

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System
Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting

TAXI 585.3

December 17, 2015

10:00 a.m.

James R. Mills Building
Board Meeting Room, 10th Floor
1255 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

MINUTES

NOTE: Due to technical problems with the recording, the following minutes for the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting have been composed using MTS Taxicab Administration staff notes taken during the meeting. If any important items have been omitted and should be included in the minutes, please contact MTS staff at 619.595.3086 prior to the next meeting.

1. Roll Call

Councilmember Cole, Chair of the Committee, called the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting to order at 10:06 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – July 2, 2015

Mr. Hamidi moved for approval of the minutes of the July 2, 2015, Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Nahavdian seconded the motion, and the vote was 10 to 0 in favor with Messrs. Haratian, Mayekawa and Staples absent, and Councilmember Cole abstaining.

3. Non-Agenda Public Comment

Margot Tanguay – Comments.

4. Management and Committee Member Communications

Mr. Hueso stated that he wants a better way for items to be added to the agenda before the agenda is final. Bill Kellerman, MTS Taxicab Administration Manager, replied that they can do that and will distribute the agenda earlier before it is finalized for suggestions. Mr. Hueso also requested that more meetings be held each year. Mr. Kellerman said that they would look into adding more meetings per year.

Mr. Palmeri stated that MTS is not working with the taxi industry during these hard times. He said that people can't afford to stay in business and have been pulling their cars out of service for a couple of months so they don't have to pay for maintenance and insurance costs.

Mr. Abraham commented that the San Diego City Council and MTS need to help the taxicab industry. He stated that the drivers are not making any money.

Councilmember Cole commented that she is going to meet with Councilmember Emerald to discuss the general taxicab industry concerns and safety issues. She noted that potentially the concerns could go to a City Council Committee or a City Council meeting to move forward on these issues.

Update – New City of San Diego Permits

Mr. Kellerman discussed new permits and reported the following numbers:

612 – Applications received or processed
1,300 – General interest requests
236 – Completed applications
128 – Approved permit holders as of today (December 17, 2015)

Sharon Cooney, MTS Chief of Staff, commented that a taxicab report will be provided to the MTS Board of Directors at its January 14, 2016 meeting. She noted that a pilot program will be done by giving group orientations instead of individual orientations.

Mr. Hamidi commented that it is important to have additional taxi stands. Mr. Kellerman commented that a list of areas for recommended taxi stands was provided to Councilmember Emerald's office and staff is awaiting a response.

5. MTS Taxicab Administration Fiscal Year (FY) 2016 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment (TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)

Lucas Kromer, MTS Financial Analyst, provided a presentation on the FY 2016 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment.

Action Taken

Mr. Nahavandian moved to receive the FY 2016 Mid-Year Budget Adjustment. Mr. Hueso seconded the motion, and the vote was 9 to 0 in favor with Messrs. Boenitz, Haratian, Mayekawa and Staples absent, and Councilmember Cole abstaining.

Comments

Mr. Palmeri asked how much revenue came in from the 128 new permits. He stated that the numbers reported by Mr. Kellerman didn't seem to match the information from the financial report. Mr. Kromer replied that the financial data reflected the fiscal year first quarter. Mr. Kellerman replied that the permit numbers reflected year to date activity.

Mr. Lemma asked how MTS is calculating the application fee of \$4,250. Mr. Kellerman replied that annual fees have always been determined by the operating budget and a nominal reserve. The Taxicab Administration is required to operate on cost recovery. Mr. Kellerman reminded the committee that the increase in revenue, due to application fees, is a one-time influx of revenue that will not be repeated. He also explained that expenditures may increase due to staffing increases and facility needs, therefore it would not be prudent to lower fees midstream in the new permit application process. Mr. Kellerman said that if a

very large reserve were to remain into coming years, it may be appropriate to adjust fees in the future.

Mr. Hamidi commented that MTS reserves are increasing and MTS is becoming rich and has a lot of money to use. He stated that he has full confidence that Mr. Kellerman will spend it in an efficient and appropriate manner. He also commented that he believes that there should be a lower annual fee and it should be prorated based on when the application was received. Mr. Kellerman said that he will discuss that suggestion with staff. Ms. Cooney reminded the Committee that MTS couldn't use Taxicab fee revenue for non-Taxicab purposes.

4. Management and Committee Member Communications – Continued (TAKEN OUT OF ORDER)

Virginia Avenue

Oswaldo Meneses, MTS Associate Transportation Planner, provided a presentation on the design for the new transit facility at the San Ysidro border crossing.

Public Comment

Michel Anderson – Mr. Anderson asked about privately owned vehicles (POVs), such as Uber and Lyft, and whether or not those would be allowed at the new transit facility. He said that if the POVs include Uber and Lyft, then that would be promoting them more than the taxicabs. Ms. Cooney said that this is a City of San Diego decision and should be discussed with the City of San Diego. Councilmember Cole said that she is going to look into the City's plan herself in regards to POVs.

Committee Comments

Mr. Hueso stated that taxicabs pay into the use and maintenance of the taxicab stands and others, such as Uber and Lyft, do not and they should be required to pay towards those costs.

City Taxicab Stands

Mr. Kellerman provided a summary on City taxicab stands. Ms. Cooney inquired if the committee had interest in sending a letter to the San Diego City Council requesting an expedited process for installing additional taxicab stands. There was a consensus by the committee for MTS to draft such a letter.

Public Comment

Margot Tanguay – Ms. Tanguay provided a history of taxicab stands and stated that it is generally hard to get new stands.

6. Proposal to Add Non-Voting Committee Member

Mr. Kellerman provided a summary on the item to add Marco Mares of County Weights and Measures as a non-voting member.

Mr. Hamidi commented that the Airport Authority member, David Boenitz, is a voting member and the other governmental agency members were non-voting members. He said that is not fair. Ms. Cooney explained that MTS has a regulatory role in the taxicab permitting process at the airport so the situation is different.

Mr. Mares provided his background and responsibilities in his position.

Action Taken

A motion was moved and seconded to add a non-voting committee member. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor with Messrs. Boenitz, Haratian, Mayekawa and Staples absent, and Councilmember Cole abstaining.

7. Taxicab Advisory Committee Member Permit Holder Nomination and Election Process

Councilmember Cole asked for a motion to approve this item. No motion was offered on this item.

Mr. Hamidi commented that he doesn't think there should be so many lease driver representatives because the goal of lease drivers on the committee was to get permits. Now that lease drivers can acquire permits, there is not as much interest to serve on the committee. He suggested reducing the number of lease driver representatives from five to one on the Taxicab Advisory Committee.

Mr. Nahavanian stated that he wants to add one additional spot under Category Two, so that there would be an increase from two permit holders to three permit holders in Category Two.

Action Taken

A motion was made and seconded to reduce the number of representative in the lease driver category from five to one and to add one additional representative to Category Two (bringing the total to three), and to bring this recommendation for changes to the Committee guidelines to the MTS Board. The vote was 9 to 0 in favor with Messrs. Boenitz, Haratian, Mayekawa and Staples absent, and Councilmember Cole abstaining.

8. Taxicab Advisory Committee Member Lease Driver Representative Nomination and Election Process

This item was deferred to a later meeting.

Public Comment

Margo Tanguay – Ms. Tanguay requested that she be an observer to the elections to ensure that they are done correctly.

9. Next Meeting – To Be Determined.

Councilmember Cole noted that there will be a new Chairperson for the Taxicab Advisory Committee going forward.

10. Adjournment

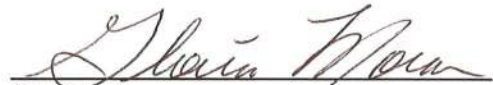
The meeting was adjourned at 12:10 p.m.

Accepted:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Lorie Zapf", written over a horizontal line.

Lorie Zapf for Myrtle Cole
Chair of Taxicab Advisory Committee

Filed by:

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Gloria Moran", written over a horizontal line.

Gloria Moran, Clerk of the Committee
MTS Taxicab Administration

Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

**METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
TAXICAB COMMITTEE MEETING
ROLL CALL SHEET**

DATE: 12/17/2015

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 10:06

ADJOURN TIME: 13:10

MEMBER NAME		ORGANIZATION	ALTERNATES	
MYRTLE COLE (nonvoting)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MTS Board of Directors/SD City Council	BOB MCCLELLAN, El Cajon City Council	<input type="checkbox"/>
GEORGE ABRAHAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eritrean Cab Co.		<input type="checkbox"/>
DAVID BOENITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S.D. County Regional Airport Authority	MARC NICHOLS, Mgr. Ground Transp.	<input type="checkbox"/>
OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	Category One Member		<input type="checkbox"/>
KAMRAN HAMIDI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V.I.P. Cab		<input type="checkbox"/>
CAMERON HARATIAN	<input type="checkbox"/>	P. B. Cab		<input type="checkbox"/>
BRIAN HILEMON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S.D. Tourism Authority	JOE TERZI	<input type="checkbox"/>
TONY HUESO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USA Cab LTD	ALFREDO HUESO, USA Cab, LTD	<input type="checkbox"/>
JOSH LAYNE	<input type="checkbox"/>	S.D. Convention Center	DARYL MAYEKAWA	<input type="checkbox"/>
BERHANU (BEN) LEMMA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lease Driver Representative		<input type="checkbox"/>
AKBAR MAJID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SDYC Holdings, LLC		<input type="checkbox"/>
NAMARA MERCER	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Greater S.D. Hotel/Motel Association		<input type="checkbox"/>
HUSHANG NAHAVANDIAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESM Corp.	CYROUS NAHAVANDIAN, Best Cab	<input type="checkbox"/>
TONY PALMERI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S.D. Travelers Aid Society	MICHEL ANDERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease Driver Representative		<input type="checkbox"/>
MIKE STAPLES	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater S.D. Hotel/Motel Association Catamaran Hotel		<input type="checkbox"/>
OPEN	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease Driver Representative		<input type="checkbox"/>

MTS Representatives Present (nonvoting):

Others Present (nonvoting):

PAUL C. JABLONSKI, MTS Chief Executive Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEVE CELNIKER, City of S.D. Liaison/ SANDAG	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHARON COONEY, MTS Chief of Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EDNA RAINS, S.D. County Sheriff (nonvoting member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BILL KELLERMAN, MTS Taxicab Administration Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SAMANTHA LESLIE, MTS Staff Attorney/Regulatory Compliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

CLERK OF THE TAXICAB COMMITTEE:

TAXICAB ADMINISTRATION MANAGER:


Gloria Moran


Bill Kellerman


Date