

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System  
Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting

March 2, 2016

10:00 a.m.

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

## MINUTES

1. Roll Call

Ms. Zapf, Chair of the Committee, called the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 17, 2015

Mr. Abraham moved for approval of the minutes of the December 17, 2015, Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting. Mr. Hueso seconded the motion, and the vote was 9 to 0 in favor with Messrs. Gebreselassie, Hilemon, Layne, Mercer, Nahavandian and Staples absent.

3. Non-Agenda Public Comment

There were no public comments.

4. Management and Committee Member Communications

- a) Introduction of Council Member Lorie Zapf as TAC Chair and Marco Mares of San Diego County Weights & Measures as new committee member

Mr. Kellerman welcomed Chairperson Lorie Zapf and additionally welcomed new committee member Marco Mares from San Diego County Weights and Measures.

- b) 2015 Vehicle Inspection Results

Mr. Kellerman reviewed the 2015 vehicle inspection results. He stated that there were 2,200 completed inspections at the shop and noted that was 100 more than the previous year. He said that number will continue to grow as more permits are issued. Mr. Kellerman stated that the field inspection numbers are not included in that number.

A committee member asked how many permits have been approved. Lenny Fewell, Regulatory Enforcement Supervisor, replied that there have been 170 permits approved to date. He noted that the number of approved permits is higher, and that is the number of vehicles that have been through the shop and are now operational. A committee member asked about the number of permit applications that have been distributed. Mr.

Kellerman replied that there have been approximately 700 applications distributed, but much less have been returned. A committee member inquired about the number of medallions that have been returned to MTS. Mr. Kellerman replied that about a dozen medallions have been returned. Mr. Kellerman also stated that they are continuing through the list of applicant interest forms and calling people every day to schedule their orientations.

c) New Customer Service Application in Taxicabs

Mr. Kellerman discussed the new customer service application in taxicabs. A QR code sticker will be placed in all vehicles as a part of the 2016 inspection process. Passengers may scan the code with their smart phone and the app will take them directly to the MTS customer service page on the MTS website. Passengers may leave comments, concerns and compliments about the driver or vehicle. The MTS Taxicab Administration will follow up with the passenger. Mr. Kellerman noted the ability to track comments or concerns as a way of improving customer service and to better compete with the Transportation Network Companies (TNC's). A committee member inquired about the complaint process. Mr. Kellerman stated the MTS Taxicab Administration will still follow the same process as in the past. Ms. Cooney reiterated that this option is not meant to be punitive but to assist the industry by disseminating the information with the understanding of the importance of customer service.

d) City Taxicab Stands – New Taxi Stands to be Installed at CBX Terminal in Otay Mesa

Mr. Kellerman reviewed the taxi stand process and then noted a taxi stand request from the Cross Border Express Terminal at the new bi-national terminal in Otay Mesa. Mr. Kellerman and staff assessed the site and noted that ten to twelve taxicabs were parking on the unmarked public street which is a violation of Ordinance 11. The concern was addressed with drivers. The cross border terminal management showed an interest in a taxi stand being installed and a formal request was made. Plans have been approved to install a taxi stand; accommodating five or six vehicles. Mr. Kellerman reiterated if there are any suggestions for additional locations to provide that information to the Taxicab Administration for consideration.

A committee member recapped the taxi stand process and the ability of a venue to say yes or no to taxi stand placement. Mr. Kellerman stated a venue has input but they do not make the final decision. Ms. Cooney stated the exception would be if it was MTS owned property. It was also discussed that the Port district installs and removes the taxi stands on their properties. Mr. Kellerman works with the Port if they want a taxi stand installed. He stated that he will provide a list of taxi stands belonging to the Port. A committee member proposed the need for a taxi stand at the car rental parking structure and stated the airport is not allowing taxicabs to pick up at that location. The committee member said the airport is citing cabs and giving \$262.00 tickets. Mr. Boenitz stated that the structure is on airport property and taxicabs cannot operate without a permit from the airport. Mr. Boenitz also stated they do not have an agreement with Uber. Uber is operating illegally there too. There is no agreement with any commercial provider to provide service at the airport parking structure. He noted that if a customer is requesting service and it is pre-arranged, a taxicab may pick up at the rental car property.

Mr. Hamidi inquired about other taxicab stands other than at the CBX terminal. Mr. Kellerman replied that his inspection staff proposed a number of potential sites for consideration to the city council offices and to the city transportation department. He noted they are still waiting for a response. Ms. Cooney stated that a new stand will be installed at the Virginia Avenue Transit Center. Mr. Kellerman noted that a private business can request the installation of a taxi stand as well as the removal of a taxi stand. Mr. Kellerman also commented about the complaints from private businesses with regard to driver conduct at taxi stands. He said that he recognizes the need for more taxi stands in the city. Chairperson Zapf encouraged committee members to contact city council members regarding new taxi stands.

Chairperson Zapf reviewed the new service Civic San Diego is offering for short rides. The service is free and is not regulated by MTS. Committee members voiced their concerns about this service in the city. Chairperson Zapf suggested contacting Reese Jarrett, with Civic San Diego, for additional information.

A committee member requested a meeting to discuss Ordinance 11 changes before the next TAC meeting. Mr. Kellerman stated he would look into scheduling a Workshop on Regulatory Matters (WORM) subcommittee meeting before the next TAC meeting.

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

Mr. Kellerman presented the nomination and election process. He noted the December motion by the membership to reduce the number of representatives of lease drivers from five to one and to increase the number of permit holders. This went to the MTS Board of Directors in January and the staff recommended not changing the make-up of the committee at this time. Mr. Kellerman stated there are still a large number of lease drivers that should have equal representation.

Action Taken

Mr. Palmeri moved to approve the permit holder election process. Mr. Hueso seconded the motion, and the vote was 9 to 0 in favor with Messrs. Gebreselassie, Hilemon, Layne, Mercer, Nahavandian and Staples absent.

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

This item was discussed concurrently with item number 5.

Action Taken

Mr. Palmeri moved to approve the lease driver election process. Mr. Hueso seconded the motion, and the vote was 9 to 0 in favor with Messrs. Gebreselassie, Hilemon, Layne, Mercer, Nahavandian and Staples absent.


The TAC appointed a subcommittee to validate the Lease Driver election. The subcommittee will be represented by Mr. Hamidi, Mr. Hueso and Mr. Majid.

7. Next Meeting – Wednesday, June 15, 2016 at 10:00 a.m.


8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:03 a.m.

Accepted:

  
Lorie Zapf  
Chair of Taxicab Advisory Committee

Filed by:

  
Kristen Foster, Clerk of the Committee  
MTS Taxicab Administration

Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM  
TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING  
ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): March 2, 2016

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 10:05 a.m. ADJOURN: 11:00 a.m.

COMMITTEE MEMBER (Alternate)	ORGANIZATION	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
Lorie Zapf (Chair) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MTS Board of Directors/SD City Council	10:05am	11:00am
George Abraham <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/Eritrean Cab Co.	10:05am	11:00am
David Boenitz <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Marc Nichols <input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego County Regional Airport Authority	10:05am	11:00am
Alexander Gebreselassie <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/Cross Town Transportation		
Kamran Hamidi <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/V.I.P. Cab	10:05am	11:00am
Cameron Haratian <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Anoosh Aman <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/P.B. Cab	10:05am	11:00am
Brian Hilemon <input type="checkbox"/> Joe Terzi <input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Tourism Authority		
Tony Hueso <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/USA Cab LTD	10:05am	11:00am
Josh Layne <input type="checkbox"/> Daryl Mayekawa <input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Convention Center		
Berhanu (Ben) Lemma <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:05am	11:00am
Akbar Majid <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/SDYC Holdings, LLC	10:05am	11:00am
Namara Mercer <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Hotel Industry		
Hushang Nahavandian <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/ESM Corp.		
Tony Palmeri <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michel Anderson <input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Travelers Aid Society	10:05am	11:00am
Mike Staples <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Hotel Industry		
Open <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver		
Open <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver		
Marco Mares <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-voting	County of San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures	10:05am	11:00am
Edna Rains <input type="checkbox"/> non-voting	County of San Diego Sheriff's Department		
Paul Jablonski <input type="checkbox"/> non-voting	MTS Chief Executive Officer		
Sharon Cooney <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-voting	MTS Chief of Staff	10:05am	11:00am
Bill Kellerman <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-voting	MTS Taxicab Administration Manager	10:05am	11:00am
Samantha Leslie <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> non-voting	MTS Staff Attorney/Regulatory Compliance	10:05am	11:00am

CLERK OF THE TAC: Tristen Foster TAXICAB ADMINISTRATION MANAGER: Bill Kellerman