



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday September 28, 2022

6 p.m. – 7:05 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Commission members present:

Elizabeth “Buffy” Ellis, Charles Kauffman, David Mohebbi, Afework Kidane, Becaye Traore, Joyce Plaxen, Biama Nelson

Commission members absent:

Belay Teklehayimanot and Francis Creighton

MCDOT Staff: Ulysses Delaney, Denise James, Walton Harris, and Sam Oji

Ex-Officio members Present:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Tom Hucker – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee, Montgomery County Council

Chris Conklin – Department of Transportation

Guests:

None

The meeting was call to order at 6:06 p.m.

Action Items:

- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to approve the July 26, 2022, meeting minutes. Commission member Plaxen seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by all members present.
- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to explore the necessary steps to send a letter to the Maryland Delegation to increase the surcharge fee assessed to Transportation Network Companies from .25 cent to .50 cent. Commission member Mohebbi seconded the motion.
- Commission member Kauffman withdrew his motion and introduced a new motion to explore the necessary steps to send a letter to the Maryland Delegation to increase the surcharge fee assessed to Transportation Network Companies from .25 cents to \$1. Commission member Mohebbi seconded the motion. The motion was unanimously approved by all members present.

Discussion Items:**Update Regarding Supplemental Appropriation for Gas Payment to Taxicab Drivers**

- Staff provided an update regarding the conclusion of payments to taxicab drivers to offset the increased cost of gas.
- Staff indicated that the department is still in the process of exploring different methodologies to calculate payments to drivers if prices increase significantly in the future.
- Commission member Kidane indicated that the gas payments to drivers were helpful to drivers.
- Staff provided a brief update regarding the increased distribution to taxicab drivers from the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) as a result of the implementation of Temporary Regulation 15-22T.
- Commission members discussed the possibility of drafting correspondence to state leaders regarding an increase to the surcharge fee assessed to Transportation Network Companies.

Correspondence to MCDOT Director Conklin regarding potential Uber investigation.

- Commission Chair Ellis discussed the draft correspondence to Director Conklin which would in turn be sent to Mark Gorman, Director of Transportation, with the Maryland Public Service Commission.
- Commission members discussed including language in the correspondence to Director Gorman to increase the surcharge fee assessed to Transportation Network Companies.

Input from Commission members who represent specific groups

- Commission members discussed a proposal to proactively connect with groups and community stakeholders that certain Commission members represent.

Ridership data and taxicab industry participation

- Staff provided an overview of ridership trends and taxicab license renewals from FY2019 through FY2022.

General Discussion

- Commission Chair Ellis raised the issue of convening in person Taxicab Service Commission meetings in the near future.
- Commission members indicated a desire to continue to meet virtually, but to perhaps have an annual in person meeting.

Meeting adjourned:

Commission member Kauffman made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission member Plaxen seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the members present.

Meeting adjourned at 7:23 p.m.