



Taxicab Services Commission

June 17, 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, Charles Kauffman, Afework Kidane, Joyce Plaxen

Commission members absent:

Nelson Biama, Becaye Traore, Reza Raoofi

MCDOT Staff: Ulysses Delaney, Walton Harris, Kofi Bempah, Kristopher Starks, Ulysses Delaney, Sam Oji, 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 6:03 p.m.

Action Item:

- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to approve the March 18, 2025, Taxicab Services Commission meeting minutes. Commission member Sumo seconded the motion, and the motion was passed unanimously by all commission members in attendance.
- Chair Ellis requested that the next Taxicab Services Commission meeting scheduled for Tuesday, September 23, 2025, be moved to Monday, September 15, 2025.

Discussion Items:**Discussion – Empower Car Service**

- Montgomery County Department of Transportation staff provided an update regarding Empower Car Service, and the company's efforts to not be designated as a Transportation Network Company (TNC) by the Maryland Public Services Commission.

Discussion – Taxicab Meter Rate Increase

- Commission members discussed the suggestions provided to the Montgomery County Department of Transportation in the Commission's 2024 Biennial Report.
- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to request that the Montgomery County Department of Transportation advance a regulation with changes to the meter that reflects the suggestions provided to the department in the Biennial Report to the Montgomery County Council. Commission member Mohebbi seconded the motion. The motion was approved by all commission members in attendance.

Discussion – Report from Taxicab Code Enforcement Inspectors

- Code Enforcement inspectors provided updates and findings from the annual cosmetic inspections which were held in April.

Discussion – Taxicab Services Commission – Member suggestions to Support the Taxicab Industry

- Commission member Kauffman discussed a proposal to encourage drivers who are seniors to relinquish their driver's licenses, to sell their vehicles, and be provided with a card that could be used for taxicab service.

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 6:59 p.m.