



# Taxicab Advisory Committee Agenda

Click link to access the meeting:

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**Computer:** Click the link above. You will be prompted to run the Zoom browser or Zoom application. Once signed on to the meeting, you will have the option to join using your computer audio system or phone.

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 Raise Hand	▶	Use the <b>raise hand</b> feature every time you wish to make a public comment.
	▶	Participants can enable <b>closed captioning</b> by clicking the CC icon. You may also view the full transcript and change the font size by clicking 'subtitle settings'. These features are not available via phone.
	▶	This symbol shows you are <b>muted</b> , click this icon to unmute your microphone.
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	▶	The chat feature should be used by panelists and attendees solely for "housekeeping" matters as comments made through this feature will not be retained as part of the meeting record. See the <b>Live Verbal Public Comment</b> for instructions on how to make a public comment.



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### Phone:

1. If you are joining the meeting audio by phone and viewing the meeting on a device, dial the number provided in the 'join audio' phone call tab of the initial pop-up, and enter the Meeting ID (found in the link).
2. If you are joining by phone only, dial: **+1-669-900-9128** or **+1-253-215-8782** and type the meeting ID found in the link, press #. You will have access to the meeting audio, **but will NOT be able to view the PowerPoint presentations.**



**Live Verbal Public Comments:** Use the 'Raise Hand' icon every time you wish to make a public comment on an item. Raise your hand once the agenda item you wish to comment on has been called. In person public comments will be taken first, virtual attendees will be taken in the order in which they raise their hand. Requests to speak will not be taken after the public comment period ends, unless under the Chair's discretion. General Public Comment, at the beginning of the Board of Directors meeting only, will be limited to five speakers. Additional speakers with general public comments will be heard at the end of the meeting. Three-minutes of time is allotted per speaker, unless otherwise directed by the Chair.

### Public Comments Made Via Zoom

1. Click the link found at the top of this instruction page
2. Click the raise hand icon located in the bottom center of the platform
3. The Clerk will announce your name when it is your turn to speak
4. Unmute yourself to speak

### Public Comments Made by Phone Only

1. Dial **+1-669-900-9128**
2. Type in the zoom meeting ID found in the link and press #
3. Dial \*9 to raise your hand via phone
4. The Clerk will call out the last 4 digits of your phone number to announce you are next to speak
5. Dial \*6 to unmute yourself



**Written Public Comments (before the meeting):** Written public comments will be recorded in the public record and will be provided to MTS Board Members in advance of the meeting. Comments must be emailed or mailed to the Clerk of the Committee\* by 4:00pm the day prior to the meeting.

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**Translation Services:** Requests for translation services can be made by contacting the Clerk of the Committee\* at least four working days in advance of the meeting.

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**In-Person Participation:** In-person public comments will be heard first. Following in-person public comments, virtual attendees will be heard in the order in which they raise their hand via the Zoom platform. Speaking time will be limited to three minutes per person, unless specified by the Chairperson. Requests to speak will not be taken after the public comment period ends, unless under the Chair's discretion.

**Instructions for providing in-person public comments:**

1. Fill out a speaker slip located at the entrance of the Board Room;
2. Submit speaker slip to MTS staff seated at the entrance of the Board Room;
3. When your name is announced, please approach the podium located on the right side of the dais to make your public comments.

Members of the public are permitted to make general public comment at the beginning of the agenda or specific comments referencing items on the agenda during the public comment period. General Public Comment, at the beginning of the Board of Directors meeting only, will be limited to five speakers. Additional speakers with general public comments will be heard at the end of the meeting.

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**Assistive Listening Devices (ALDs):** ALDs are available from the Clerk of the Committee\* prior to the meeting and are to be returned at the end of the meeting.

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**Reasonable Accommodations:** As required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), requests for agenda information in an alternative format or to request reasonable accommodations to facilitate meeting participation, please contact the Clerk of the Committee\* at least two working days prior to the meeting.

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**\*Contact Information:** Contact the Clerk of the Committee via email at [Brenda.Jackson@sdmts.com](mailto:Brenda.Jackson@sdmts.com), phone at 619-595-3086 or by mail at 1255 Imperial Ave. Suite 1000, San Diego CA 92101.



# Agenda del Comité Consejero de Taxis

Haga clic en el enlace para acceder a la reunión:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/1607273020>






## Formas de Participar



**Computadora:** Haga clic en el enlace más arriba. Recibirá instrucciones para operar el navegador de Zoom o la aplicación de Zoom. Una vez que haya iniciado sesión en la reunión, tendrá la opción de participar usando el sistema de audio de su computadora o teléfono.

ID de la reunión  
en Zoom

## Funciones del Seminario En Línea:

 Levantar la mano	▶	Use la herramienta de <b>levantar la mano</b> cada vez que desee hacer un comentario público.
	▶	Los participantes pueden habilitar el <b>subtitulado</b> haciendo clic en el ícono CC. También puede ver la transcripción completa y cambiar el tamaño de letra haciendo clic en “configuración de subtítulos”. Estas herramientas no están disponibles por teléfono.
	▶	Este símbolo indica que usted se encuentra en <b>silencio</b> , haga clic en este ícono para quitar el silenciador de su micrófono.
	▶	Este símbolo indica que su micrófono se encuentra <b>encendido</b> . Haga clic en este símbolo para silenciar su micrófono.
	▶	La herramienta de chat deben usarla los panelistas y asistentes únicamente para asuntos “pertinentes a la reunión”, ya que comentarios realizados a través de esta herramienta no se conservarán como parte del registro de la reunión. Consulte el <b>Comentario público verbal</b> en vivo para obtener instrucciones sobre cómo hacer un comentario público.



**Teléfono Inteligente o Tableta:** Descargue la aplicación de Zoom y participe en la reunión haciendo clic en el enlace o usando el ID del seminario web (que se encuentra en el enlace).



## Teléfono:

1. Si está participando en la reunión mediante audio de su teléfono y viendo la reunión en un dispositivo, marque el número indicado en la pestaña de llamada telefónica “unirse por audio” en la ventana emergente inicial e ingrese el ID de la reunión (que se encuentra en el enlace).
2. Si está participando solo por teléfono, marque: **+1-669-900-9128** o **+1-253-215-8782** e ingrese el ID de la reunión que se encuentra en el enlace, pulse #. Tendrá acceso al audio de la reunión, **pero NO podrá ver las presentaciones en PowerPoint.**



**Comentarios Públicos Verbales en Vivo:** Use la herramienta “levantar la mano” cada vez que desee hacer un comentario público sobre alguno de los artículos. Levante la mano una vez que el artículo de la agenda sobre el que desea comentar haya sido convocado. Los comentarios públicos en persona se escucharán primero, se escuchará a los asistentes virtuales en el orden en el que levanten la mano. No se aceptarán solicitudes para hablar después de que termine el periodo para hacer comentarios públicos, a menos de que el presidente determine de otra forma a su discreción. Comentarios públicos generales, únicamente al inicio de la reunión de la Junta de Directores, se limitarán a cinco personas que deseen hablar. Las personas adicionales que deseen aportar comentarios públicos generales podrán hacerlo al final de la reunión. Se otorga tres minutos de tiempo por persona que desee hablar, a menos de que el presidente instruya de otra forma. *(Consulte la página 2 para obtener instrucciones sobre cómo hacer un comentario público.)*

## Comentarios Públicos a Través de Zoom

1. Haga clic en el enlace que se encuentra en la parte superior de esta página de instrucciones
2. Haga clic en el ícono de levantar la mano en el centro inferior de la plataforma
3. El secretario anunciará su nombre cuando sea su turno de hablar
4. Desactive el silenciador para que pueda hablar

## Comentarios Públicos Realizados Únicamente por Teléfono

1. Marque el **+1-669-900-9128**
2. Ingrese el ID de la reunión en Zoom que se encuentra en el enlace y pulse #
3. Marque \*9 para levantar la mano por teléfono
4. El secretario indicará los últimos 4 dígitos de su número de teléfono para anunciar que usted será el siguiente en hablar
5. Marque \*6 para desactivar el silenciador



**Comentarios Públicos por Escrito (Antes de la Reunión):** Los comentarios públicos por escrito se registrarán en el registro público y se entregarán a los miembros de la Junta de MTS antes de la reunión. Los comentarios deben enviarse por correo electrónico o postal al secretario del Comité\* antes de las 4:00 p.m. el día anterior a la reunión.



**Servicios de Traducción:** Pueden solicitarse servicios de traducción comunicándose con el secretario del Comité\* por lo menos cuatro días hábiles antes de la reunión.



**Participación en Persona:** Los comentarios públicos en persona se escucharán primero. Después de los comentarios públicos en persona, se escuchará a los asistentes virtuales en el orden en el que levanten la mano a través de la plataforma de Zoom. El tiempo para hablar se limitará a tres minutos por persona, a menos de que el presidente especifique de otra forma. No se recibirán solicitudes para hablar después de que termine el periodo para hacer comentarios públicos, a menos de que el presidente determine de otra forma a su discreción.

### Instrucciones para brindar comentarios públicos en persona:

1. Llene la boleta para personas que desean hablar que se encuentran en la entrada de la Sala de la Junta.
2. Entregue la boleta para personas que desean hablar al personal de MTS que se encuentra sentado en la entrada de la Sala de la Junta.
3. Cuando anuncien su nombre, por favor, acérquese al podio ubicado en el lado derecho de la tarima para hacer sus comentarios públicos.

Los miembros del público pueden hacer comentarios públicos generales al inicio de la agenda o comentarios específicos que hagan referencia a los puntos de la agenda durante el periodo de comentarios públicos. Los comentarios públicos generales únicamente al inicio de la reunión de la Junta de Directores, se limitarán a cinco personas que deseen hablar. Las personas adicionales que deseen aportar comentarios públicos generales podrán hacerlo al final de la reunión.



**Dispositivos de Asistencia Auditiva (ALD, por sus siglas en inglés):** Los ALD están disponibles con el secretario del Comité\* antes de la reunión y estos deberán ser devueltos al final de la reunión.



**Facilidades Razonables:** Según lo requerido por la Ley de Estadounidenses con Discapacidades (ADA, por sus siglas en inglés), para presentar solicitudes de información de la agenda en un formato alternativo o solicitar facilidades razonables para facilitar su participación en la reunión, por favor, comuníquese con el secretario del Comité\* por lo menos dos días hábiles antes de la reunión.



**\*Información de Contacto:** Comuníquese con el secretario del Comité por correo electrónico en [Brenda.Jackson@sdmts.com](mailto:Brenda.Jackson@sdmts.com), por teléfono al **619-595-3086** o por correo postal en **1255 Imperial Ave. Suite 1000, San Diego CA 92101.**



**Metropolitan  
Transit  
System**

## **Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda**

**May 28, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.**

**In-Person Participation:** James R. Mills Building, 1255 Imperial Avenue, 10th Floor Board Room, San Diego CA 92101

**Teleconference Participation:** (669) 254-5252; Webinar ID: https:160 727 3020; <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1607273020>

NO.	ITEM SUBJECT AND DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1.	<b>Roll Call</b>	
2.	<b>Public Comments</b>	
3.	<b>Approval of Minutes</b> Action would approve the February 26, 2025, Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.	Approve
DISCUSSION ITEMS		
4.	<b>Proposed Revisions to Taxicab Advisory Committee Guidelines (Leonardo Fewell)</b>	Informational
5.	<b>Taxicab Advisory Committee Election Update (Leonardo Fewell)</b>	Informational
6.	<b>Airport Originated Trips (Leonardo Fewell)</b>	Informational
7.	<b>For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Operations Update (Leonardo Fewell)</b>	Informational
OTHER ITEMS		
8.	<b>Topics for Next Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting (Leonardo Fewell)</b>	Informational
9.	<b>Committee Member Communications and Other Business</b>	
10.	<b>Next Meeting Date: July 30, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.</b>	
11.	<b>Adjournment</b>	

**1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000, San Diego, CA 92101-7490 • (619) 231-1466 • [sdmts.com](http://sdmts.com)**

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is a California public agency comprised of San Diego Transit Corp., San Diego Trolley, Inc. and San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company (nonprofit public benefit corporations). MTS member agencies include the cities of Chula Vista, Coronado, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Poway, San Diego, Santee, and the County of San Diego. MTS is also the For-Hire Vehicle administrator for multiple cities in San Diego County.



## MINUTES

### MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

#### TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

February 26, 2025

[Clerk's note: Except where noted, public, staff and Committee member comments are paraphrased. The full comment can be heard by reviewing the recording at the [MTS website](#).]

#### 1. **Roll Call**

Chair Elo-Rivera called the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached as Attachment A.

#### 2. **Public Comments**

Kamran Hamidi – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Hamidi requested MTS elaborate on how the budget accrues interest, where the interest originates from, and where it is reflected in the financial documents. Hamidi suggested establishing a standing finance sub-committee to ensure full transparency.

#### 3. **Approval of Minutes**

Committee Member Tasem moved to approve the minutes of the November 13, 2024, MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting. Committee Member Hueso seconded the motion, and the vote was 11 to 0 in favor with Committee Member Hodoyan, Committee Member Gonzalez, Committee Member Mayekawa, Committee Member Nichols, Committee Member Trimble, Committee Member Garcia, and Committee Member Marty absent.

### PUBLIC HEARING

#### 4. **2025 Maximum Rates of Fare (Leonardo Fewell)**

Leonardo Fewell, MTS For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Manager, presented on the 2025 Maximum Rates of Fare. He presented on: the new 2025 Maximum Rates of Fare. Based on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), there was a slight increase in the per-mile rate and per-hour waiting rate, but the flag drop will remain the same. Taxicabs, equipped with point-of-sale (POS) devices connected to meters, may charge 6% more. Mr. Fewell stressed that the adoption of the 2025 Maximum Rates of Fare is optional, and permit holders may adopt them if they choose, or they can continue to utilize the lower rates from 2024. He stated all permit holders will be obligated to adopt the new maximum rates of fare, only if rates decrease. Mr. Fewell pointed out that permit holders wanting to adopt the increased 2025 Maximum Rates of Fare must have the changes performed by an authorized taximeter service agent, then complete the annual process to have the taximeter registered and certified with the San Diego Department of Weights and Measures.

#### **Public Comment**

Kamran Hamidi – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Hamidi expressed frustration with rates fluctuating, with no mention about having a flat rate as discussed in a May 2024 ad hoc meeting. Hamidi asked Chair Elo-Rivera to watch for a petition proposal that would allow dispatch to adjust rates. The proposal suggests slightly increasing the flag drop fee while lowering the per-mile rate, so longer trips cost slightly less and shorter trips cost slightly more.

Horacio Sanchez – Representing Flywheel Technologies, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Sanchez stated that developing flat rates from the airport or upfront negotiated pricing that the passenger could accept would help drivers.

William Alozie – A cab driver, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Alozie disapproved of a rate increase and said there should be a vote on having flat rates.

Henry Agoh – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Agoh stated increasing the meter rates would put all taxis out of business, and suggested a flat rate should be in place for rides originating from the airport.

Tariq Mosamem – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Mosamem requested having a flat rate from the airport and not raising the fare rates.

Will – Representing United Taxi Workers, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Will asked when the effective date of the new rate would be.

Chair Elo-Rivera responded that the question Will asked would be more appropriate for one of the members to ask during the Committee Comment period.

### **Committee Comment**

Committee Member Zschiesche stated that using the Consumer Price Index (CPI) to set rates should be reconsidered. He acknowledged that the system is straightforward but argued that its underlying logic is flawed and could eventually lead drivers to price themselves out of the market. Committee Member Zschiesche stated flat rates have a range that everyone can understand. He suggested allowing the drivers to respond to the marketplace and not be tied to the CPI, which he felt was not a good system.

Committee Member Abraham felt that discussing fare increases annually, was not productive.

Committee Member Hueso pointed out that the mechanism is intended to be a guideline of the maximum amount drivers can charge, it was not meant to be abided by, drivers can charge anything, including a flat rate, if it is below that maximum rate. He stated the same guideline is used every year because there have not been more productive solutions. Committee Member Hueso mentioned that unless there is a system change that the industry can agree upon, the Committee will likely revisit the topic next year.

Committee Member Majid mentioned that drivers assume they are obligated to raise their rates to the maximum amount. He stated every company can create their own flat rate, so long as the maximum limit is not exceeded.

Chair Elo-Rivera asked Mr. Fewell if he had a response to the question asked by Will during the public comment. Mr. Fewell responded to Will's question by stating the maximum rates are effective today. He also mentioned the rates are published every year at the first TAC meeting. Mr. Fewell added context to Committee Members Hueso's and Majid's comments, pointing out that counterparts from other cities have their own CPI methods of calculating maximum rates but the CPI index the agency uses is tailored to the transportation industry - Southern California and the San Diego region. Mr. Fewell emphasized adoption of these fares are optional.

Committee Member Seifu stated the drivers want to implement a flat rate for trips within a certain radius of the airport, similar to Uber's pricing models. He noted a past study on this



issue and asked what the result of the study was. Committee Member Seifu said the drivers are hoping for a positive response or outcome on the issue.

Chair Elo-Rivera added that despite efforts to maintain lower rates, any increase may have the unintended consequence of shaping public perception that taxi fares have risen and are becoming less affordable. He asked Mr. Fewell when information is disseminated, is there any additional context that can be provided to remind people that the maximum rate is rarely charged. Mr. Fewell responded that there was not. He mentioned the agency publishes the maximum rates of fare as is but will review having context alongside that information.

Committee Member Zschiesche referred to a recent article from the Los Angeles Times with a headline about Lyft and Uber raising their rates 16% to 17% and its potential impacts on sales; comparably, mentioning MTS raising taxi rates by \$0.10 and its impact on sales in San Diego. Committee Member Zschiesche stated that the taxi industry is requesting the flat rate system to be opened again and looked at since the marketplace within the industry have changed over the last 20 years.

Committee Member Tasem stated there used to be multiple fares that came out of the airport before the system changed to the medallion system. He suggested reevaluating the medallion system when the new terminal opens at the airport, and reissue medallions based on an A/B system, to limit the taxicabs at the airport, which would create more business for the taxicab industry.

[Clerk's Note: For additional context/clarification; an A/B system splits the current daily open system into two sets of permits]

Committee Member Hueso suggested adding a caveat in the application process that provided guidance to drivers, asking them which type of charging system they are willing to operate understanding that there is a set upper limit. He stated industry leaders are limiting themselves to the airport, there needs to be more analysis by people getting into the marketplace. Committee Member Hueso raised several questions that could help make an informed decision, which include feasibility, attractiveness, ability to make money, and if they are unable to make money, understanding the reasons why and determining the best way to address the issue.

### **Action Taken**

Informational item only. No action taken.

## **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

### **5. Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership (Leonardo Fewell)**

Mr. Fewell, presented on TAC membership. He started by introducing the three new alternate committee members appointed for the remainder of the TAC term per TAC Committee guidelines: Committee Member Gonzalo Ayala, permit holder of Heritage Cab, Committee Member Fabiano Sarmiento, taxicab lease driver for Jazzy Cab, and Committee Member Boris Masarskiy, taxicab lease driver for USA Cab. Mr. Fewell explained that these new members filled the vacant seats of elected representatives who no longer meet the eligibility requirements of being on the TAC Committee. Mr. Fewell stated the TAC is comprised of 16 voting members who serve a three-year term. He pointed out that elections for the 2025-2028 TAC term will be held in July 2025, with more information given at the May 28, 2025, TAC meeting. Mr. Fewell noted that voting for the elections will be held on-line via



AssociationVoting.com, and lease drivers wishing to nominate themselves to be a part of the TAC Committee or participate in the election, are requested to contact FHVA to provide their email address so they can be contacted via email around the month of June.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Committee Comment**

No committee comment.

**Action Taken**

Informational item only. No action taken.

**6. For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Required Driver Training (Leonardo Fewell)**

Mr. Fewell, presented on FHVA required driving training. He stated that every driver of an MTS permitted for-hire vehicle must complete an MTS-approved driver safety course at least once, per MTS Ordinance No. 11, before the Sherriff's Office will issue the driver an identification card (ID). Mr. Fewell noted that a driver may be required to retake the driver training course under certain circumstances. FHVA provides the driver training course at least twice a month via Zoom, with a \$30 administrative fee that covers the time and prepping for the meeting. Mr. Fewell requested feedback from the Committee and any interested stakeholder, on possible improvements to the driver training program which would enhance the overall driver/passenger experience and safety. He commented that FHVA has received positive feedback from drivers about the program but still welcomes feedback for ways to improve both the content and the method. Mr. Fewell stated that he can be reached in-person (by appointment), or anytime by sending an email or making a phone call and he will send an email link to participate in an upcoming driver training session.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Committee Comment**

No committee comment.

**Action Taken**

Informational item only. No action taken.

**7. Autonomous For-Hire Vehicles Operations (Leonardo Fewell)**

Mr. Fewell, presented on autonomous for-hire vehicles operations. He started by saying autonomous vehicles are self-driving vehicles that transport passengers for-hire without a human driver. Mr. Fewell mentioned there are over 24 autonomous vehicle companies worldwide, with Waymo, Nuro Inc, and Mercedes-Benz currently being authorized by the California Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV), and the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to conduct for-hire vehicle trips in certain areas of California. He stated Waymo is currently testing in San Diego, including at the San Diego Airport, but does not have authorization yet to begin for-hire operations as they do in Los Angeles and San Francisco. Mr. Fewell requested feedback from TAC on questions or concerns they may have relating to

this emerging transportation technology and whether additional research or next steps would be appropriate to address this.

### **Public Comment**

Alem Zebib – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Zebib expressed opposition to having autonomous vehicles in the city and airport. Zebib stated the drivers have to pay fees, renew their sheriff's licenses, take drug tests and have vehicle inspections every year and asked about the safety of an unmanned vehicle.

Horacio Sanchez – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Sanchez stated San Francisco has had driverless vehicles for quite some time. Sanchez's company, Flywheel Technologies, conducted an analysis over the past year and a half, and noticed Waymo takes the majority of business away from Uber and other ride-charge services, but the taxi business is not as affected by driverless vehicles.

### **Committee Comment**

Chair Elo-Rivera stated he has concerns about Waymo operating in the San Diego region. He pointed out that even as a city councilmember he has no say as to whether autonomous vehicles can operate on San Diego city streets. Chair Elo-Rivera expressed frustration with seeing these vehicles on San Diego streets, collecting data to produce what will eventually become profit, and the city is seeing no return on that. Chair Elo-Rivera stated he wanted to open up the conversation to engage in questions and provide an opportunity for feedback.

Committee Member Tasem stated having Waymo would not be conducive within the county because San Diego does not have the population to handle it like they do in Los Angeles. He pointed out that there is no regulatory agency that will regulate Waymo vehicles if a vehicle gets into an accident, which is different than how taxi drivers are regulated.

Committee Member Seifu stated Waymo has been in San Francisco since June 2024, and his expectation is that Waymo will be operating in San Diego as well. He expressed concern about how operations at the airport would be managed if customer demand for Waymo increases, particularly given the limited availability of parking spaces. Chair Elo-Rivera asked Mr. Fewell if access to the airport is decided by the CPUC or is this something the airport would have authority over. Mr. Fewell responded to Chair Elo-Rivera's question, stating that autonomous vehicle regulations are pre-empted by the state, and overall regulated by DMV's autonomous vehicles branch. He noted that this branch has a public community outreach resource on their website which allows public comment in the development of those regulations. Mr. Fewell mentioned the CPUC is involved in the regulation of autonomous vehicles when it comes to the operational phase in terms of being for-hire to the public. He explained it is at the airport's sole discretion as to how they accommodate those vehicles, assuming they become operational. Mr. Fewell stated any questions about how autonomous vehicles will operate at the airport should be referred to the Airport's Ground Transportation Department.

Chair Elo-Rivera suggested submitting a letter from the TAC to the MTS Board, showing some level of consensus that the TAC is expressing a shared opinion on this issue. Chair Elo-Rivera pointed out that if the airport has the type of authority Mr. Fewell mentioned, then the industry may want to lobby the airport to not allow or limit the ability of Waymo to operate on airport property.

Committee Member Hueso stated that it is important to have safeguards in place, because innovation is going to come in, and everyone should think about how the city benefits, how the industry benefits, and how we can influence our regulators to develop language, so drivers are competing on a level playing field. Committee Member Hueso mentioned the unfairness of being placed in another position like they were with Uber and Lyft and expressed gratitude toward Chair Elo-Rivera for bringing this issue to the forefront and giving them the opportunity to make recommendations and move forward.

Committee Member Zschiesche discussed beginning by consulting former TAC Chair Chris Ward for his input on best ways to engage with the DMV and CPUC. He stated he does not believe all innovation in tech is good and agreed with Committee Member Hueso's stance of identifying problems early on and having conversations to determine areas where they can be effective. Committee Member Zschiesche suggested that the City of San Diego should look for avenues to deal with the impacts and figure out how to mitigate them. He also mentioned it would be a good idea to have an ad hoc group to get people together and create a statement from the Committee.

### **Action Taken**

Chair Elo-Rivera mentioned that his office could work with Mr. Fewell and interested members of the Committee to bring forward some ideas, comments and concerns to the next TAC meeting, to avoid similar obstacles with Uber and Lyft.

## **8. For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Operations Update (Leonardo Fewell)**

Mr. Fewell presented on FHVA Operations Update. He reiterated that email is the primary method for communication for all purposes. He stated that permit holders are responsible for checking their spam and junk email folders and encourages them to adjust their filters to accept FHVA emails to stay informed. Mr. Fewell reminded permit holders that per MTS Ordinance No. 11, they must notify FHVA of any changes to their address, phone numbers and email address. He emphasized appointments are required for business efficiency.

Mr. Fewell mentioned that the 2025 regulatory fee collection period is between January 6, 2025, and March 3, 2025. He pointed out that to avoid permit suspension for missing the March 3, 2025, deadline, late payment renewals are accepted until March 31, 2025, at the close of business, and includes a late payment fee as detailed in the Administrative Fee Schedule. Mr. Fewell reiterated that as a part of streamlining the renewal process, permit holders must submit their required mechanical inspections and annual statements at the time of payment to avoid delays in the renewal process.

Mr. Fewell spoke about the invitation only ad hoc meeting held on January 23, 2025, and mentioned who was invited and explained why they were chosen. He shared a presentation about FHVA's budget and the contingency reserves during the meeting and the representatives from other regulatory agencies shared their budgeting and contingency reserves program. Mr. Fewell requested feedback from those in attendance as to what factors FHVA should consider when developing FHVA's annual budget and regulatory fees. He proposed a second meeting to review staff recommendations on guidelines for a contingency reserve target and will provide a full report on those findings at a future TAC meeting.

Mr. Fewell presented slides showing and explaining current active and surrendered permits, field enforcement, customer feedback cases, and airport trips. He encouraged permit holders to display their Sheriff's ID and wear their name tags because not doing so is an MTS Ordinance No. 11 violation.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Committee Comment**

Committee Member Tasem referenced the airport trips slide and stated the numbers used to be higher per trip for taxis. He emphasized that unless the way business is conducted at the airport changes, the taxi trip numbers will continue to go down.

**Action Taken**

Informational item only. No action taken.

**OTHER ITEMS**

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

Mr. Fewell stated the next TAC meeting will be on May 28, 2025, where the staff recommends the topics of discussion should include TAC elections and an FHVA update. He also mentioned that feedback is requested on what topics should be addressed and considered to be included in the agenda at the next TAC meeting.

**Public Comment**

No public comment.

**Committee Comment**

Committee Member Majid proposed to have the airport revisit the current open system of allowing all vehicles to operate at the airport on a daily basis.

Committee Member Zschiesche mentioned a meeting outside of the TAC meeting would be held by a group of drivers at the airport on February 27, 2025, to discuss reinstituting the A/B system and expanding work. He suggested scheduling something just to hear the latest update on these efforts.

Committee Member Hueso mentioned that he and Committee Member Akbar met with airport officials the previous week to address the issues of being double and triple charged on airport fees which stemmed from problems with their newly implemented software and their acknowledgment of being understaffed. Committee Member Hueso suggested revisiting this issue.

**10. Committee Member Communications and Other Business**

There was no Committee Member Communications and Other Business discussion.

**11. Next Meeting Date**

The next Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for May 28, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

**12. Adjournment**

Chair Elo-Rivera adjourned the meeting at 2:35 p.m.

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Chairperson  
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

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Committee Clerk  
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Attachment: A. Roll Call Sheet

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

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): February 26, 2025

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 1:04 PM

ADJOURN: 2:35 PM

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	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Able Seifu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / Odyssey Cab	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Agustin Hodoyan	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / Soul Cab	ABSENT	ABSENT
Akbar Majid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / SDYC Holdings	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Gonzalo Ayala	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / Heritage Cab	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
George Abraham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Fesshaye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / Eritrean Cab	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Antonio Hueso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / USA Cab, LTD	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Letty Canizalez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD Tourism Authority	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Eduardo Gonzalez	<input type="checkbox"/>	Jose Raul Alcantar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross Border X-Press	ABSENT	ABSENT
Mikail Hussein	<input type="checkbox"/>	Peter Zschiesche	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	United Taxi Workers SD	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Daryl Mayekawa	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thanh Nguyen	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD Convention Center	ABSENT	ABSENT
Marc Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD Regional Airport Authority	ABSENT	ABSENT
Michael Trimble	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD Gaslamp Quarter Association	ABSENT	ABSENT
Fabiano Sarmiento	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Boris Masarskiy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	1:04 PM	1:46 PM
David Tasem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	1:04 PM	2:35 PM
Non – Voting Committee Members						
Jonathan Garcia	<input type="checkbox"/>	Austin Shepard	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures	ABSENT	ABSENT
Jessica Marty	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD County Sheriff's Department Licensing Division	ABSENT	ABSENT

/S/Dalia  
Gonzalez

COMMITTEE CLERK: /S/ Brenda Jackson



## Agenda Item No. 4

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

May 28, 2025

#### SUBJECT:

Proposed Revisions to Taxicab Advisory Committee Guidelines (Leonardo Fewell)

#### INFORMATIONAL:

##### Budget Impact

None

#### DISCUSSION:

The Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) is currently comprised of 16 members as follows: One (1) representative of the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) Board of Directors (appointed on an annual basis); six (6) seats for representation of taxicab permit holders; three (3) seats for taxicab lease drivers and six (6) seats for organization representatives. Permit holders and lease drivers are elected every three years and serve a three-year term.

The TAC member organizations are the San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, the San Diego Convention Center, the Gaslamp Quarter Association, Cross Border Express, and the United Taxi Workers Association (UTWSD). TAC member organizations are not subject to elections. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) appoints TAC organization members.

The Gaslamp Quarter Association has missed over four consecutive TAC meetings. The current TAC guidelines state that any member who misses four (4) consecutive meetings may be subject to removal. For Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) emailed the Gaslamp Quarter Association requesting confirmation on the Gaslamp Quarter Association's interest in remaining a member of the TAC and FHVA did not receive a response.

It is recommended that the TAC Membership Guidelines be revised to remove the Gaslamp Quarter Association as an organizational member.

Feedback is requested on which organization should be the appropriate replacement. Potential options include, but are not limited to: Border Transportation Council, Downtown San Diego Partnership, or a member-at-large organization designated by the CEO that is a taxicab industry stakeholder.





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

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, [Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com](mailto:Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com)

Attachment: A. Taxicab Advisory Committee Guidelines (red-lined with proposed revisions)



## 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~~ permit holder and lease driver penalty ~~ies; guidelines;~~

1.2

- 1.3 Discuss taxicab permit holders/lease drivers' written grievances;

- 1.4 Review summaries of complaints concerning taxicab service;

- 1.5 Review vehicle inspection criteria, and 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 (1) 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 Representatives from six (6) organizations or agencies, each serving a three-year term that may designate one (1) alternate member by providing written notification to the MTS Clerk of the Taxicab Advisory Committee, divided as follows:

2.2.1 One (1) member appointed by the San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau;

2.2.2 One (1) member appointed by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority;

2.2.3 One (1) member appointed by the San Diego Convention Center, Gaslamp Quarter Association;

2.2.4 One (1) member appointed by the Cross Border Express; ~~and~~

2.2.5 One (1) member appointed by the United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD), that must either be: a current member of the UTWSD or be a current employee or other authorized representative of the UTWSD; and

2.22.2.6 -One (1) member appointed by a member-at-large organization appointed by the MTS Chief Executive Officer. The member-at-large organization should be associated with the tourism, hospitality, parking, medical services, community development, or any other industry or business trade that is identified as a mutual stakeholder with the taxicab industry., each serving a three-year term. TBD

~~a. Each organization or agency may designate one (1) alternate member by providing written notification to the MTS Clerk of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.~~

~~The UTWSD member must either be: a current member of the UTWSD; or be a current employee or other authorized representative of the UTWSD.~~

~~b. The member-at-large organization should be associated with the tourism, hospitality, parking, medical services, community development, or any other industry or business trade that is identified as a mutual stakeholder with the taxicab industry.~~

2.3 Six (6) taxicab permit holders in good standing, each serving a three-year term, elected by taxicab permit holders and lease drivers, divided as follows: four (4) seats are designated for representation of a permit holder with -one taxicab; and two (2) seats are designated for representation of permit holders of two (2) or more taxicabs.

2.4 Three (3) 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, each serving a three-year term, elected by taxicab permit holders and lease drivers.

2.5 The election shall comply with the following guidelines:

a. Taxicab lease driver representative elections shall take place every three years at the same time as the taxicab permit holder representative elections.

b. Taxicab lease drivers and taxicab permit holders are permitted to cast one vote per seat.

2.6 The taxicab permit holders, lease drivers and UTWSD representative shall meet the eligibility requirements at all times while serving on the Taxicab Advisory Committee.

2.7 A taxicab permit holder member unable to attend a meeting may appoint an alternate from the same permit category, that is in good standing with MTS, to attend in their absence.

2.8 A taxicab lease driver unable to attend a meeting may appoint another taxicab lease driver, who is in good standing with the Sheriff's Licensing Division, to attend in their absence.

- 2.9 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.
- 2.10 The Vice Chair will be the For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager.
- 2.11 One non-voting member will be appointed by the County of San Diego's Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures.
- 2.12 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 and/or via remote teleconferenced meetings, as permissible.
- 4.3 The agenda for each meeting will be posted in the MTS lobby and/or MTS website, as permissible.
- 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 ~~November 18, 2021~~June 26, 2025~~TBD~~.
- 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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Item No. 4, 05/28/2025

# Proposed Revisions to Taxicab Advisory Committee Guidelines

Taxicab Advisory Committee

# Proposed Revisions to TAC Guidelines

- The TAC is currently comprised of 16 members as follows:
  - One representative of the MTS Board of Directors
  - Six seats for representation of taxicab permit holders
  - Three seats for taxicab lease drivers
  - Six seats for organization representatives
- The TAC member organizations are:
  - San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau
  - San Diego County Regional Airport Authority
  - San Diego Convention Center
  - Gaslamp Quarter Association
  - Cross Border Express
  - United Taxi Workers Association (UTWSD)



# Proposed Revisions to TAC Guidelines

- TAC member organizations are not subject to elections
- The CEO appoints new TAC organization members based on the TAC's recommendations
  - Current TAC guidelines state that any member who misses four (4) consecutive meetings may be subject to removal
  - The Gaslamp Quarter Association has missed over four consecutive TAC meetings

# Proposed Revisions to TAC Guidelines

- May 1, 2025, FHVA emailed the Gaslamp Quarter Association requesting confirmation on their interest in remaining a member of the TAC
- FHVA requested confirmation by May 9, 2025. FHVA did not receive a response

# Feedback Requested

- Removing the Gaslamp Quarter Association as an organizational member and,
- Replacing with a new organization
  - Potential ideas include:
    - Border Transportation Council
    - Downtown San Diego Partnership
    - a member-at-large organization that should be associated with the tourism, hospitality, parking, medical services, community development, or any other industry or business trade that is identified as a mutual stakeholder with the taxicab industry.
- Once feedback received, staff will review and return to a future TAC meeting with the red-line changes to TAC Guidelines

# Questions/Comments



## Agenda Item No. 5

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

May 28, 2025

#### SUBJECT:

Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Election Update (Leonardo Fewell)

#### INFORMATIONAL ONLY:

##### Budget Impact

A one-time online voting software license and add-on features was purchased in the amount of \$639.

#### DISCUSSION:

The elected positions of permit holders and taxicab lease drivers are due for re-election. The three-year term for elected permit holders and lease drivers will expire in June 2025. Similar to the previous 2022 TAC election, voting will be held online through AssociationVoting.com. A valid e-mail address is needed for permit holders and lease drivers to receive the digital ballot and cast a vote.

The following is an update on the outreach methods, key dates, applicable deadlines, and validation for the 2025 TAC election:

#### **I. Outreach Methods for Lease Drivers Emails**

For Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) utilizes e-mail as the primary communication method with permit holders, lease drivers, TAC member organizations, and all other industry stakeholders. FHVA does have e-mail contact information for permit holders but does not maintain lease drivers' contact information.

FHVA requested the San Diego Sheriff's Licensing Division provide a list of all active taxicab drivers on file. The list included both permit holders who operate their own taxicabs, as well as lease drivers. As the Sheriff's Licensing Division database makes no distinction between licensed permit holders and lease drivers, FHVA cross-referenced the Sheriff's list with the permit holder database to filter out the lease driver identification card information. The Sheriff's department does not collect e-mail information but includes the telephone number provided by all licensees on the licensed drivers list.



FHVA staff called all lease drivers and requested a valid e-mail address to participate in the upcoming TAC election. Additionally, for all lease drivers FHVA could not reach, FHVA has sent an e-mail to permit holders requesting their lease driver's e-mail information.

The United Taxi Workers San Diego (UTWSD) is assisting by promoting the upcoming TAC election by posting information in their UTWSD social media feeds. TAC election information and a link to submit lease driver information will be posted at the FHVA website: [sdmts.com/tac-election](https://sdmts.com/tac-election). FHVA Regulatory Inspectors will also begin distributing a 2025 TAC Election information flyer to all taxi drivers during their field inspections (Attachment A).

## **II. Upcoming Tasks – Estimated timeline**

**June 15, 2025:** FHVA will send self-nomination forms via e-mail to all permit holders and lease drivers on record.

**June 30, 2025:** FHVA must receive all self-nomination forms via e-mail by 5:00 p.m., close of business.

**Between July 1 and July 3, 2025,** FHVA will compile a list of nominees and furnish all necessary information to AssociationVoting to complete the election setup.

**July 7, 2025:** The voting period begins. AssociationVoting will send email announcements to permit holders and lease drivers, including the election link and login instructions for each to access their individual ballot.

**July 18, 2025:** The voting period ends. Permit Holders and Lease Drivers ballots must be submitted through AssociationVoting by 5:00 p.m., close of business.

## **III. Election Validation – Estimated timeline**

**July 21, 2025:** AssociationVoting will provide a certified election letter including a list of voting members and voting record, preserving the ballot language and vote totals from the election.

**July 22, 2025:** FHVA will notify the newly elected members by email. Newly elected members will be introduced at the July 30, 2025, TAC meeting for the next three-year term (June 2025 - June 2028)

/S/ Leonardo Fewell \_\_\_\_\_  
Leonardo Fewell  
For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, [Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com](mailto:Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com)

Attachment: A. 2025 TAC Election Information Flyer



## MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee Election

# IT'S YOUR TIME TO VOTE!

Taxicab permit holders and taxicab lease drivers are electing new members for the Taxicab Advisory Committee. MTS needs **taxicab lease driver contact information** in order to email you information on how to participate in the Taxicab Advisory Committee's online voting!

Lease Drivers that are interested **must** provide the following contact information to MTS by **June 30, 2025**:

- **Name**
- **Sheriff ID Number**
- **Valid email address**

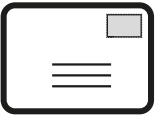
Submit your contact information through one of the following ways:



**ONLINE**  
[sdmts.com/tac-election](https://sdmts.com/tac-election)



**E-MAIL**  
[MTSFHVADOCS@sdmts.com](mailto:MTSFHVADOCS@sdmts.com)



**MAIL**  
For Hire Vehicle Administration  
100 16th Street  
San Diego, CA, 92101



Provide in-person to  
**MTS FHVA Regulatory Inspector**

For more information on the MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee Election, visit  
[sdmts.com/tac-election](https://sdmts.com/tac-election)





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Item No. 5, 05/28/2025

# TAC Election Update

## Taxicab Advisory Committee

# TAC Election Update

- The current TAC three-year term for permit holders and lease drivers will expire in June 2025
- Similar to the 2022 TAC election, voting will be held online through [AssociationVoting.com](https://AssociationVoting.com)
- A valid e-mail address is needed for permit holders and lease drivers to receive the digital ballot and cast a vote.
- The following is an update on the outreach methods, key dates, applicable deadlines, and validation for the 2025 TAC election

# TAC Election Update

- **Outreach Methods for Lease Driver E-mails**
  - FHVA has e-mail contact information for permit holders but does not have access to contact information for lease drivers
  - FHVA is taking the following steps to collect lease driver information:
    - Requested a list of all active taxicab drivers on file from the San Diego Sheriff's Licensing Division (the list does not include e-mail information but does include telephone numbers)
    - Cross-referenced the Sheriff's list, (includes permit holders and lease drivers), with FHVA's list of permit holders to identify lease driver information
    - Contacted lease drivers by phone and requested a valid e-mail address to participate in the upcoming TAC election
    - Followed up with an e-mail to permit holders, requesting e-mail addresses for their lease drivers
  - United Taxi Workers San Diego (UTWSD) is supporting the upcoming TAC election by sharing information through its social media channels

# TAC Election Update

- **Upcoming Tasks:**

- **June 15, 2025:**

- FHVA will send self-nomination forms via e-mail to all permit holders and lease drivers on record.
- TAC election information will be posted at the sdmts.com FHVA website: [sdmts.com/tac-election](https://sdmts.com/tac-election)
- FHVA Regulatory Inspectors will also begin distributing a 2025 TAC Election information flyer to all taxi drivers during their field inspections

- **June 30, 2025:**

- FHVA must receive all self-nomination forms via e-mail by 5:00 pm., (close of business)

# TAC Election Update

- **Upcoming Tasks:**

- **Between July 1 and July 3, 2025:**

- FHVA will compile a list of nominees and furnish all necessary information to AssociationVoting to complete the election setup

- **July 7, 2025:**

- The voting period begins. AssociationVoting will send e-mail announcements to pee-mailholders and lease drivers, including the election link and login instructions for each voter to access their individual ballot

- **July 18, 2025:**

- The voting period ends. Permit Holders and Lease Drivers ballots must be submitted through AssociationVoting by 5:00 p.m., (close of business)

# TAC Election Update

- **Upcoming Tasks:**

- **July 21, 2025:**

- AssociationVoting will provide a certified election letter including a list of voting members and voting record, preserving the ballot language and vote totals from the election

- **July 22, 2025:**

- FHVA will notify the newly elected members by e-mail. Newly elected members will be introduced at the July 30, 2025, TAC meeting for the next three-year term (June 2025 - June 2028)

# Questions/Comments





## Agenda Item No. 6

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

May 28, 2025

#### SUBJECT:

Airport Originated Trips (Leonardo Fewell)

#### INFORMATIONAL ONLY:

##### Budget Impact

None

#### DISCUSSION:

According to permit holders and lease drivers, airport trip waiting times continue to increase, as do short trips to downtown (approximately 4 miles or less) from the airport, resulting in reduced earnings for drivers.

There are various factors likely at play for the reasons for long waiting times for airport trips. This includes increased passenger preference for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). In 2024, the San Diego Airport reported 2,752,294 combined TNC and taxicab-originating trips. Only 343,506 (approximately 12.5%) of the total combined trips were provided by taxicabs. For the first trimester of 2025, trip count trends remained the same. Based on the reported 618,400 combined TNC and taxicab-originating trips for the first trimester of 2025, 69,936 (approximately 11.3%) of the total combined trips were provided by taxicabs.

In addition, another contributing factor to the long waiting times for airport trips is the impact from the airport ending the A/B or "every-other day" system. This previously designated a certain number of taxicabs from taking airport trips on certain days, reducing the number of taxicabs queuing for airport trips. Now, there is no-cap on the number of taxicabs taking airport trips on any given day, resulting in longer queues.

As it relates to the concern of reduced earnings from taxicab drivers due to short trips from the airport, it was requested For Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) research flat-rates for airport originating trips. FHVA presented TAC with initial research on flat-rates for airport-originated trips from other airports (see May 22, 2024, TAC Meeting).

However, the impact flat rates would have on competition and passenger costs requires further attention, as San Diego's maximum fare rates are currently the highest in California. Increasing



them further with an airport flat rate that would be higher than the current maximum fare rate could result in passengers continuing to choose TNCs over taxicabs.

To identify the best possible solution that maximizes drivers' benefits and addresses the above concerns, FHVA will be working with the San Diego Airport. Through virtual queue technologies, some airports have adopted measures that allow taxicabs to provide short trips out of the airport to return to the front of the taxi line or other preferred space in the virtual queue. Additionally, other measures that should be discussed to address drivers' concerns are the future intention for the airport to split the permits into an A/B or all-day system, re-capping the number of ground transportation permits for taxicabs, and/or possible relocation of taxicabs once the terminal upgrade construction is completed.

Also to be researched further is the advancement of taxicab meter technology. Soft meters, or now more commonly referenced in the industry as a smart-meter, is a digital, app-based meter that operates using GPS or onboard computer diagnostics. Smart meters are currently being increasingly utilized by other cities due to their ability to electronically gather trip data, integrate GPS, allow virtual adjustments of the meter, support industry standard payment integration, assist the industry in making data-driven policy decisions, and provide virtual access to trip data to a regulatory agency in order to investigate complaints. Smart-Meter technologies are also being used to implement flat rates based on distance, zones, or other destination criteria in order jurisdictions. These benefits of smart-meter technology are an important factor to consider as we address long-term solutions to airport concerns.

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

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, [Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com](mailto:Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com)



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Item No. 6, 05/28/2025

# Airport Originated Trips

## Taxicab Advisory Committee

# Airport Originated Trips

- According to permit holders and lease drivers, airport short trips (approximately 4 miles or less), and overall waiting times continue to increase, resulting in reduced earnings for drivers
- There are various factors likely at play:
  - Increased passenger preference for transportation network companies (TNCs)
    - In 2024, only 12.5% of the total combined TNC and taxicab originated trips were provided by taxicabs
    - In the first trimester of 2025, only 11.3% of the total combined TNC and taxicab originated trips were provided by taxicabs

# Airport Originated Trips

- Ending of the Airport's "A/B" permit system for taxicabs
  - Previously designated a certain number of taxicabs from taking airport trips on certain days
  - Now, there is no-cap on the number of taxicabs taking airport trips on any given day, resulting in longer queues
- As it relates to the concern of reduced earnings from taxicab drivers due to short trips from the airport, it was requested FHVA research flat-rates for airport originating trips
- FHVA presented TAC with initial research on flat-rates for airport-originated trips from other airports (see May 22, 2024, TAC Meeting)

# Airport Originated Trips

- The impact flat rates would have on competition and passenger costs requires further attention as:
  - San Diego's maximum fare rates are currently the highest in California
  - Further, increasing these rates with an airport flat rate could result in passengers continuing to choose TNC's over taxicabs
- To identify the best possible solution that maximizes drivers' benefits and addresses the above concerns, FHVA will be working with the San Diego Airport on the following:
  - Virtual queue technologies (i.e. allowing drivers to return to the front of the queue after short trips)

# Airport Originated Trips

- Future plans to return on an A/B permit system
- Re-capping the number of ground transportation permits or taxicabs
- Possible relocation of taxicabs once terminal upgrades are completed
- To be researched further is the advancement of taxicab meter technology (i.e. smart meter) and the benefits for taxicabs:
  - Electronically gather trip data (no need for handwritten trip logs as required by Ordinance No. 11)
  - Integrated GPS tracking

# Airport Originated Trips

- Virtual rate adjustments (through software update)
- Industry standards payment integration
- Access to trip data for FHVA to investigate complaints and disputes and assist the industry to make data-driven policy decisions
- If flat rates are approved in the future, it could be used to implement flat rates based on distance, zones, or other destination criteria



# Questions/Comments



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## **Agenda Item No. 7**

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

**May 28, 2025**

**SUBJECT:**

**For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Operations Update (Leonardo Fewell)**

**INFORMATIONAL ONLY:**

**Budget Impact**

**None**

**DISCUSSION:**

FHVA will provide a report on the following topics and categories: wildcatter enforcement for San Ysidro and Otay Mesa, annual permit renewal results, number of active and surrendered permits by vehicle type, number of field contacts, issued citations, taxicab airport originated trips, customer feedback cases, other for-hire vehicle statistics, and an update on administrative operations.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, [Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com](mailto:Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com)

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Item No. 7, 05/28/2025

# **FHVA Operations Update**

## **Taxicab Advisory Committee**

# FHVA Operations Update

- E-mail is the primary method of communication for all purposes. It is the responsibility of the permit holders to check spam/junk folders and adjust e-mail filters to accept FHVA e-mails (sdmts.com) domain
- Per Ordinance No. 11 §1.8 (c), Permit holders must notify FHVA of any changes in their address, phone number(s) or e-mail information
- FHVA staff is available by appointment only. All calls and e-mails are returned by the next business day

# FHVA Operations Update

## Staff Directory

Title	Name	Phone Number	E-Mail Address
Manager (General Information)	Leonardo Fewell	(619) 235-2643	<a href="mailto:Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com">Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com</a>
Regulatory Supervisor (Field Enforcement, Complaints)	Sergio Iniguez	(619) 744-5969	<a href="mailto:Sergio.Iniguez@sdmts.com">Sergio.Iniguez@sdmts.com</a>
Regulatory Assistant (Permit Applications and Transfers)	Brenda Jackson	(619) 595-3086	<a href="mailto:Brenda.Jackson@sdmts.com">Brenda.Jackson@sdmts.com</a>
Regulatory Analyst (Permit Applications and Transfers)	Alexis Dizon	(619) 595-3081	<a href="mailto:Alexis.Dizon@sdmts.com">Alexis.Dizon@sdmts.com</a>
Regulatory Inspector (Vehicle Inspections)	Tom Lee	(619) 557-4534	<a href="mailto:Tom.Lee@sdmts.com">Tom.Lee@sdmts.com</a>
Regulatory Inspector (Driver Training)	Mark Palmer	(619) 398-9595	<a href="mailto:Mark.Palmer@sdmts.com">Mark.Palmer@sdmts.com</a>
Regulatory Inspector (Enforcement)	Joe Ross	(619) 398-9573	<a href="mailto:Joe.Ross@sdmts.com">Joe.Ross@sdmts.com</a>

# FHVA Operations Update

## Wildcatter Enforcement

- On Thursday, May 22, 2025, FHVA met with San Diego Police (SDPD), California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the San Diego District Attorney
- Taxicab drivers report that wildcatting activity continues to increase
- Possible enforcement strategies were discussed, including the installation of signs prohibiting wildcatting

# 2025 Regulatory Fee Payment Update

- 2025 Regulatory Fee Payment invoices were sent to all permit holders via e-mail by January 2, 2025
- Between January 6, and March 3, 2025, FHVA collected regulatory fee payments, vehicle inspection forms and annual statements at:
  - The Airport holding lot
  - San Ysidro
  - Otay Mesa
  - CBX
  - Via the drop box at the FHVA lobby
  - Saturdays at 1313 National Avenue (former Greyhound bus stop) across from the 12th and Imperial Trolley station

# 2025 Regulatory Fee Payment Update

- Late payments were accepted until March 31, 2025, with an additional \$100 late fee
- A total of 59 late fee payments were collected
- FHVA provided a regulatory fee waiver to 7 Wheelchair Accessible Vehicles (WAV)
  - Wise Gemini Cab (1 WAV permit)
  - CPS Transportation (1 WAV permit)
  - Patriot Transportation (3 WAV permits)
  - AH Cab (1 WAV permit)
  - M&R Cab (1 WAV permit)



# 2025 Regulatory Fee Payment Update

Permit Renewals and Permits Voided 2025 Regulatory (Annual Renewal) Fees				
Permit Type	Number of Permits Invoiced	Number of Permits Paid	Number of Permits Voided	% of Permits Voided
Charter	111	101	10	9%
Jitney	2	2	0	0%
Low Speed Vehicle	41	40	1	0.25%
NEMT	677	551	126	19%
Taxi	854	794*	60	7%
<b>Total (All Types)</b>	1685	1488	197	11.5%

\*Not Including 7 WAV Permit Fee Waivers

# FHVA Operations Update Field Contacts

2025 (January-February-March) FHVA Field Inspections and Stats												
	San Diego	National City	Chula Vista	La Mesa	El Cajon	Lemon Grove	Santee	Oceanside	Poway	Imperial Beach	San Ysidro/Otay Mesa	TOTAL
Contacts	1647	190	210	9	56	14	18	19	7	4	114	2288
Cites	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Parking	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Warnings	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2
Field Rep	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	7

## Definitions:

**Contacts:** Field contacts to verify driver and vehicle compliance

**Cites:** Notice to appear in court

**Parking:** Parking Citation (administrative fine)

**Warnings:** Verbal Warning to driver to correct violation

**Field Rep:** Field Report requiring re-inspection to ascertain violation has been corrected

# FHVA Operations Update Field Contacts

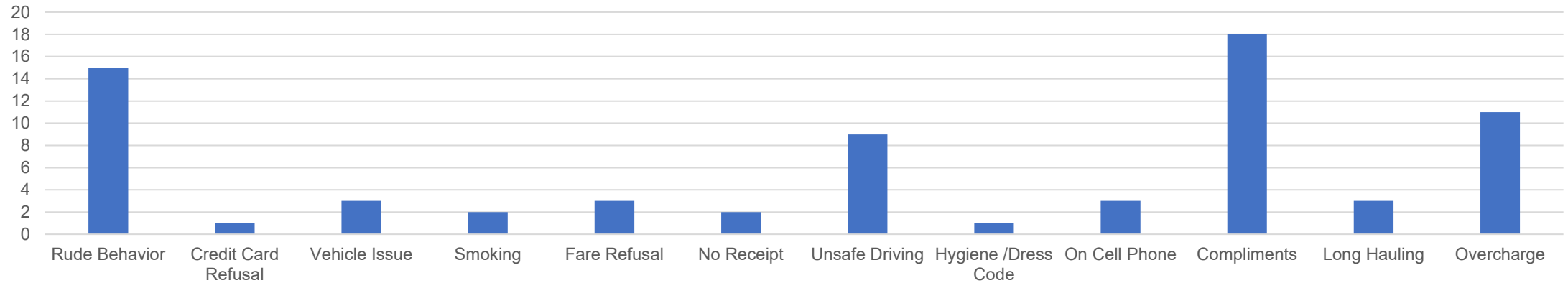
Contact per Vehicle Type		
Vehicle Type	Contacts	Percent
Taxi	1152	50.35%
NEM / Charter	1096	47.90%
Jitney	0	0%
Low Speed Vehicle	40	1.75%
<b>Total</b>	<b>2288</b>	<b>100%</b>

# FHVA Operations Update Field Contacts

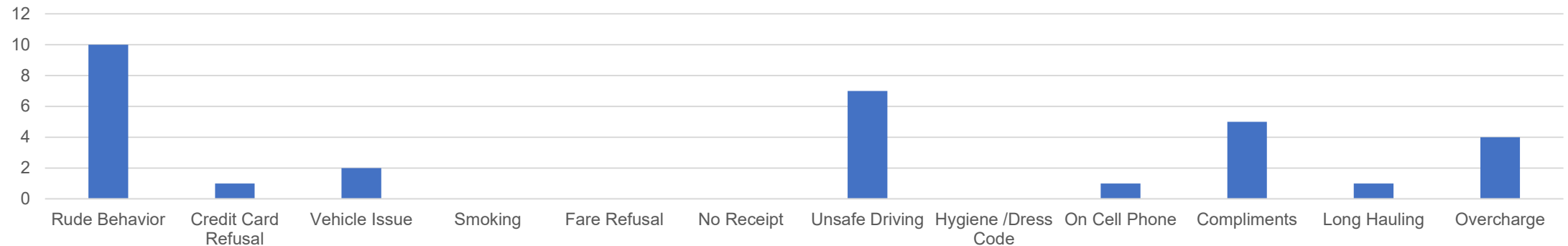
Issued Warnings	
Does not have Sheriff ID	1
Sheriff ID Not Worn or Displayed	0
No Trip Log / Incomplete	0
Mechanical	0
No Operation Permit	1
<b>Other :</b>	
Expired Registration	0
No Fire Extinguisher	0
Window Tint	0
No AC	0
No Horn	0
<b>Total Warnings</b>	<b>2</b>

# FHVA Operations Update Customer Feedback Cases

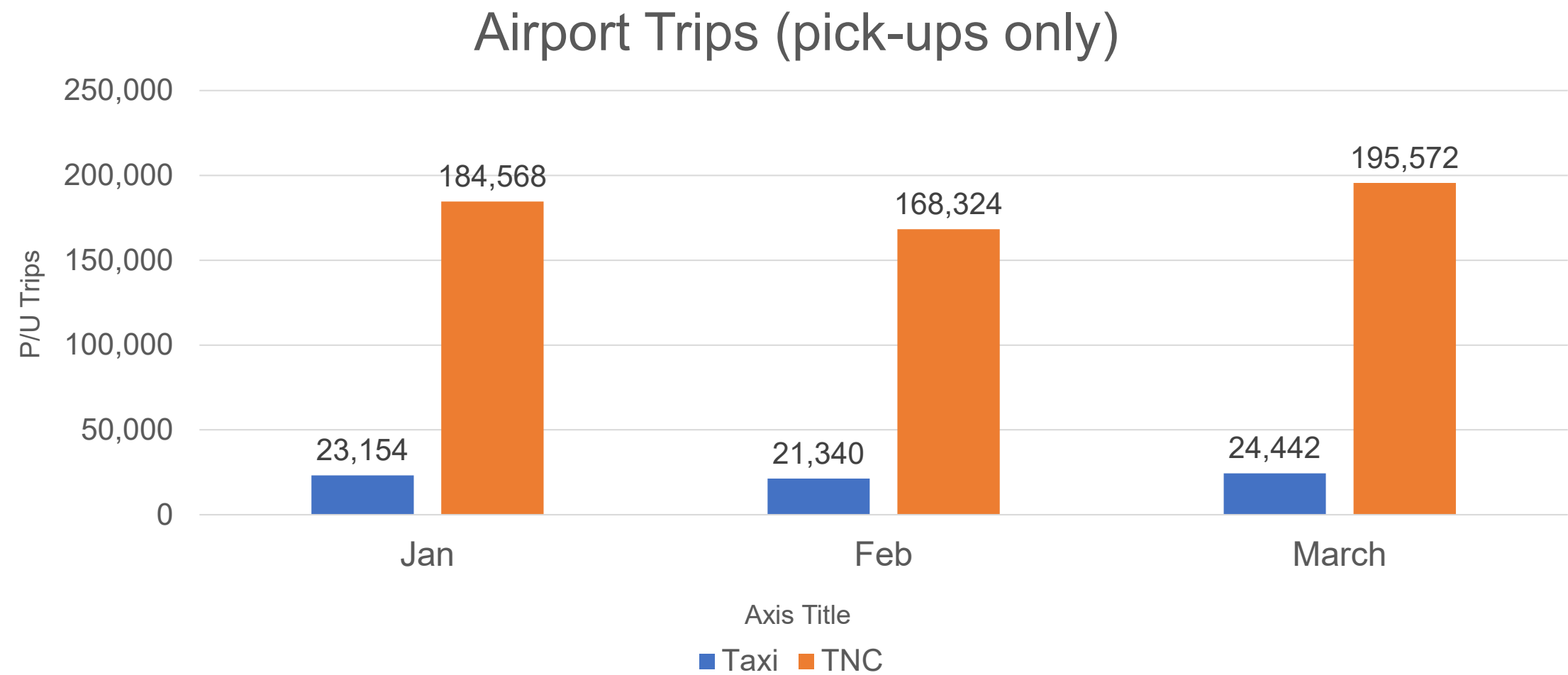
Customer Feedback Cases: October-December 2024



Customer Feedback Cases: January-March 2025



# FHVA Operations Update Airport Trips



# FHVA Operations Update

## Active and Surrendered Permits

Number of Active vs. Surrendered For-Hire Vehicle Permits (as of 5/20/2025)				
Permit Type	Total Number of Permits	Currently Active Permits	Number of Permits Surrendered	% Surrendered Permits
Charter	102	97	5	5%
Jitney	6	6	0	0%
LSV	41	39	2	5%
NEM	579	566	13	2%
Taxi	822	737	85	10.5%
<b>Total (All Types)</b>	<b>1550</b>	<b>1445</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>7%</b>

# Questions/Comments





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## **Agenda Item No. 8**

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

May 28, 2025

#### **SUBJECT:**

Topics for Next Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting (Leonardo Fewell)

#### **INFORMATIONAL ONLY:**

##### Budget Impact

None

#### **DISCUSSION:**

Feedback is requested on what topics should be addressed at the next TAC Meeting on July 30, 2025. At this time, staff recommends the following agenda items:

- Taxicab Advisory Committee Membership Guideline Revisions
- Taxicab Advisory Committee Election Results
- For-Hire Vehicle Administration Update
- Sustainable Measures for Taxicabs: Smart Meter Technology

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

Key Staff Contact: Leonardo Fewell, 619.235.2643, [Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com](mailto:Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com)

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Item No. 8, 05/28/2025

# Topics for Next TAC Meeting

## Taxicab Advisory Committee



# Topics for Next TAC Meeting

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- At this time, staff recommends the following agenda items:
  - Taxicab Membership Guideline Revisions
  - Taxicab Advisory Committee Election Results
  - For-Hire Vehicle Administration Update
  - Sustainable Measures for Taxicabs: Smart Meter Technology