



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday October 26, 2021

6 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams



Attendees:

Commission members present:

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

Commission members absent:

Belay Teklehayimanot, Francis Creighton

MCDOT Staff: Sam Oji, Walton Harris, Denise James, Robert Hardesty

Ex-Officio members Present:

None

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Chris Conklin – Department of Transportation

Tom Hucker – Montgomery County Council

Guests:

Kate Chance – Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships

Shawn Brennan – Montgomery County Department of Health and Human Services

Peter Ibik – Montgomery Union Anytime Taxi

Reza Raoofi – Action Taxi

Cosmin Casiean – Regency Taxi

Kennan Kasari – Action Taxi

The meeting was call to order at 6:04 p.m.

Action Items:

- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 29, 2021 meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Mohebbi and the minutes were approved unanimously.

Discussion Items:

Introduction and discussion with Kate Chance – Montgomery County’s Faith Community Liaison:

- Ms. Chance discussed the potential of the taxicab industry serving as a resource for refugees from Afghanistan.
- MCDOT staff provided Ms. Chance with information regarding available programs for individuals who are disabled, seniors, and individuals with limited incomes.
- MCDOT staff provided Ms. Chance with information regarding free taxicab trips for vaccination purposes.
- Ms. Chance invited Action Taxi, Montgomery Union Anytime Taxi, and Regency to attend an upcoming faith advisory council meeting.
- MCDOT staff indicated that contact information with for Ms. Chance would be shared with each of the three taxicab companies.

Discussion regarding the Transportation Services Improvement Fund:

- MCDOT staff provided an update regarding the TSC’s recommendations to the TSIF and indicated that the Commission on Aging, and the Commission on People with Disabilities provided MCDOT with additional recommendations for use of the Fund.
- Commission member Mohebbi discussed the increase in the price of wheelchair accessible vehicles.
- Commission member Kauffman suggested that the TSC recommend a moratorium on the mandatory phase out of vehicles older than eight model years by two years.
- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to authorize Chair Ellis to request a two-year extension for the in-service age eligibility for taxicab vehicles. The motion was seconded by Commission member Plaxen.
- Commission member Traore expressed concern about extending the age of in-service eligibility for taxicab vehicles due to safety.
- Commission member Kauffman made a motion, in the event that MCDOT did not pursue the extension of the in-service age eligibility of taxicab vehicles from eight to ten years, to request a moratorium on the enforcement of the current law. The motion was seconded by David Mohebbi.

Discussion regarding the Taxicab Industry Survey:

- Guest Brennan discussed the Department of Health and Human Services' work to create and circulate a survey of taxicab users, with results to be made available after November 23.

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.