



Taxicab Services Commission

Tuesday March 7, 2023

6 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.

Meeting held via Microsoft Teams

Attendees:

Commission members present:

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

Commission members absent:

None

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

Ex-Officio members Present:

Chris Conklin – Director – Montgomery County Department of Transportation

Ex-Officio members Absent:

Montgomery County Council Chair of the Transportation and Environment Committee or designee not appointed at time of meeting.

Guests:

None

Chair Ellis called the meeting to order at 6:03 p.m.

Action Items:

- Commission member Kauffman made a motion to approve the minutes from the September 28, 2022, and December 6, 2022, Taxicab Service Commission meetings. The motion was seconded by Commission member Mohebbi. The motion passed unanimously, and the minutes were approved.
- Commission member Kaufmann made a motion to request that MCDOT explore expanding Call-n-Ride service to seniors in exchange for those seniors selling the vehicle that they operate.
- At the suggestion of Ex-Officio member Conklin, commission member Kauffman made a motion to request funds from the Transportation Services Improvement Fund for a feasibility study of a program to provide transportation services to seniors via taxicab in exchange for those seniors selling the vehicle that they operate. Commission member Mohebbi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.
- Commission member Kauffman withdrew his initial motion for a feasibility study of a program to provide transportation services to seniors in exchange for those seniors selling the vehicle that they operate.
- Commission member Mohebbi made a motion to require one year of driving experience in the United States prior to becoming a licensed taxicab driver. Commission member Kauffman seconded the motion. The motion passed with six votes in favor and one vote opposed.

Announcements

None

Discussion Items:

Driving record requirement – Chapter 53 Section 53-308

- Commission member Mohebbi raised the issue of MCDOT's requirement for taxicab driver identification card applicants to provide their driving record for the previous three years before obtaining a license.

Meeting with Melanie Wenger – Transportation Network Companies Surcharge

- Chair Ellis discussed arranging a meeting with Melanie Wenger, Director, with the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs to discuss potential legislation at the state to increase the surcharge assessed to Transportation Network Companies.

State Legislation – Human Trafficking Awareness Training

- MCDOT staff presented information regarding House Bill 1053 – Child Exploitation and Human Trafficking Awareness Training in the Maryland General Assembly.

Disbursements from the Transportation Services Improvement Fund

- MCDOT staff provided information regarding the payment process and timelines associated with drivers who operate wheelchair accessible taxicab service.
- Commission member Traore suggested not disclosing that wheelchair accessible taxicab drivers receive an additional reimbursement for providing wheelchair accessible taxicab trips when MCDOT staff conducts verification phone calls.

Call-n-Ride Plus Program

- Commission member Kauffman discussed his proposed Call-n-Ride Plus program which would incentivize seniors to sell the vehicle that they drive if that senior, or their family, believes that permitting the senior to continue operating a vehicle would be a hazard.
- Commission member Traore raised the issue of Call-n-Ride customers calling multiple taxicab companies for a single trip.
- MCDOT staff member Oji suggested that taxicab drivers and companies inform the department if they experience an individual contacting multiple taxicab companies for service. MCDOT would then contact those program participants to discourage the practice.

Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) and Call-n-Ride Trip data for FY 23 Q1 and Q2

- MCDOT staff provided ridership data and total invoice pay amounts for the second quarter of fiscal year 2023. Staff also provided comparative data for the first quarter of fiscal year 2023.

New business

- No new business

Meeting adjourned:

Commission member Kaufmann made a motion to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Commission member Mohebbi. The motion was passed unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 p.m.