

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

February 23, 2022

1. Roll Call

Chair Elo-Rivera called the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting to order at 10:04 a.m. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Approval of Minutes

Antonio Hueso moved to approve the minutes of the December 8, 2021, MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting. Akbar Majid seconded the motion, and the vote was 14 to 0 in favor with Nancy Gudiño absent.

3. Public Comments

There were no public comments.

COMMITTEE DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. 2022 Taxicab Maximum Rates of Fare (Leonardo Fewell)

Leonardo Fewell, For Hire Vehicle Administration Manager presented on 2022 Taxicab Maximum Rates of Fare. He explained how MTS utilizes changes in the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to calculate the maximum rates of fare at a yearly basis, and how rising inflation rates affected many aspects of the transportation sector, resulting in higher maximum rates of fare. He clarified that taxi drivers can always charge any fare that is agreed with the passenger, so long as it does not exceed the authorized maximum rates of fare.

Akbar Majid asked what was the effective date for the rate change.

Mr. Fewell replied that the rates are effective today since they are being published to the committee.

Chair Elo-Rivera acknowledged the higher standard that Taxicab industries abide by in terms of fare pricing and regulations when compared to other ride-sharing options.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

5. For Hire Vehicle Administration Operations Update (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell presented on For Hire Vehicle Administration Operations Update. He presented on: FHVA operations update.

Mikail Hussein said United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD) continues to explore ways to stimulate the recovery of taxicab business and asked Mr. Fewell if he could share the power point presentation. Mr. Fewell stated the presentation is available at the sdmts.com website, but would be glad to send it to UTWSD.

David Tasem asked about AB 302 City exemption for joining MTS and asked if the new bill consolidates regulatory standards.

Mr. Fewell clarified that Cities may conduct their own regulation processes. AB 302 outreach allows various institutions to assess whether contracting with MTS is convenient.

Samantha Leslie, Deputy General Council clarified that each city can only require permit fees from a Taxicab company if they are shown to be substantially located in that jurisdiction, which means a majority of the trips are being operated out of the City.

David Tasem asked if the bill did not apply to those jurisdictions.

Mr. Fewell clarified that Mr. Tasem was referring to AB 1069 that was amended to allow a City to retain their own regulations. He reiterated Ms. Leslie's point that if a City operates or is substantially located in a City they are able to receive a permit with that City. AB 302 does not obligate cities to contract with MTS to conduct their own regulations.

David Tasem cited a conversation with Mr. Fewell's predecessor who noted that none of the North County agencies wanted to conduct their own for-hire vehicle regulation and did want MTS to conduct county-wide regulation.

Mr. Fewell referenced the operation update provided in the presentation to explain MTS's outreach process to the City's and SANDAG's Transportation Committee to gauge interest and provide a report. Agencies are able to opt in and allow MTS to contract with City's outside of the area of jurisdiction to target for hire vehicle regulation.

David Tasem asked if non-emergency vehicles would be part of the regulation.

Mr. Fewell confirmed that they would be part of the regulation process available for City jurisdictions to regulate under MTS Ordinance No. 11.

Peter Zschiesche explained the industries struggle with insurance and found progress in the additional selection which would bring in competitive competition for lower insurance rates. He thanked staff for the commitment to best represent drivers.

Chair Elo-Rivera acknowledged the past work that the committee has done.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. Topics for Next Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell presented on topics for next Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting and feedback for additional topics requested. Topics for next Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting.

Peter Zschiesche asked that staff do a report update to the committee on efforts to increase the service area jurisdiction from SANDAG's Transportation Committee.

Antonio Hueso asked about the vehicle inspection form and submittal process.

Mr. Fewell explained the process that is aimed at being convenient for drivers and explained where the forms could be accessed.

Antonio Hueso acknowledged that meeting with government officials is cumbersome as contact methods are either on line or by appointment only, and suggested that MTS contact the County to develop a grant program to incentivize drivers to transition to electric fleets. He suggested this as a possible topic for the next TAC agenda.

Mr. Fewell asked for past case study examples to become more familiar with the topic.

Chair Elo-Rivera clarified that state legislation moved the Air Pollution Control District away from County jurisdiction and is now an independent Board. He asked that once he has spoken to Mr. Hueso, staff could create next steps to advocate for this issue.

7. Committee Member Communications and Other Business

Marc Nichols provided Airport updates to the committee including: enplanements which have stabilized to pre-pandemic levels, high peaks at the weekends, return to work timelines, adoption of the ground transportation services model is prosperous, transponder installation is ongoing, he thanked the community for enrolling in the payment solution system. He also provided a January update to the committee.

David Tasem cited a \$1 surcharge that was imposed on customers in 2008 to adjust for an increase in gas prices. He asked that this fee be added to the cost of a trip rather than increase the maximum rate of fare.

Mr. Fewell gave historical context to this request and acknowledged that the comprehensive consumer price index was not used to determine the maximum rate of fare during the time of the fee addition. He highlighted that taxicab drivers may charge the maximum rate of fare to adjust for gas price increases. MTS does not support the dollar fee increase because the consumer price index considers gas prices.

Chair Elo-Rivera asked staff to list the steps needed for the industry to advocate for the fee increase option.

Mr. Fewell clarified that a policy change with Board approval is required.

Akbar Majid recalled that a surcharge is temporary and can be removed when fuel prices stabilize. He acknowledged that adjusting that rate in a taximeter is cumbersome.

Peter Zschiesche referenced SANDAG's Request for Proposal for flexible fleet ideas and deemed the proposal inadequate as it would not benefit the Taxi industry. He hoped to provide staff feedback and next steps.

Mr. Fewell assured Mr. Zschiesche that his office shares similar concerns and find the importance for a clear roadmap.

8. Next Meeting Date

The next Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 25, 2022, at 9:00 a.m.

9. Adjournment

Chair Elo-Rivera adjourned the meeting at 10:57 a.m.

/S/ Sean Elo-Rivera

Chairperson

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

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

MEETING OF (DATE): February 23, 2022 CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 10:04am

ADJOURN: 10:57am

COMMITTEE MEMBER	(Alternate)		ORGANIZATION	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
Voting Committee Members					
Sean Elo-Rivera (Chair)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	MTS Board of Directors/ SD City Council	10:04am	10:57am
Akbar Majid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/SDYC Holdings, LLC	10:04am	10:57am
Alfred Banks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:28am	10:57am
Antonio Hueso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	USA Cab, LTD	10:04am	10:57am
Brian Hilemon	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Tourism Authority	10:05am	10:57am
Daryl Mayekawa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Convention Center	10:04am	10:57am
David Tasem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:04am	10:57am
George Abraham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Daniel Fesshaye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/Eritrean Cab Co.	10:04am	10:57am
Guillermo Morquecho	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:04am	10:57am
Hamid Amini	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jazzy Cab	10:04am	10:57am
Marc Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Michael Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego County Regional Airport Authority	10:04am	10:57am
Margo Tanguay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	10:04am	10:57am
Michael Trimble	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Association	10:04am	10:57am
Mikail Hussein	<input type="checkbox"/> Peter Zschiesche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Taxi Workers Federation San Diego	10:04am	10:57am
Nancy Gudiño	<input type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross Border X-Press	-	-
Nasser Tehrani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Kamran Hamidi	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Owner/N.A.T. Cab Co	10:04am	10:57am
Non – Voting Committee Members					
Austin Shepherd	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures	10:04am	10:57am
Edna Rains	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> None	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego County Sheriff's Department Licensing Division	10:04am	10:57am

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