Taxicab Services Commission
Tuesday March 29, 2022
6 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:
Commission members present:
Elizabeth “Buffy” Ellis, Charles Kauffman, David Mohebbi, Francis Creighton, Joyce Plaxen, Afework Kidane

Commission members absent:
Belay Teklehayimanot, Nelson Biama, Becaye Traore

MCDOT Staff: Walton Harris, Denise James, Robert Hardesty, Hellen Ojwang

Ex-Officio members Present:
None

Ex-Officio members Absent:
Chris Conklin – Department of Transportation
Tom Hucker – Montgomery County Council

Guests:
None
The meeting was call to order at 6:05 p.m.

Action Items:
- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes from the February 22, 2022, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Creighton and the minutes were approved unanimously by the members present.
• Commission members voted to ratify correspondence to the Montgomery County Council and County Executive.

Discussion Items:

Transportation Services Improvement Fund – Budget Process:
• MCDOT staff member Harris provided a status update, and additional information regarding the Fiscal Year (FY) 2023 budget process, as it pertains to recommendations from the County Executive regarding the Transportation Services Improvement Fund.
• Commission chair Ellis requested that MCDOT staff provide Commission members with an email regarding upcoming public hearing dates for FY23 budget

Taxicab surcharge regulation change:
• MCDOT staff member Harris provided information regarding the current regulation regarding implementing a fuel surcharge fee. Staff also provided information detailing measures taken by surrounding jurisdictions to address the increased costs of gas.
• Commission member Mohebbi discussed his involvement in drafting language for the 2009 regulations pertaining to fuel surcharge regulation.
• Commission member Mohebbi suggested the County enact emergency legislation to implement a surcharge for all taxicab trips.
• Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to recommend that MCDOT staff explore the most expeditious process to implement surcharge of $1.50 for every taxicab trip in Montgomery County.
• Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to recommend that MCDOT immediately implement a $1.50 surcharge to be added to every taxicab trip in Montgomery County. The motion was seconded by Commission member Kauffman.
• Commission members Plaxen and Creighton were electronically disconnected from the meeting and were not able to vote on the motion on the floor.
• Commission Chair Ellis indicated that she would contact Commission members after the meeting to request a vote on Commission member Mohebbi’s second motion and ratify the vote at the next Taxicab Services Commission meeting.

Ridership Data:
• MCDOT staff member Harris discussed ridership data for traditional sedan trips and wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) trips.

Meeting adjourned:
Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commission member Kauffman seconded the motion. The motion was passed unanimously by the members present.

Meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.