

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](http://san.org) website for further information, and reminded attendees that all COVID-19 safety guidelines are observed at the Airport.

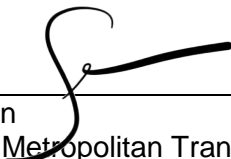
Chair Member Elo-Rivera stated it was an honor to lead the community efforts to assist the industry. Chair Elo-Rivera stated knowing that each taxicab represents a small business and behind each one of those small businesses there are families that are impacted. He stated we need to start planning for 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.

  
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Chairperson  
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

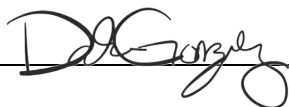
Attachment: Roll Call Sheet

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<br>T<br>(TIME<br>ARRIVED) | ABSEN<br>T<br>(TIME<br>LEFT) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Voting Committee Members       |                                     |                     |                                     |  |                                  |                              |
| Sean Elo-Rivera<br>(Chair)     | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | MTS Board of Directors/<br>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<br>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<br>Nahavandian        | <input type="checkbox"/>            | None                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Taxicab Owner/ESM Corporation                                |                                  |                              |
| Marc Nichols                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Michael<br>Anderson | <input type="checkbox"/>            | San Diego County Regional Airport<br>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<br>Association                     | 10:05am                          | 11:45am                      |
| Mikaiil Hussein                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | Peter<br>Zschiesche | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | United Taxi Workers Federation San<br>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<br>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,<br>Weights and Measures |                                  |                              |
| Edna Rains                     | <input type="checkbox"/>            | None                | <input type="checkbox"/>            | San Diego County Sheriff's<br>Department Licensing Division  |                                  |                              |

CLERK OF THE TAC:



For-Hire Vehicle  
Administration Manager:

