



Taxicab Services Commission

January 21, 2025

6:30 p.m. – 8 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

Ex-Officio members Present:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Chris Conklin – Director – Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Evan Glass – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee

Guests:

Cosmin Casiean – Regency Taxi

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:33 p.m.

Action Item:

- Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to approve the September 17, 2024 Taxicab Services Commission meeting minutes, Commission member Raoofi seconded the motion and the meeting minutes were approved unanimously by all commission members in attendance. Commission member Charles Kauffman made a motion to approve the November 19, 2024 Taxicab Services Commission meeting minutes and the motion was seconded by Commission member David Mohebbi. The meeting minutes were approved unanimously by all commission members in attendance.

Discussion Items:

Discussion – The 2024 Biennial Report

- Taxicab Regulation Unit staff informed commission members that the Taxicab Services Commission's 2024 Biennial Report was successfully transmitted to Council President Kate Stewart and members of the County Council.
- Commission members expressed interest in the proposal for a meter rate increase as described in the 2024 Biennial Report.
- Commission Chair Ellis emphasized to staff that the recommendations from the commission should be conveyed to Ex-Officio member, and MCDOT Director, Chris Conklin.

Discussion – Transportation Services Improvement Fund Data

- Taxicab Regulation Unit staff discussed Transportation Services Improvement Fund metrics and mentioned proposed changes in reimbursement rates to wheelchair accessible vehicle taxicab operators.
- Department of Transportation staff member Oji discussed a pending change to the Call-n-Ride Program which would permit Call-n-Ride Program participants to use Uber and Lyft.
- Commission member Kidane expressed his displeasure with the change in policy to permit program participants to use Uber and Lyft for Call-n-Ride trips.
- Commission Chair Ellis suggested that taxicab operators should be permitted to transport Uber and Lyft passengers.

Discussion – EZRide Montgomery – Budget Request

- Taxicab Regulation Unit staff informed commission members that a funding request of \$50,000 to study the viability of the EZRide Montgomery Program was not forwarded by the Office of Management and Budget for inclusion in the County Executive's FY26 Recommended Operating Budget.
- Commission member Raoofi indicated that Action Taxi currently provides outreach to senior residents with a similar program.
- Commission guest Cosmin Casiean, representing Regency Taxi, indicated that Regency attempted a similar program targeting senior passengers.
- Commission member Kauffman suggested working more closely on this issue with the taxicab industry.

Discussion – Taxicab Services Commission – Member Recruitment

- Commission members discussed recruiting new Taxicab Services Commission members and engagement of current members.

- Commission member Mohebby indicated that he would inquire with taxicab operators to gauge their interest in serving on the Taxicab Services Commission.
- Department staff member Oji indicated that he would work with Call-n-Ride staff to determine if a program participant would be interested in serving on the commission.

New Business

- No new business discussed.

Meeting adjourned:

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

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.