



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday May 21, 2024

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams



Attendees:

Commission members present:

Elizabeth “Buffy” Ellis, David Mohebbi, Charles Kauffman, Afework Kidane

Commission members absent:

Nelson Biama, Becaye Traore, Reza Raoofi, Joyce Plaxen

MCDOT Staff: Ulysses Delaney, Walton Harris, Kofi Bempah, Kristopher Starks, Ulysses Delaney, Sam Oji

Ex-Officio members Present:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Chris Conklin – Director – Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Evan Glass – Montgomery County Council President and Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee

Guests:

Ken Sloate – Management and Budget Specialist – Division of Transit

Willie Sumo – Taxicab Services Commission Member – pending approval

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:04 p.m.

Action Item:

- Taxicab Regulation Unit staff informed Chair Ellis that January 24, 2024, and the March 26, 2024, Taxicab Services Commission meetings could not be approved due to the lack of a quorum of Taxicab Services Commission members. Staff indicated that minutes to these meetings will be sent to members and the commission could then vote to approve at the July 16, 2024 meeting.

Discussion Items:

Discussion – Maryland General Assembly Senate Bill 505 and house Bill 1133 to increase the assessment to Transportation Network Companies

- Prior to the discussion regarding Maryland General Assembly Senate Bill 505 and 1133, Ken Sloate discussed with the Taxicab Services Commission the Division of Transit's budget and priorities process.
- MCDOT staff member Sloate's participation was prompted by questions regarding funding for a specific request from Commission member Kauffman.
- Commission Chair Ellis discussed the failures of Senate Bill 505 and House Bill 133 before the General Assembly.
- Commission Chair Ellis discussed new and related state legislation that would impose a 25 cent assessment on TNC trips, those proceeds would be earmarked for the State of Maryland's Transportation Trust Fund.

Discussion – Biennial Report

- Commission Chair introduced the topic of a meter rate increase as it pertains the overall submission of the Biennial Report.
- Commission members discussed increasing the meter rate by various amounts.
- Commission Chair Ellis raised the issue of the sunseting legislation regarding the age of vehicles.
- MCDOT staff discussed increasing the age of vehicles for WAVs, alternative, hybrid, and flex fuel vehicles taxicabs, as well as traditional sedans.
- Commission member Mohebbi suggested that the age of all vehicles be extended to 10 years.

Discussion – Changes to the Composition of the Taxicab Services Commission

- Commission Chair Ellis discussed interviewing a PVL owner-operator Wille Sumo with Commission member Plaxen for a vacant TSC position.
- MCDOT staff member Harris suggested the commission include a representative from the Montgomery County Conference and Visitors Bureau.
- Commission members reiterated potentially including a Call-n-Ride Program participant on the commission.

New business

- No new business was discussed.

Meeting adjourned:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 p.m.