoofi suggested that the commission host an in-person meeting in September.

Meeting adjourned:

Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Sumo. The motion was passed unanimously by those in attendance.

Meeting adjourned at 7:17 p.m.