



1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101-7490
(619) 231-1466 • FAX (619) 234-3407

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 28, 2021

10:00 a.m.

Meeting will be held via webinar

To request an agenda in an alternative format or to request accommodations to facilitate meeting participation, please call the Taxicab Advisory Committee Clerk at least two working days prior to the meeting. Meeting webinar/teleconference instructions can be accessed at the following link:
<https://www.sdmts.com/about-mts-meetings-and-agendas/other-committee>.

		ACTION RECOMMENDED
1.	<u>Roll Call</u>	
2.	<u>Approval of Minutes</u> – January 27, 2021	Approve
3.	<u>Non-Agenda Public Comment</u> The public may address the Committee regarding a matter <u>not</u> on the agenda. Each speaker has three minutes to speak. If you have a report to present, please submit copies to the Clerk of Taxicab Advisory Committee.	
4.	<u>Proposed Changes to the Election Process for Taxicab Advisory Committee Representatives</u>	Informational
5.	<u>For-Hire Vehicle Administration Permit and Statistics Quarterly Report</u>	Informational
6.	<u>For-Hire Vehicle Administration Operations Update</u>	Informational
7.	<u>Updated COVID-19 Sanitary Measures for Taxicab, Jitney, Low-Speed, Charter and Nonemergency Medical (NEM) Vehicles</u>	Informational



8. [Topics for Next Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting](#) Informational
9. Committee Member Communications
Brief comment on any taxicab related item not included in the Agenda.
10. Next Meeting Date: July 7, 2021
11. Adjournment

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM
TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000
San Diego, CA 92101

DRAFT MINUTES

January 27, 2021

[Clerk's note: Except where noted, public, staff and board member comments are paraphrased. Note that the meeting was conducted via webinar to comply with public health orders].

1. Roll Call

Chair Member Elo-Rivera called the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Approval of Minutes

Nasser Tehrani moved to approve the minutes of the October 14, 2020, MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting. Michael Trimble seconded the motion, and the vote was 14 to 0 in favor with Brian Hilemon and Houshang Nahavandian absent.

3. Public Comments

There were no Public Comments.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. MTS For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA): Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Amended Budget Updated Forecast (Gordon Meyer)

Gordon Meyer, MTS Operating Budget Supervisor, presented on the FHVA Fiscal Year FY 2021 Amended Budget Updated Forecast including: the background, summary of cost and savings measures, summary of revenue increasing measures, regulatory fee calculation methodology, total operating revenues, total operating expenses, and net operating income.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

Alfred Banks asked if the Airport Authority could assist by subsidizing the fee increase. He noted a fee increase would cause great stress to the industry.

David Tasem compared taxicabs to non-emergency vehicles (NEM) and was concerned about the difference in vehicle regulations. He asked how many taxicabs and NEM vehicles were in operation. He highlighted that half of personnel time is allocated to NEM personnel operations.

Leonardo Fewell, MTS For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager, clarified that charter vehicles, along with NEM's operate in all of MTS's jurisdictions, as opposed to taxicabs, which mainly serve the City of San Diego area. He clarified the fee increase was due to the projections shown in the presentation.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

5. For-Hire Vehicle Administration Legislative Proposal Update (Julia Tuer)

Julia Tuer, MTS Manager of Government Affairs, provided a presentation on the 2021 State and Federal Legislative Program as well as the FHVA legislative proposal, Assembly Bill (AB) 302.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

George Abraham stated that there are no measures to help the industry stay in business. He stated only some of his fleet is on the road. Mr. Abraham stated that there are people who do not own or drive taxicabs that should not have a say in the taxicab industry.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. 2021 Fee Schedule and Summary of Changes to For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Processes (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell provided a presentation on the 2021 fee schedule, budget costs saving measures and other changes to FHVA processes.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

7. 2021 Taxicab Maximum Rates of Fare (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell presented on the 2021 taxicab maximum rates of fare, including the maximum rates of fare change comparison between 2020 and 2021.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Kamran Hamidi – Mr. Hamidi asked MTS to open regulations to all drivers who can accommodate a tablet in the rear seating area, rather than only those with point of sale compatibility. He argued unsafe and unsanitary practices for customers to use a driver's cell phones to complete payments. He asked MTS to revise this protocol at the next regularly scheduled MTS Board of Directors meeting.

COMMITTEE MEMBER COMMENT

David Tasem voiced his concerns about the maximum rate of fare change for the airport, because of the variation in price and thus lack of consistency. He was also concerned about the infrastructure tracking systems challenges. He asked MTS to provide signage that would disclose fee variations for customers.

Mr. Fewell clarified that taxicab companies have the obligation to disclose maximum rates of fare. He also noted that MTS could clarify customer concerns, if needed.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

8. Development of Accessible Taxicab Vehicle Permitting Policy (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell presented on the development of the accessible taxicab vehicle permitting policy including the background, goals and development of the taxicab accessible vehicle policy.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

9. Committee Member Communications and Other Business

Antonio Hueso requested to have a conversation with City of San Diego Councilmember Jennifer Campbell as she can assist with the issue of customers being intimidated by the loading area in the Imperial Avenue area. He also commented about illegal driver operations transporting customers in the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa areas.

Chair Sean Elo-Rivera stated his District 9 team will follow up with MTS staff to find a solution to these issues.

Margo Tanguay reiterated the same issues brought up by Mr. Hueso, and urged for more accessible transportation vehicles for the aging population and to clean up taxi stands. Ms. Tanguay expressed her support for AB 302. Ms. Tanguay reminded her fellow taxi drivers to keep cleaning their cabs.

Marc Nichols provided an update on Airport operations and reminded the attendees that the airport is currently processing airport permit applications for any taxicab in good standing with MTS. Mr. Nichols requested for all interested applicants to refer to the san.org website for further information, and reminded attendees that all COVID-19 safety guidelines are observed at the Airport.

Chair Member Elo-Rivera stated it was an honor to lead the community efforts to assist the industry. Chair Elo-Rivera stated knowing that each taxicab represents a small business and behind each one of those small businesses there are families that are impacted. He stated we need to start planning for the future to provide creative solutions to promote the taxicab industry and provide excellent transportation opportunities for San Diego's residents and visitors.

10. Next Meeting Date

The next Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for April 28, 2021, at 10:00 a.m.

11. Adjournment

Chair Member Elo-Rivera adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

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

MEETING OF (DATE): January 27, 2021 CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 10:00am
ADJOURN: 11:45am

COMMITTEE MEMBER		(Alternate)		ORGANIZATION	PRESEN T (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSEN T (TIME LEFT)
Voting Committee Members						
Sean Elo-Rivera (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	MTS Board of Directors/ SD City Council	10:00am	11:45am
Akbar Majid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/SDYC Holdings, LLC	10:00am	11:45am
Alfred Banks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:00am	11:45am
Antonio Hueso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	USA Cab, LTD	10:08am	11:45am
Brian Hilemon	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Tourism Authority		
Daryl Mayekawa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Convention Center	10:00am	11:45am
David Tasem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:00am	11:45am
George Abraham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Fesshaye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/Eritrean Cab Co.	10:00am	11:45am
Guillermo Morquecho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:00am	11:45am
Houshang Nahavandian	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/ESM Corporation		
Marc Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego County Regional Airport Authority	10:00am	11:45am
Margo Tanguay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:00am	11:45am
Michael Trimble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Association	10:05am	11:45am
Mikaiil Hussein	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Zschiesche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Taxi Workers Federation San Diego	10:00am	11:45am
Nancy Gudiño	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross Border X-Press	10:00am	11:45am
Nasser Tehrani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Kamran Hamidi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/N.A.T. Cab Co	10:00am	11:45am
Non – Voting Committee Members						
Garret Cooper	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures		
Edna Rains	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego County Sheriff's Department Licensing Division		

CLERK OF THE TAC: /S/ Dalia Gonzalez For-Hire Vehicle
Administration Manager: /S/ Leonardo Fewell



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Agenda Item No. 4

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 28, 2021

SUBJECT:

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE ELECTION PROCESS FOR TAXICAB ADVISORY
COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None with this action.

DISCUSSION:

The Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) guidelines (Attachment A) currently require that every (3) years the For-Hire Vehicle Administration hold an election to determine who will represent taxicab lease drivers and permit holders on the TAC. Lease driver and permit holder candidates are provided a two-week period to self-nominate in order to have their names placed on the ballot. Once on the ballot, lease drivers and permit holders are given a three-day period in which to submit their vote. Results are certified by a validation committee and MTS Internal Auditor.

To advertise the May 2019 TAC election, information on the election process was sent to the following entities, with the request to be shared with all lease drivers: taxicab dispatch service organizations, the United Taxi Workers San Diego (UTWSD), and the San Diego International Airport Ground Transportation Department. Additionally, both before and during the election, For-Hire Vehicle Administration staff went to several taxicab stand locations to inform and remind lease drivers about the election. Permit holders were advised by mail of the deadlines of all election related activities.

In 2019, the TAC guidelines allotted:



- five (5) seats for taxicab permit holders (two (2) seats of which are designated for permit holders with three (3) or less taxicabs, and three (3) seats of which are designated for permit holders with four (4) or more taxicabs); and
- five (5) seats for lease drivers.

Despite efforts, participation in the last election process was very small.

For the **five (5) lease driver seats**:

- Only 12 votes were cast, out of about 1,300 licensed lease drivers.
- Out of the five (5) seats available for lease driver representatives, only four (4) lease drivers submitted a self-nomination form, resulting in the fifth seat becoming vacant.

For the **two (2) seats for permit holders with three (3) or less taxicabs**:

- Only two (2) self-nominations were received.
- A total of 220 votes were cast, out of a total of about 550 eligible permit holders.

For the **three (3) seats for permit holders with four (4) or more taxicabs**,

- Only two (2) self-nominations were received.
- A total of three (3) votes were received.
- Only one (1) nominee received votes, leaving two (2) vacancies.

Due to the lack of participation in the 2019 TAC election, MTS revised the TAC guidelines to replace the fifth vacant lease driver seat into an organization category, occupied currently by the UTWSD. In addition, at a subsequent meeting, TAC nominated and voted George Abraham and Antonio Hueso to fill the vacant permit holder seats.

To avoid having vacancies in the next election, and to save staff time and costs in mailing out and processing ballots, staff recommends revisiting the election process. The following alternatives are being proposed.

1. Application Process: MTS utilizes a similar appointment method to fulfill vacancies at the MTS Accessible Services Advisory Committee. A tentative application would be made available through the sdmts.com website. Applications could be submitted in person, by mail, or by e-mail.

A strong emphasis on outreach will be used to ensure lease drivers and permit holders are notified about applications. Interested lease drivers and permit holders would apply by stating the reasons and qualifications that makes them a desirable candidate. The Chief Executive Officer and/or designees, would review applications and propose appointments, in consultation with the Chair of TAC.

2. Vote Online Process: MTS would request that votes be submitted through an online process. Example platform could be Survey Monkey. Verification of drivers could be done in collaboration with the Sheriff's Department. Verification of permit holders could be done by MTS staff reviewing the email address on file. Results would be tabulated automatically by the online platform. Self-nominations would continue to be submitted by mail or in person.

3. Revise Election Process: Keep the election process the same but: collaborate with the Sheriff's Department to receive email addresses of drivers, as a way to better advertise the election process to drivers in hopes to increase driver turnout; and allow all ballots to be submitted by mail, not just in-person.

Feedback is requested on these alternative methods. At a later TAC meeting, staff will bring back the chosen method with a more detailed proposal, along with the proposed red-line version of the TAC membership guidelines for its approval. Staff will then take the TAC membership guidelines to the Board of Directors for final approval. The TAC membership current term is set to expire in July 2022.

In addition, it was recently determined that one (1) of the seats held by a permit holder with four (4) or more taxicabs is now vacant, due to that permit holder no longer maintaining four (4) or more taxicabs. Their designated alternate also is no longer a permit holder with four (4) or more taxicabs. Per Section 2.8 of the Taxicab Advisory Committee Guidelines, the TAC or the CEO or their designee shall make an interim appointment if a member's seat becomes vacant within the three-year term. Feedback is requested on how to proceed in filling this vacant seat.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com

Attachment: A. Taxicab Advisory Committee Guidelines



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SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

1 PURPOSE

The Taxicab Advisory Committee's purpose is to:

- 1.1 Provide feedback to the Chief Executive Officer and designated staff on taxicab matters to formulate recommended courses of action that the Chief Executive Officer or Board of Directors, whichever applicable, may review for approval;
- 1.2 Review summaries of administrative hearing officer decisions concerning taxicab owner and driver penalties;
- 1.3 Discuss taxicab owners'/drivers' written grievances;
- 1.4 Review summaries of complaints concerning taxicab service;
- 1.5 Review vehicle inspection criteria, process, results, and rankings;
- 1.6 Review the Chief Executive Officer's Annual Fee Schedule; and
- 1.7 Comment on MTS's work program concerning taxicab matters.

2 MEMBERSHIP

Sixteen voting members are appointed as follows:

- 2.1 One representative of the MTS Board of Directors appointed on an annual basis, who will be designated by the MTS Board of Directors to serve as Chair of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.
- 2.2 One member appointed by the San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, San Diego Convention Center, Gaslamp Quarter Association, Cross Border Express and the United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD), each serving a three-year term.



Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is a California public agency and is comprised of San Diego Transit Corporation and San Diego Trolley, Inc. nonprofit public benefit corporations, in cooperation with Chula Vista Transit and National City Transit. MTS is the taxicab administrator for eight cities and the owner of the San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company. MTS member agencies include: City of Chula Vista, City of Coronado, City of El Cajon, City of Imperial Beach, City of La Mesa, City of Lemon Grove, City of National City, City of Poway, City of San Diego, City of Santee, and the County of San Diego.

- a. Each organization or agency may designate one (1) alternate member by providing written notification to the MTS Clerk of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.
 - b. The UTWSD member must either be: a current member of the UTWSD; or be a current employee or other authorized representative of the UTWSD.
- 2.3 Five taxicab owners with at least three years' experience and in good standing, each serving a three-year term, elected by taxicab owners, divided as follows: two seats are designated for representation of owners of one to three taxicabs; and three seats are designated for representation of owners of four or more taxicabs.
- 2.4 Four taxicab lease drivers in possession of a San Diego Sheriff's Department-issued Taxicab Driver Identification Card valid in the MTS areas of jurisdiction, being in good standing with the Sheriff's Licensing Division, and currently serving as a driver for at least three years leading up to the election. The election shall comply with the following guidelines:
- a. Lease driver representatives shall be elected by licensed drivers operating in MTS areas of jurisdiction.
 - b. Lease driver representative elections shall take place every three years at the same time as the owner representative elections.
- 2.5 The taxicab owners, lease drivers and UTWSD representatives shall meet the eligibility requirements at all times while serving on the Taxicab Advisory Committee.
- 2.6 A taxicab owner member unable to attend a meeting may appoint an alternate from the same or similarly sized company to attend in their absence.
- 2.7 A taxicab driver unable to attend a meeting may appoint a driver with a similar experience level (within 2 years), not less than three years, to attend in their absence.
- 2.8 The Taxicab Advisory Committee or the Chief Executive Officer or designee shall make an interim appointment if a member's seat becomes vacant within the three-year term.
- 2.9 The Vice Chair will be the Taxicab Administration Manager.
- 2.10 One non-voting member will be appointed by the County of San Diego's Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures.
- 2.11 One non-voting member will be appointed by the County of San Diego Sheriff's Department.

3 REMOVAL AND RESIGNATION

- 3.1 Any member who misses four (4) consecutive meetings may be subject to removal. For any member who has missed three (3) consecutive meetings, a documented warning shall be provided to the member.
- 3.2 A member may resign by providing written notification to the MTS Clerk of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.

4 MEETINGS

- 4.1 Taxicab Advisory Committee meetings are subject to the provisions of the Ralph M. Brown Act, California Government Code, Section 54950, et. seq.
- 4.2 Taxicab Advisory Committee meetings will be held quarterly at the offices of MTS.
- 4.3 The agenda for each meeting will be posted in the MTS lobby.
- 4.4 The agenda, backup materials, and minutes of the previous meeting will be sent to each member in advance of the meetings, upon request.
- 4.5 The Chair may call additional meetings, as necessary.
- 4.6 Fifty-one percent attendance is a quorum to hold a meeting.

5 VOTING

- 5.1 Each voting member of the Taxicab Advisory Committee has an equal vote.
- 5.2 Fifty-one percent of the votes of those in attendance will approve an item.
- 5.3 A roster of the Taxicab Advisory Committee members who voted will be provided to the MTS Board of Directors, along with the item, for MTS Board action on an agenda item.

6 SUBCOMMITTEES

- 6.1 MTS Board of Directors approval is required to establish a standing subcommittee. The Workshop of Regulatory Matters is a standing subcommittee for Taxicab Advisory Committee and is subject to the Brown Act.
- 6.2 Chief Executive Officer or designee approval is required to establish an ad hoc subcommittee.

7 APPROVAL

- 7.1 These Guidelines were revised by the MTS Board of Directors on July 30, 2020..
- 7.2 The MTS Chief Executive Officer shall have the authority to implement additional procedures to carry out elections and maintain regular and orderly meetings of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.



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Agenda Item No. 5

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 28, 2021

SUBJECT:

FOR-HIRE VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION PERMIT AND STATISTICS QUARTERLY
REPORT

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None.

DISCUSSION:

For-Hire Vehicle Administration will provide the Taxicab Advisory Committee with a quarterly report on the following categories: number of permitted companies, number of active and surrendered permits by type, number of field contacts and issued citations, customer feedback cases, and other For-Hire Vehicle industry statistics.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell_____

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com





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Agenda Item No. 6

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 28, 2021

SUBJECT:

FOR-HIRE VEHICLE ADMINISTRATION OPERATIONS UPDATE

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None.

DISCUSSION:

MTS For-Hire Vehicle Administration has resumed normal business operations to better assist permit holders and the general public. The For-Hire Vehicle Administration office located at 1501 National Ave. San Diego, Ca 92113 is now open Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Social distancing and protective health guidelines will be observed. In person business is conducted by appointment only. Permit holders are encouraged to utilize virtual and electronic resources to submit required documentation. If you still need to meet with any staff member in person, please call at least 48 hours in advance to schedule an appointment. Please contact the appropriate staff using the contact information below.

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email
Manager (General Information)	Leonardo Fewell	(619) 235 – 2643	Leonardo.Fewell @sdmts.com
Regulatory Analyst (Application, Transfers)	Alexis Dizon	(619) 595 – 3081	Alexis.Dizon@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspector (Vehicle Inspections)	Tom Lee	(619) 557 – 4524	Tom.Lee@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspector (Driver Training)	Mark Palmer	(619) 398 – 9595	Mark.Palmer@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspector (Enforcement)	Joe Ross	(619) 398 – 9573	Joseph.Ross@sdmts.com



1. Business Communications and Payment Invoices via Email

For-Hire Vehicle Administration will utilize e-mail as the main means of communications with permit holders and drivers. Permit holders are required to provide a valid e-mail address, and advised to check their junk or spam folders, and allow emails from MTS to be received in their inbox. Payment Invoices for new application, transfer and yearly regulatory fees will only be furnished via e-mail

2. Payment Methods

Checks and Money Orders Payable to MTS are accepted. Major credit cards are also accepted for annual regulatory fees only. Valid form of I.D. is required.

3. Required Driver Safety Training

Required Driver Training classes are held via webinar and require a one-time \$30 fee payable to MTS. No Cash is accepted. Payment may be submitted in person or mailed to 1501 National Ave. San Diego CA 92113. Training classes for Taxicab, LSV, and Jitney drivers are held every first and last Friday of each Month at 10 a.m. Training Classes for Non-emergency Medical and Charter drivers are held every last Saturday of every month at 10 a.m. In order to sign up for a training class, drivers must e-mail: MTSFHVDTraining@sdmts.com or call 619.235.2651 and provide the following information:

- Driver Name, phone number and e-mail (training link will be sent to driver's e-mail)
- Sheriff ID# and expiration date (if renewing), or CDL #
- Company Name (DBA)

4. Development of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) policy

MTS encourages the introduction of taxicab WAV's for new permit applications and current permit vehicle replacements. As part of the development of a Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) policy, For-Hire Vehicle Administration has begun a regulatory agency peer review to identify best practices For-Hire Vehicle Administration will also begin to request available data from SANDAG, the San Diego International Airport, and authorized dispatch services to determine the current demand for WAV's.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com



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Agenda Item No. 7

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 28, 2021

SUBJECT:

UPDATED COVID-19 SANITARY MEASURES FOR TAXICAB, JITNEY, LOW-SPEED,
CHARTER AND NON-EMERGENCY MEDICAL (NEM) VEHICLES

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None.

DISCUSSION:

On June 17, 2020, For-Hire Vehicle Administration implemented mandatory and recommended COVID-19 sanitary measure for Taxicab, Jitney, Low Speed, Charter and Nonemergency Medical Transport vehicles. These measures were implemented as part of MTS Taxicab Administration's commitment to provide safe for-hire vehicle transportation service.

Since June 2020, guidance has been updated regarding COVID-19. For-Hire Vehicle Administration has monitored the mandates, guidance and recommendations of the following sources: The County of San Diego (County) Health Orders; the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) sanitary recommendations for Rideshare, Taxi, Limo, and other Passengers and Drivers of For-Hire vehicles; and COVID-19 related measures implemented by other for-hire and TNC industries.

I. Required COVID-19 Safety Measures

1. Driver Face Masks: In accordance with current San Diego County Health Orders, For-Hire Vehicle Administration will continue to mandate all drivers of permitted For-Hire vehicles to wear a face covering while on duty transporting and interacting with passengers.



2. Vehicle Cleanliness: MTS Ordinance No. 11 section 1.8(h)(2) and section 13 requires every vehicle exterior and interior to be “reasonably” clean at all times. Vehicle interior shall be free of foreign matter, offensive odors, and litter. The seats shall be kept reasonably clean and without large wear spots. The door handles and doors shall be intact and clean. This is a requirement that has been in place prior to COVID-19 and is included here to highlight its importance as a sanitary measure.
3. Passenger Face Masks: For-Hire Vehicle drivers may refuse service to any passenger who refuses to wear a face covering, as required by the County’s Health Order. The following persons are currently *exempt* from this requirement:
 - Persons younger than two years old. These very young children must not wear a face covering because of the risk of suffocation.
 - Persons with a medical condition, mental health condition, or disability that prevents wearing a face covering. This includes persons with a medical condition for whom wearing a face covering could obstruct breathing or who are unconscious, incapacitated, or otherwise unable to remove a face covering without assistance, such conditions are rare.
 - Persons who are hearing impaired, or communicating with a person who is hearing impaired, where the ability to see the mouth is essential for communication.
 - Persons for whom wearing a face covering would create a risk to the person related to their work, as determined by local, state, or federal regulators or workplace safety guidelines.
4. Posted COVID-19 Plan: Posting of a COVID-19 plan that provides a description of the safety measures implemented is still required to be clearly and conspicuously displayed inside the vehicle.

II. Highly recommended, but MTS will not enforce, the following COVID-19 safety measures:

The following COVID-19 sanitary measures are no longer required, but strongly recommended to promote safety and maintain standards implemented by other For-Hire and TNC industries:

1. Driver Temperature/Symptom Screening: Drivers should take their temperature at the beginning of their shift or, if a thermometer is unavailable, screen themselves for the following symptoms: cough, shortness of breath or trouble breathing, headache, fever, chills, muscle or body aches, fatigue, sore throat, congestion or runny nose, new loss of taste or smell, nausea or vomiting, and diarrhea. Drivers should not work if a temperature reading is 100 degrees or more, or have symptoms of COVID-19.
2. Disinfectant Measures: Drivers should clean and disinfect both inside and outside rear door handles, as well as seat belts, immediately after the conclusion of each trip, and after handling of passenger’s luggage and/or handling of cash or credit cards. Commercial grade cleaning/disinfectant products should be used.

3. Front Passenger Seat: To maximize distance, passengers should sit diagonally from the driver, in the back-passenger seat of a Taxicab or Nonemergency Medical Transport Vehicle.

4. Partitions between Front and Rear Passenger Seats: It is recommended that a Plexi-glass or soft-plastic partition, consisting of clear plastic sheeting of no less than 0.27 mm in thickness, be installed between the front (driver) and rear (passenger) compartments. The partition would substantially create an enclosure for both the driver and passenger(s). To allow fare credit card or cash payments while minimizing contact between drivers and passengers, a flap opening of sufficient dimensions (at least 6 inches in height x 6 inches in width) may be located on the lower-center area of the partition, or wherever the credit card acceptance device is located. Any similar type of industry standard automotive Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) that meets the above stated criteria is acceptable.

5. Car Ventilation: If acceptable by passenger, it is recommended that windows be open to allow for ventilation. It is also recommended to avoid using the recirculated air option for the car's ventilation during passenger transport; use the car's vents to bring in fresh outside air.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell _____
Leonardo Fewell
For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com



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Agenda Item No. 8

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE

April 28, 2021

SUBJECT:

TOPICS FOR NEXT TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None.

DISCUSSION:

Feedback is requested on what topics should be addressed at the next Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) on July 7, 2021. At this time, staff recommends the following agenda items: quarterly update on industry data; update on 2021 permit renewals; update on proposed changes to TAC election process; and requesting feedback on what topics to include for the October 27, 2021 TAC meeting.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com



San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Taxicab Advisory Committee April 28, 2021 Meeting

Proposed Changes to the Election Process for Taxicab Advisory Committee Representatives

Agenda Item #4

Background on TAC Election Process

- TAC comprised of 16 members
 - One appointed by MTS Board, (chair of the TAC)
 - Five Organizations
 - Five Permit Holders (elected)
 - Five Lease Drivers (four elected, one appointed by UTWSD)
- Very low turn out for 2019 TAC Election
 - Not enough self-nomination received for lease drivers and permit holders of four or more permits
 - A total of 12 votes casted for lease drivers, and 3 votes for permit holders of four or more permits
- Future Concerns for 2022 Election
 - Fewer lease drivers, FHVA staff/budget constraints

Proposed Alternatives to Current Election Process

1) Application Method

- Applicants selected and appointed by MTS CEO, with consultation with TAC Chair (similar to how public members elected on MTS ASAC Committee)
- Applicants state interest and qualifications for TAC membership

2) Vote Online Process

- Self-Nominations (e-mail, mail, in person)
- Votes submitted through online process (i.e. Survey Monkey)
- Driver/Permit Holder verification by Sheriff's and MTS files

3) Revise Election Process

- Keep the Election Process
- Collaborate w/ Sheriff's to receive driver e-mails
- Allow all ballots to be submitted by mail or in person

Next Steps

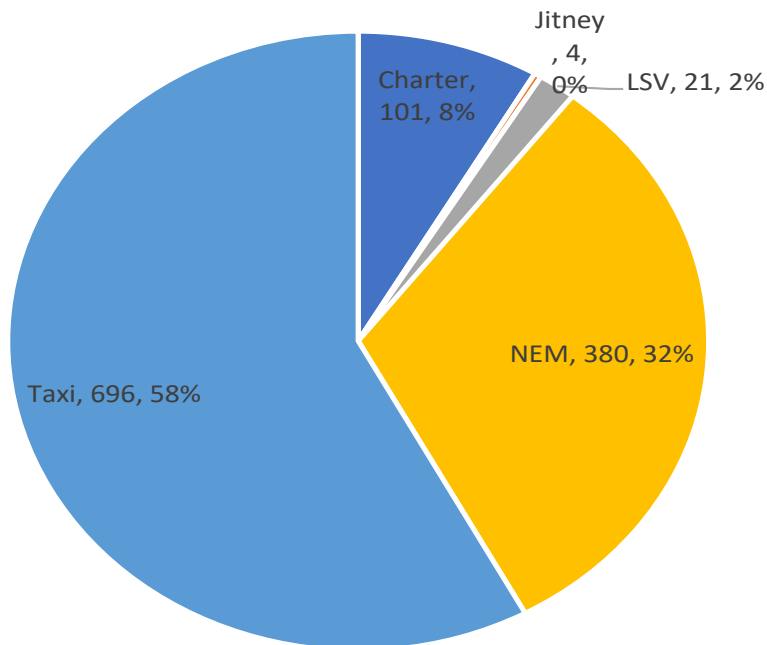
- TAC feedback requested on these 3 alternatives.
 - Whichever option is preferred, MTS staff will provide a more detailed proposal at the next TAC meeting.
 - Final approval to changes to election process is required by the Board.
- TAC feedback is also requested on how to proceed in filling the recently vacated seat for a permit holder with four (4) or more taxicabs.
- Current TAC term set to expire in July 2022.

Permit and Statistics Quarterly Report

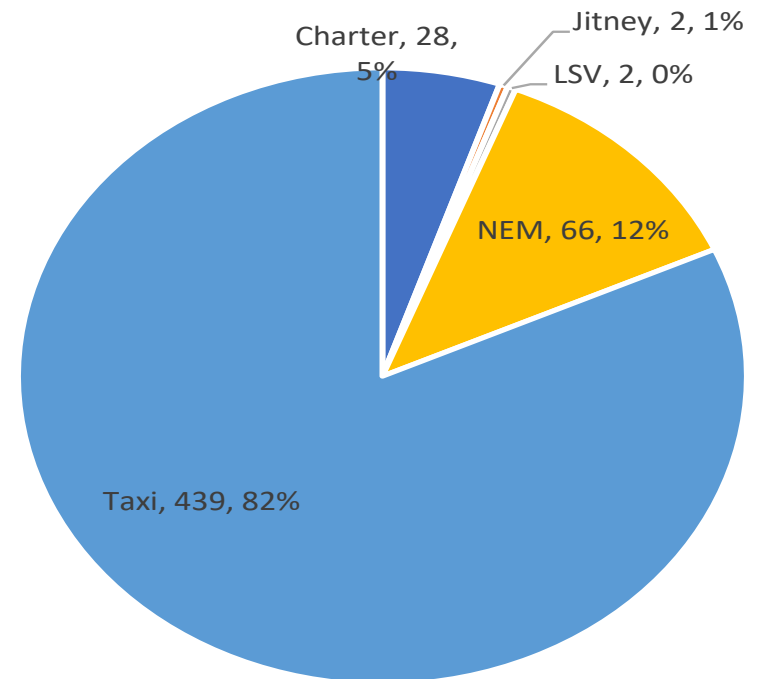
Agenda Item #5

Total Number of Permitted Companies and Permits by Type

Total Number of Permitted Vehicles: 1202
as of 4/7/2021

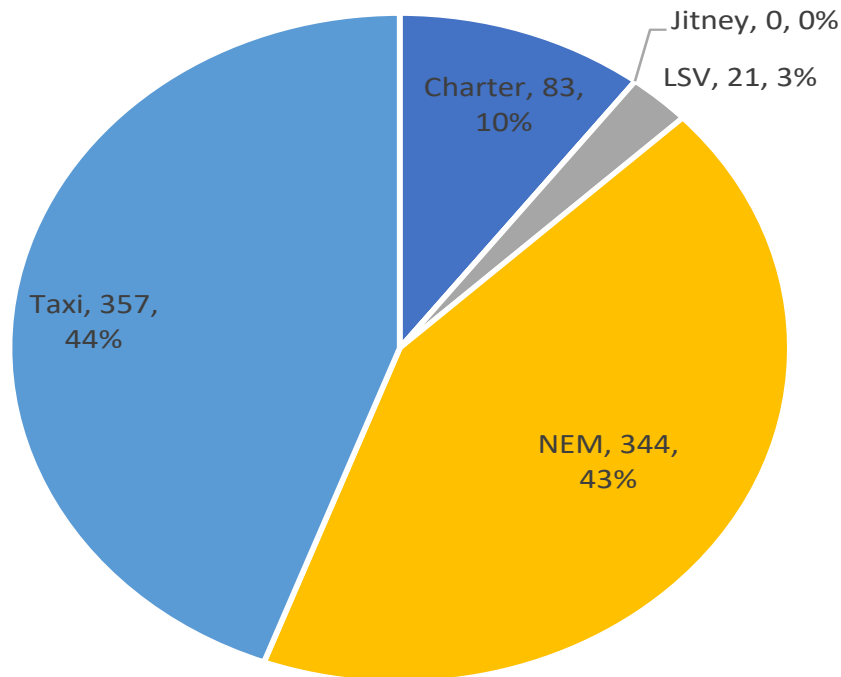


Total Number of Permit Holders: 537
as of 4/7/2021



Number of Active and Surrendered Permits

Total Number of Active Permits: 805
as of 4/7/2021

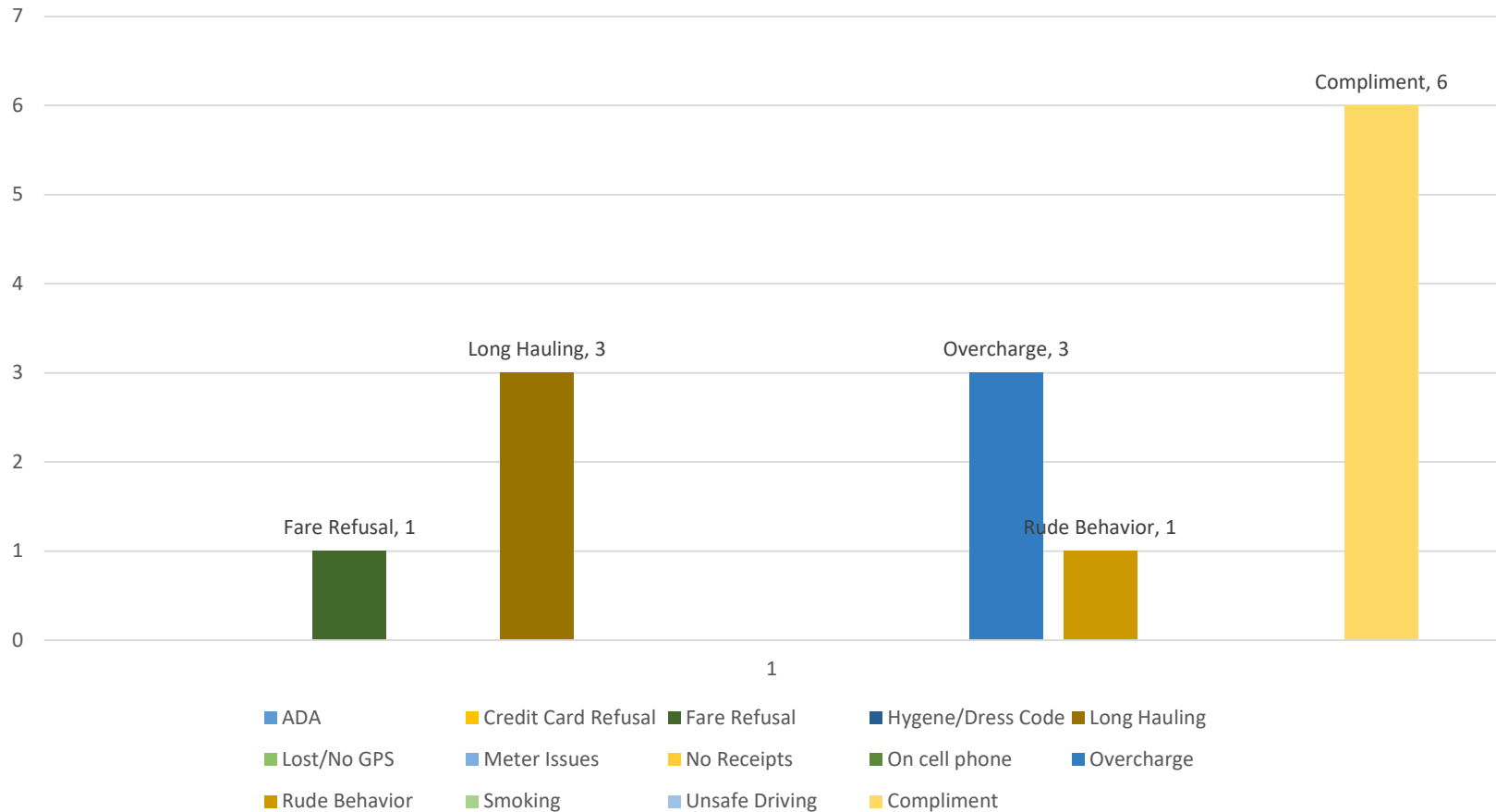


Number of Active vs Surrendered For-Hire Vehicle Permits				
Permit Type	Total Number of Permits	Number of Permits Surrendered	Currently On-the-Road (Active Permits)	% Loss in Active Permits
Charter	101	18	83	18%
Jitney	4	4	0	100%
LSV	21	0	21	0%
NEM	380	36	344	9%
Taxi	696	339	357	49%
Total	1202	397	805	33%

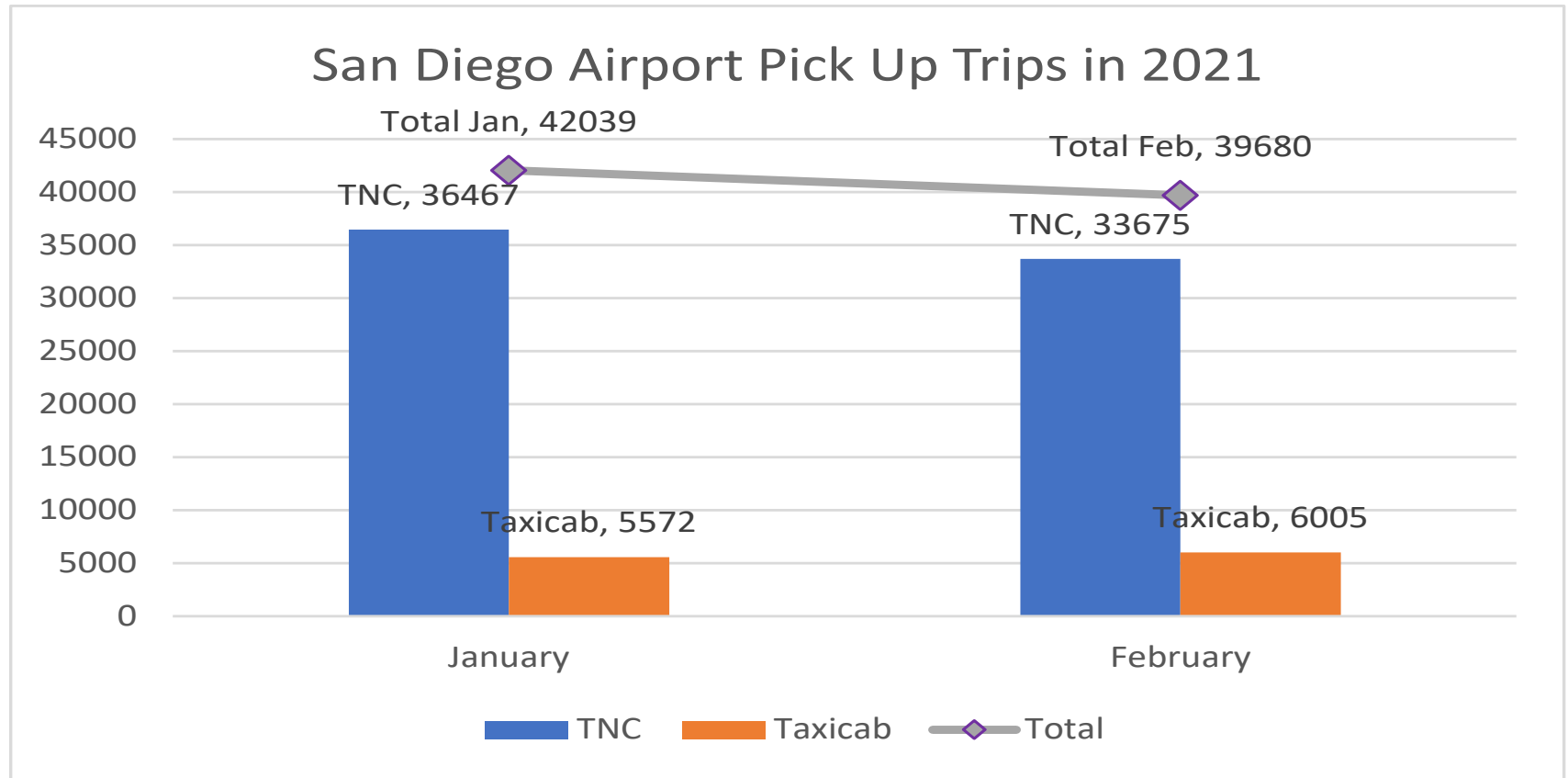
First Quarter 2021 Field Inspections Statistics

FIRST QUARTER (JAN-MAR) FOR-HIRE VEHICLE FIELD INSPECTIONS & STATS											
	SD	NC	CV	LM	ELC	LG	SNT	POW	SY/Otay	IB	TOTAL
Contacts	2280	375	685	188	382	65	52	50	810	67	4954
Cites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parking	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	16	0	22
Warnings	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	3	0	8
Field Rep	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	PERCENT FROM TOTAL									
TAXI's	1198	24%									
NEM's	3754	76%									
JITNEY's	0	0%									
LSV's	2	0.04%									

Customer Feedback Cases January-March 2021



San Diego Airport Pick Up Trips in 2021



Operations Update

Agenda Item #6

Administrative Staff and Offices

- Office

- Hours/Days: 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday
- Social distancing and protective health guidance observed
- Permit holders encouraged to utilize e-mail for document submission
- In-person meetings by appointment only

- Current Staff

Position	Name	Phone Number	Email
Manager (General Information)	Leonardo Fewell	619-235-2643	leonardo.fewell@sdmts.com
Regulatory Analyst (Applications, Transfers)	Alexis Dizon	619-595-3081	alexis.dizon@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspector (Vehicle Inspections)	Tom Lee	619-557-4524	tom.lee@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspector (Driver Training)	Mark Palmer	619-398-9595	mark.palmer@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspector (Enforcement)	Joe Ross	619-398-9573	joseph.ross@sdmts.com

Business Communications and Payment Methods

- All outgoing communications through e-mail
 - Valid e-mail required
 - Check spam, junk folder
- 2021 Regulatory Fee Deadline is May 10, 2021
- Payment Options:
 - Checks, Money Orders payable to MTS
 - Credit Cards accepted for reg fees only
 - Credit card Payments must be made in person
 - Valid ID is required

Required Driver Safety Training

- Held via webinar, one time \$30 fee payable to MTS
- For Taxicab, Jitney, and LSV drivers
 - First and Last Friday of every month at 10 a.m.
- For NEMT and Charter Drivers
 - Last Saturday of every month at 10 a.m.
- Drivers may e-mail MTSFHVDTraining@sdmts.com or call 619-235-2651 and provide the following:
 - Driver Name, phone number and e-mail (training link will be sent to driver's e-mail)
 - Sheriff ID# and expiration date (if renewing), or CDL #
 - Company Name (DBA)

Development of Wheelchair Accessible Vehicle (WAV) policies

- Current / Ongoing Steps

- Regulatory Agency Peer review
 - OCTAP, LADOT, SFMTA, City of Sacramento, City of Chicago
- Request trip information data on WAV trips to SANDAG, SD Airport, MTS Taxicab Dispatch services

- Next Steps

- Identify Permit Holder and Lease Driver concerns on operating WAV's (via survey)
- Present to disability and transportation committees to request feedback on needs/demand for WAV's

Updated COVID-19 Sanitary Measures for Taxicab, Jitney, Low-Speed, Charter, and Non- Emergency Medical Vehicles

Agenda Item #7

Guidelines Resources

- County of San Diego, Department of Health
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
- COVID-19 related measures implemented by other For-Hire and TNC (Uber, Lyft) industries

Still Required

- Face coverings for drivers at all times while on duty.
- Vehicle Cleanliness as required by Ordinance No. 11 (Interior and Exterior)
- Face coverings for passengers
- Posting of COVID-19 safety measure plan conspicuously posted inside Taxicab

Recommended Measures (MTS will not Enforce)

- Driver Temperature/Symptom Screening
- Enhanced Cleaning (Disinfectant Measures)
- Passengers seating on back seats diagonally from driver (to maximize distance)
- Plastic or Plexi Glass Partitions between front or back Passenger seats
- Use of car ventilation (windows down, use of vehicle's vents to bring fresh outside air

Taxicabs as a Safer Option

- MTS encourages all Taxicab drivers and permit holders to adopt all COVID recommended measures.
- Allow Taxicab to become preferred transportation option to prospective airport/city passengers.
- Feedback requested on how to advertise COVID safety measures at airport, taxi islands.

Topics for Next Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting

Agenda Item #8

Proposed Topics for July 7, 2021 TAC Meeting

- Proposed Changes to Election process for TAC Representatives
- Industry Statistics Quarterly Report
- Permit Renewal 2021 Update
- Proposed topics for the October 27, 2021 TAC Meeting
- Any others agenda items?