



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday June 29, 2021

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

MCDOT Staff:

Sam Oji, Walton Harris, Denise James, and

Hellen Ojwang

Commission members Present:

Elizabeth (Buffy) Ellis, Chair

Robert Alexander, David Mohebbi, Nelson Biama, Belay Teklehayimanot, Francis Creighton, Becaye Traore; Joyce Plaxen, Afework Kidane, and Charles Kauffman

Ex-Officio members Present:

None

Commission members Absent:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Christopher Conklin – Director – Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Tom Hucker, Councilmember – Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee

Guests:

None

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m.



Action Items:

- Commission member Creighton made a motion to approve the minutes from the May 25, 2021, meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Kauffman and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Discussion: Ideas for expenditures from the Transportation Services Improvement Fund

- Chair Ellis provided an overview of the suggestions and rankings provided by some Taxicab Service Commission members on ways to better utilize the Transportation Services Improvement Fund (TSIF) and clarified why some options were not included in the final chart.
- MCDOT staff member Sam Oji discussed the Same-Day Access Program and how that relates to the taxicab companies that participate in the Call-n-Ride Program. A change was made to the text of the ranking document to further clarify that the Same-Day Access Program is a part of the Call-n-Ride Program.
- Commission member Traore further inquired about the Same-Day Access Program and how it relates to the MetroAccess Program.
- Commission chair Ellis requested that option 11 regarding Same-Day Access be eliminated from consideration by the Commission.
- Commission chair Ellis requested that option two regarding establishing a program where the County purchases wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV) taxicab, then leases them to taxicab companies, be eliminated from consideration by the Commission.
- Commission member Plaxen ranked options one, three, and four.
- Commission member Biama requested guidance regarding the options presented for members who are participating via telephone.
- Commission member Kauffman recommended against fully subsidizing WAV taxis.
- Commission member Traore requested that the County provide a voucher or a letter which drivers could provide to dealers indicating that the County will reimburse for up to \$15,000.
- Commission member Traore ranked options one, three, and four.
- Commission member Biama ranked one option and requested additional time to rank the additional options after the meeting.
- Commission member Kidane ranked options one, three, and four. Commission member Teklehaymanot requested additional time to rank options.
- Commission member Creighton suggests alternative language to option one.
- Commission member Plaxen ranked options eight, nine, ten, and twelve.

- Commission member Traore ranked options eight, nine, ten, and twelve.
- Commission member Kidane ranked options eight, nine, ten, and twelve.
- Commission member Biama ranked options eight, nine, ten, and twelve.

Discussion: Other Business

- Commission chair Ellis requested a status update from fleet operators regarding recruitment efforts.
- Commission members Mohebbi and Alexander provided an update on driver recruitment efforts and ridership.
- Commission member Creighton requested a status update the perspective from drivers regarding ridership.
- Commission member Biama raised the issue of drivers potentially being discouraged from returning to the taxicab industry due to outstanding balances associated with lot fees.
- Commission member Alexander requested that the Commission not discuss the business policies of individual taxicab companies.

Commission member Creighton made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Kauffman. The meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.