



Taxicab Advisory Committee Agenda

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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.

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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.

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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.



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.



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.



***Contact Information:** Contact the Clerk of the Committee via email at 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

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ID de la reunión
en Zoom

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 Levantar la mano	►	Use la herramienta de levantar la mano cada vez que desee hacer un comentario público.
	►	Los participantes pueden habilitar el subtitulado 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 silencio , haga clic en este ícono para quitar el silenciador de su micrófono.
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	►	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 Comentario público verbal en vivo para obtener instrucciones sobre cómo hacer un comentario público.



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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.)*

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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

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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
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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, 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

July 30, 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: 160 727 3020; <https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1607273020>

NO.	ITEM SUBJECT AND DESCRIPTION	ACTION
1.	Roll Call	
2.	Public Comments	
3.	Approval of Minutes Action would approve the May 28, 2025, Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes.	Approve
DISCUSSION ITEMS		
4.	Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Election Results (Leonardo Fewell)	Informational
5.	Proposed Revisions to Taxicab Advisory Committee Guidelines (Leonardo Fewell) Action would forward a recommendation to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors to approve proposed membership revisions to the TAC Guidelines.	Approve
6.	Wildcatter Enforcement Update (Leonardo Fewell)	Informational
7.	Driver Recognition Program (Leonardo Fewell)	Informational
8.	For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Operations Update (Leonardo Fewell)	Informational
OTHER ITEMS		
9.	Topics for Next Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting (Leonardo Fewell)	Informational
10.	Committee Member Communications and Other Business	

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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.



11. **Next Meeting Date: November 19, 2025 and 1:00 p.m.**
12. **Adjournment**

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

May 28, 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 (TAC) meeting to order at 1:08 p.m. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached as Attachment A.

2. **Public Comments**

There were no Public Comments.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

Committee Member Majid moved to approve the minutes of the February 26, 2025, MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting. Committee Member Hueso seconded the motion, and the vote was 11 to 0 in favor with Committee Member Canizalez, Committee Member Trimble, Committee Member Sarmiento, Committee Member Masarskiy, Committee Member Tasem, Committee (Non-Voting) Member Shepard, and Committee (Non-Voting) Member Marty absent.

PUBLIC HEARING

4. **Proposed Revisions to Taxicab Advisory Committee Guidelines (Leonardo Fewell)**

Leonardo Fewell, MTS For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Manager, presented on proposed revisions to TAC guidelines. He discussed: how the TAC is currently comprised of sixteen members (subject to elections), and six (6) TAC member organizations (not subject to elections). Mr. Fewell mentioned that the organizations are appointed by the CEO based on current TAC guidelines. Gaslamp Quarter Association has missed four (4) consecutive meetings and may be subject to removal. Mr. Fewell requested feedback from TAC on whether to replace them with a new organization such as the Border Transportation Council, the Downtown Partnership, or a member-at-large organization.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Committee Comment

Committee Member Hueso stated he liked the idea of including the Border Transportation Council to boost participation from that area. He remarked there are pressing problems needing more discussion and indicated it would be good to include those who are a part of that area.

Committee Member Hussein inquired if the Sheriff's Department is still a non-voting member of the Committee and suggested it might be beneficial for them to become a voting member. Mr. Fewell responded to Committee Member Hussein's question by stating the Sheriff's Department was unable to attend the meeting but, along with San Diego County Weights and Measures, remain one of two members that serve the Committee in a non-voting capacity. Mr. Fewell asked that potential replacement organizations be sent directly to him via email.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

5. TAC Election Update (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell presented on the TAC election update. He stated the TAC three-year term for permit holders and lease drivers would expire in June 2025, and a valid email address would be needed from permit holders and lease drivers to cast a vote via the online voting system, AssociationVoting.com. Mr. Fewell outlined the outreach methods used to obtain lease drivers' emails, utilizing resources from the San Diego Sheriff's Licensing Division, cross-referencing FHVA's database, contacting lease drivers by phone, and emailing permit holders to obtain valid emails from lease drivers who were unreachable by phone. He also mentioned United Taxi Workers San Diego (UTWSD) would be sharing the upcoming TAC election via its social media channels. Mr. Fewell highlighted: June 15, 2025 – Distribution of TAC election information via email, the sdmts.com FHVA website, and through field interactions with Regulatory Inspectors handing out flyers. June 30, 2025 – Self-nominated forms must be received by FHVA, no later than 5:00 PM. July 1 – July 3, 2025 - Nominees' information compiled and submitted to AssociationVoting.com, July 7 – July 18, 2025 - Voting period, July 21, 2025 – AssociationVoting.com will provide a certified election letter, and on July 22, 2025 - FHVA will notify newly elected members by email and will introduce the members at the July 30, 2025, TAC meeting.

Public Comment

There were no Public Comments.

Committee Comment

There were no Committee Member Comments.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. Airport Originated Trips (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell reported on airport originated trips. He discussed: driver reported increase of airport short trips and possible contributing factors such as increased passenger preference for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), ending of the San Diego Airport's A/B permit system for taxicabs. He referred to the airport flat-rates research presented by FHVA at the May 22, 2024, TAC meeting, and requested attention to the impact flat rates would have on competition with TNC's and passenger costs. Mr. Fewell stated FHVA will be working with and request feedback from the San Diego Airport to identify the best possible solution that maximizes drivers' benefits and addresses fare rates concerns, by exploring virtual queue technologies, reinstating the A/B permit system, recapping the number of ground transportation permits for taxicabs at the airport, and relocating taxicabs after terminal upgrades have been completed. Mr. Fewell reported that further research into the advancement of taxicab meter technology, also known as smart meters, could benefit the taxicab industry, while enhancing consumer protections and assisting FHVA with complaint investigations, while ensuring compliance with MTS Ordinance No. 11.

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

Public Comment

Ahmed Malinomar – Project Manager, UTWSD, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Malinomar requested having flat rates for all short trips near the downtown and convention areas, allowing drivers to earn a decent wage while waiting in the queue.

Flavio Oliveira – A taxicab driver, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Oliveira expressed frustration with some of the Airport Traffic Officers (ATOs) who treat taxicab drivers with no respect, like criminals.

Committee Comment

Chair Elo-Rivera asked Mr. Fewell to follow up with the Public Commenters on Agenda Item 6, to provide them with more information and gather follow-up questions.

Committee Member Seifu commented that the flat rates should include passengers traveling long distances from the airport so taxicab drivers can find a way to uniformly lower their rates. Committee Member Seifu stated that stopping the issuance of new permits, implementing the A/B system, and applying front of the line privileges at the San Diego Airport was ineffective in the past. He suggested MTS stop issuing new permits and proposed creating a subcommittee to discuss in detail the flat rate issue and having dispatch companies establish their own pricing. Mr. Fewell responded to Committee Member Seifu by stating the next step would be to deal directly with the airport on how to leverage technologies and policies to assist taxi drivers. Mr. Fewell mentioned that raising fees would be counterproductive and could be detrimental to the industry and he stated the Committee would need to consider other factors to formulate the best solution. Committee Member Seifu reiterated to Mr. Fewell that the drivers want to focus on lowering the rates, not always raising the rates. Mr. Fewell acknowledged Committee Member Seifu's point and stated he is confident the agency will eventually be able to offer data-driven decisions with reliable results by working with the airport, utilizing UTWSD's driver outreach information, and revising the research on flat rates. Mr. Fewell emphasized his office is always open for feedback and will share it with TAC. Mr. Fewell stated this item will remain a topic in future meetings with the goal of determining how to proceed.

Committee Member Hueso pointed out that certain indicators in the transportation marketplace show the demand for transportation has increased while the volume of the taxi industry has decreased. He stated there are many differences and opinions, but the bottom line is the industry needs to change the minimalist culture and attitude to be competitive, lower prices, figure out what to contribute to the marketplace to attract customers, and use technology to the fullest.

Committee Member Hussein mentioned that UTWSD have been driver advocates for the past 15 years. He requested a meeting with MTS and the airport prior to the next TAC meeting to address issues raised and discuss ways to collaborate more effectively.

Committee Member Majid noted that the industry priced itself out of the market when rates increased, and warned it risks further losing competitiveness by pushing for flat rates that exceed the maximum allowed. He stated that the taxicab industry has reached a saturation point with existing problems exacerbated by rising rates, efforts to impose flat-rates, and the issuance of additional permits. Committee Member Majid suggested either placing a cap on

permits or introducing an ABCD system similar to the one used in the Los Angeles International Airport (LAX) noting that such a system would help taxi drivers know what to expect.

Committee Member Anderson expressed he is not convinced this is solely an airport-related issue but is open to collaborating to improve the overall business environment. He noted that whether the operations take place at the airport or on the street, the underlying challenge remains: if pricing is too high and lacks flexibility, similar issues will persist. Committee Member Anderson also emphasized that an oversaturation of taxi drivers on the street can lead to a diluted market.

Committee Member Abraham mentioned that business improved in the past when there was a cap on the number of taxicabs permits issued. He suggested finding a way to advertise taxicab services to make them more attractive to the customers and holding a meeting beforehand to discuss key issues, so the upcoming TAC meeting could be more focused and productive in exploring options to improve the industry.

Committee Member Hussein stated that in the past, the focus was on innovation, price reduction, and customer service. However, he emphasized that the industry should reflect on why San Diego has the highest rates in the United States and consider alternative business models, rather than relying solely on the Consumer Price Index (CPI), to improve overall performance.

Committee Member Hodoyan commented that if all taxi drivers charged the same rate, it would level out the playing field.

Mr. Fewell noted the topics for discussion have included rates of fares, capping permits at the airport, and what the airport can do to leverage technology. He pointed out that this is a nationwide issue affecting the entire industry, not just San Diego alone. Mr. Fewell reiterated that the Committee will carefully review the concerns raised and find solutions rather than simply raising fees, which could lead more passengers to switch to other forms of transportation. He also expressed a willingness to work with the airport in the short term and to use the feedback as part of the ongoing review process.

Chair Elo-Rivera asked if it was a requirement at the LAX for Uber and Lyft drivers to have a placard in order to pick up passengers. Committee Member Anderson responded that San Diego Airport does not require a placard but does require Uber to provide educational training for their drivers. Chair Elo-Rivera commented that Uber and Lyft were able to establish market dominance on a completely different playing field than taxicab drivers as they were not under immediate pressure to generate revenue. He emphasized that picking up the pieces and figuring out a way forward after the fact is not so simple to do.

Committee Member Hueso commented that not holding Uber and Lyft drivers to the same continuous enforcement standards as taxicab drivers is unfortunate. Chair Elo-Rivera stated that some people welcomed it as innovation while others weren't willing to stand in the way of the technology companies running those platforms.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

7. FHVA Operations Update

Mr. Fewell, presented on FHVA operations update. He provided details on: email as the primary method of communication for all purposes, MTS Ordinance No. 11 § 1.8 (c), and FHVA staff availability and directory. He mentioned a wildcatter follow up meeting was held on May 22, 2025, hosted by the San Diego District Attorney's office, with the key takeaway being the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) expressed interest in increasing their role in mitigating the wildcatter problem. Mr. Fewell also presented data on the 2025 regulatory fees and documentation, late fee payments, waivers, 2025 permits renewed and voided, field inspections and statistics, contact per vehicle type, issued warnings, customer feedback cases, airport trips, and active and surrendered FHVA permits.

Public Comment

Laura Ramirez – A taxicab driver, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Ramirez expressed frustration with the progress since the November 2024 press conference about wildcatters, stating MTS and City of San Diego Police Department have done nothing against wildcatters and threats of violence, that drug dealing and mistreatments from the wildcatters have increased, and asked for MTS to address this matter.

Juan Castro – A taxicab driver, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Castro expressed he has been a taxi driver for over 30 years and dissatisfaction with the inaction of law enforcement at the San Ysidro Border with the dangerous wildcatter issue and believes the city is waiting for something serious to happen before taking action. He also stated the City of San Diego Police Department indicated they are unable to pursue a course of action until they receive direction from higher authorities. He stated that if something were to happen, taxi drivers will bring legal action against the City, the Police and MTS.

Cesar Lopez – A taxicab driver, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Lopez stated more signage advertising that wildcatting is illegal is needed at the port of entry and would like some action to be taken since the situation has become worse and unsafe as wildcatters are now carrying guns and he fears a taxi driver will get shot.

Ahmed Malinomar – Project Manager, UTWSD, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Malinomar noted the wildcatters have displaced taxi drivers from the authorized taxi stands and have vandalized some taxicabs. Malinomar spoke about the challenge of obtaining affordable insurance, as many insurance companies classify wheelchair-accessible vehicles (WAVs) as Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) vehicles, which significantly increases coverage costs.

Kamran Hamidi – Owner, SD Taxi and Airport Dispatch, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Hamidi spoke about the wildcatter issue and that there are drugs and guns involved. He thanked Chair Elo-Rivera for coming out to the Wildcatter press conference with District Attorney Summer Stephan and requested change through design in order to address wildcatting. He also spoke about FHVA's contingency reserves being currently over \$1,000,000.00 and that the hearing case regarding the regulatory fees is coming up in July. He stated that it was unfortunate that MTS had hired outside attorneys and believed that this was not a good use of the money but hoped that ultimately permit holders would get their money back. He also asked for the possibility of TAC candidates including a statement in their profiles for the upcoming TAC election and referred to the upcoming increase to the airport trip fee.

Committee Comment

Committee Member Seifu suggested that FHVA Regulatory Inspectors should issue taxi drivers a warning before citing MTS Ordinance No. 11 violations involving displaying of a County of San Diego Sheriff's Office Identification (Sheriff's ID) and address them when away from waiting customers.

Committee Member Hueso stated the San Ysidro Border issue has been a longstanding problem, since at least 1982. While he acknowledged that MTS has been doing their part, especially considering the FHVA Department's limited size, he emphasized that other entities also needed to fulfill their responsibilities. He suggested the City of San Diego consider appointing someone to oversee enforcement at the San Ysidro Border. Additionally, Committee Member Hueso proposed forming a collaborative effort with the City of San Diego or the City of San Diego Police Department to ensure taxicabs are operating properly at the Border. He stressed the need for a coordinated, multi-agency approach to resolve the issue and encouraged taxicab drivers to identify and document their key concerns, work together on a plan, and move forward with a shared agenda to support the industry.

Committee Member Hussein reiterated an earlier point of ticketing taxi drivers away from the customers at the airport.

Committee Member Abraham stated that taxi drivers are now on the same level as owners and the money in the FHVA contingency reserve belongs to all. He expressed trying to find a way to settle the FHVA contingency reserve money issue without having to hire outside lawyers.

Committee Member Majid suggested part of the FHVA contingency reserve money could be utilized towards overtime compensation for one or two City of San Diego Police Department Officers who would work once or twice a week at the San Ysidro Border to enforce the law.

Mr. Fewell summarized that MTS will work with the CPUC on the wildcatters' issue and will remain open to cooperation with law enforcement agencies to devise a plan to combat the problem. He also pointed out that the FHVA Regulatory Inspectors are limited in their capacity to combat the wildcatter problem. Mr. Fewell commented that the WAV insurance issue is a nationwide issue that has to do with the overall rising costs of insurance and is a standing discussion item with the International Association of Transportation Regulators, but MTS is looking for ways to address this problem. Mr. Fewell affirmed that citing taxicab drivers at the airport island for not displaying a Sheriff's ID will continue as it is the FHVA Department's job to ensure compliance with MTS No. Ordinance 11, and safety of the passengers. He noted that display of a Sheriff's Identification (ID) and name is not only an MTS rule, but it is also a County of San Diego Sheriff's Office rule, industry standard, and basic cornerstone of regulation for a taxi driver.

Chair Elo-Rivera expressed frustration with the lack of prioritization from the City of San Diego Police Department and indicated it did not seem like the taxi drivers' complaints and safety were being taken as seriously as other more affluent communities with less serious complaints.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

OTHER ITEMS

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

Chair Elo-Rivera asked everyone to review Agenda Item 8 on their own and send additional ideas to Mr. Fewell.

Public Comment

Juan Castro – A taxicab driver, provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Castro asked what solution is being presented in terms of the wildcatters.

Committee Comment

Chair Elo-Rivera concurred with Castro's frustration and his desire for a specific response to the issue but clarified that this agenda item was focused on topics for the next meeting. He emphasized that not all of the taxicab industry problems could be solved in the TAC meeting, and that enforcement should be directed to agencies like the City of San Diego Police Department, the City of San Diego, the District Attorney's Office, or the CPUC, not necessarily the TAC committee or MTS.

Committee Member Communications

There was no Committee Member Communications and Other Business discussion.

9. Next Meeting Date

The next Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting is scheduled for July 30, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.

10. Adjournment

Chair Elo-Rivera adjourned the meeting at 3:01 p.m.

Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

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): May 28, 2025

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 1:08 pm

ADJOURN: 3:01 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	12:56 pm	3:01 pm
Able Seifu	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / Odyssey Cab	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Agustin Hodoyan	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / Soul Cab	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Akbar Majid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / SDYC Holdings	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Gonzalo Ayala	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / Heritage Cab	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
George Abraham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Daniel Fesshaye	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / Eritrean Cab	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Antonio Hueso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Permit Holder / USA Cab, LTD	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Letty Canizalez	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD Tourism Authority	ABSENT	ABSENT
Eduardo Gonzalez	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Jose Raul Alcantar	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross Border X-Press	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Mikail Hussein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Peter Zschiesche	<input type="checkbox"/>	United Taxi Workers SD	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Daryl Mayekawa	<input type="checkbox"/>	Thanh Nguyen	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SD Convention Center	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Marc Nichols	<input type="checkbox"/>	Michael Anderson	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SD Regional Airport Authority	1:03 pm	3:01 pm
Michael Trimble	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	SD Gaslamp Quarter Association	ABSENT	ABSENT
Fabiano Sarmiento	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	ABSENT	ABSENT
Boris Masarskiy	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	ABSENT	ABSENT
David Tasem	<input type="checkbox"/>	None	<input type="checkbox"/>	Taxicab Lease Driver	ABSENT	ABSENT
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

COMMITTEE CLERK: /S/ Brenda Jackson



Agenda Item No. 4

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

July 30, 2025

SUBJECT:

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

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

TAC Guidelines require that every three (3) years the MTS For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) hold an election to determine who will represent taxicab permit holders and lease drivers on the TAC. Per the TAC Guidelines, the following seats are elected:

1. PERMIT HOLDERS (2 OR MORE PERMITS): two (2) TAC members
2. PERMIT HOLDERS (1 PERMIT ONLY): four (4) TAC members
3. LEASE DRIVERS: three (3) TAC members

Candidates applied through a self-nomination process. Between June 15, 2025, and June 30, 2025, FHVA received a total of fourteen (14) self-nomination forms across the three TAC member categories, as shown in the chart below.

Ballots were cast electronically via AssociationVoting.com between Monday, July 7, 2025, and Friday, July 18, 2025. Prior to the election, information on the election process was covered at the May 28, 2025, TAC meeting and sent via email to all permit holders on file and lease drivers that provided FHVA with a valid e-mail address.

Additionally, both before and during the election and on repeated occasions, FHVA Regulatory Inspectors went to the San Diego Airport taxicab holding lot and several taxicabs stand locations to inform and remind permit holders and lease drivers about the election.

On July 21, 2025, Association Voting provided FHVA with a TAC election certification letter (Attachment A). A total of 180 votes were cast out of a total of 700 eligible permit holder and lease driver voters, resulting in a 25.7% voter turnout. The following is a summary of the lease driver and permit holder candidates and their respective vote counts:

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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.



PERMIT HOLDER OF TWO OR MORE PERMITS 2 TAC Member Spots Available	NUMBER OF VOTES	TAC MEMBER (FY26-FY28)
Able Seifu*	103	X
Alemayehu (Alex) Tegegne*	59	X
Kamran Hamidi	30	
Alfred Banks	19	
Jose Antonio Hueso	18	
George Abraham	12	
Akbar Majid	10	

PERMIT HOLDER OF ONE PERMIT 4 TAC Member Spots Available	NUMBER OF VOTES	TAC MEMBER (FY26-FY28)
Aklilu Fray*	38	X
Laura Ramirez*	35	X
Kidane Tesfagebriel*	32	X
Gonzalo Ayala*	24	X

LEASE DRIVER 3 TAC Member Spots Available	NUMBER OF VOTES	TAC MEMBER (FY26-FY28)
Horacio Sanchez*	41	X
Cesar Lopez*	29	X
David Tasem*	9	X
Note: * = Top vote getter.		

The above elected permit holders and lease drivers are hereby introduced as TAC members for the next three (3) year term, ending in July 2028.

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

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

Attachment: A. TAC Election Certification Letter from AssociationVoting.com



AssociationVoting.com

10205 Crossview Trail

Howell, MI 48855

CERTIFICATION OF ONLINE VOTE RESULTS

July 21, 2025

Leonardo Fewell

MTS For-Hire Vehicle Administration. Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC)

Dear Leonardo Fewell,

Thank you for the opportunity to conduct this election for the MTS For-Hire Vehicle Administration. Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC). The election was conducted from July 7, 2025 12:00 am PDT to July 18, 2025 5:00 pm PDT. The following are the official results of your election.

Voting Results

Positions

Permit Holders of Two or More Permits Category (two seats) (Select 2)

Candidates	Unweighted	Weighted
Able Seifu*	103	103.000
Alemayehu (Alex) Tegegne*	59	59.000
Kamran Hamidi	30	30.000

Prepared July 21, 2025

Alfred Banks	19	19.000
Jose Antonio Hueso	18	18.000
George Abraham	12	12.000
Akbar Majid	10	10.000

Permit Holders of One Permit Category (four seats) (Select 4)

Candidates	Unweighted	Weighted
Aklilu Fray*	38	38.000
Laura Ramirez*	35	35.000
Kidane Tesfagabriel*	32	32.000
Gonzalo Ayala*	24	24.000

Lease Driver Category (three seats) (Select 3)

Candidates	Unweighted	Weighted
Horacio Sanchez*	41	41.000
Cesar Lopez*	29	29.000
David Tasem*	9	9.000

Bold/* - Current top vote getter.*Italic/(Tie) - Indicates tie for the final top-vote-getter position(s).***Turnout****Unweighted Turnout**

# Eligible	# Voted	Turnout %
------------	---------	-----------

Prepared July 21, 2025

700

180

25.7

Weighted Turnout

# Eligible	# Voted	Turnout %
700.000	180.000	25.7

Layout and Configuration

The ballot language as it appeared to members is included in the attached Election Summary Report.

Data Retention

As part of the voting software, we maintain a confidential audit trail that includes the unique identifier, time ballot was cast, and ballot selections for your members. This data will be preserved for 12 months from the date of certification for your election. Please contact us if you have any further questions about our data storage policies or if you need access to this data.

These vote results are true and accurate, and represent the votes cast by eligible members in the online election during the voting period as identified above. Records of individual votes are maintained in electronic format pursuant to the data retention guidelines described above. The Voting Manger has restricted access to the election information and doesn't have permission to manipulate a voter ballot during or after this election period.

Congratulations on the successful completion of your election. Thank you again for choosing AssociationVoting.com. If you have any further questions, you can contact us at 1-877-8-VOTING.

Sincerely,

Kimberly J Harwood, Chief Voting Officer

Prepared July 21, 2025

Kimberly J Harwood, Chief Voting Officer

Enclosure:

Election Summary Report with Ballot Language



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Item No. 4, 07/30/2025

Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Election Results

TAC Election Results

- Fourteen (14) self-nomination forms were submitted for the election as follows:
 - Seven (7) for the permit holder of two or more permits category
 - Four (4) for the permit holder of one permit category
 - Three (3) for the lease driver category
- The election was conducted from July 7 through July 18, 2025, via AssociationVoting.com
- Out of 700 eligible voters (i.e. permit holders or lease drivers that MTS had an email address for), 180 people voted
 - This resulted in a 25.7% voter turnout

TAC Election Results

PERMIT HOLDER OF TWO OR MORE PERMITS 2 TAC Member Spots Available	NUMBER OF VOTES	TAC MEMBER (FY26-FY28)
Able Seifu*	103	X
Alemayehu (Alex) Tegegne*	59	X
Kamran Hamidi	30	
Alfred Banks	19	
Jose Antonio Hueso	18	
George Abraham	12	
Akbar Majid	10	

* = Top Vote Getter

TAC Election Results

PERMIT HOLDER OF ONE PERMIT 4 TAC Member Spots Available	NUMBER OF VOTES	TAC MEMBER (FY26-FY28)
Aklilu Fray*	38	X
Laura Ramirez*	35	X
Kidane Tesfagebriel*	32	X
Gonzalo Ayala*	24	X

* = Top Vote Getter

TAC Election Results

LEASE DRIVER 3 TAC Member Spots Available	NUMBER OF VOTES	TAC MEMBER (FY26-FY28)
Horacio Sanchez*	41	X
Cesar Lopez*	29	X
David Tasem*	9	X

* = Top Vote Getter

TAC Election Results

- Presentation on Newly Elected Members by Chair Elo-Rivera
 - Able Seifu and Alemayehu (Alex) Tegegne will represent the two (2) seats for permit holders of two (2) or more permits
 - Aklilu Fray, Gonzalo Ayala, Kidane Tesfagebriel, and Laura Ramirez will represent the four (4) seats for permit holders of one (1) permit
 - Cesar Lopez, David Tasem, and Horacio Sanchez will represent the three(3) seats for taxicab lease drivers

Questions/Comments



Agenda Item No. 5

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

July 30, 2025

SUBJECT:

Proposed Revisions to Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Guidelines (Leonardo Fewell)

RECOMMENDATION:

That the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) TAC forward a recommendation to the MTS Board of Directors to approve the proposed membership revisions to the TAC Guidelines

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

At the May 28, 2025, TAC meeting, For Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) provided a report on how the San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Association had missed over four (4) consecutive TAC meetings. The TAC Guidelines state that any member who misses four consecutive meetings can be subject to removal.

To address vacancies on TAC that cause concerns with meeting quorum, FHVA proposed a revision to remove the Gaslamp Quarter Association as an organizational member and requested feedback from TAC on which organization could be an appropriate replacement.

Based on the feedback from TAC, FHVA reached out to the Border Transportation Council (BTC). The BTC's stated mission is to promote the use of legitimate transportation carriers, eliminate wildcatting, encourage fair competition, support the activities of law enforcement & the community, and advocate for members' interests. FHVA has confirmed that Eric Lopez, Vice President of the BTC, is interested in joining the TAC.

It is recommended that the San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Association be removed from the TAC and replaced by the BTC as a TAC organizational member.

Upon TAC approval, staff will forward TAC's recommendation to the MTS Board of Directors to amend the TAC Guidelines.



If approved by the MTS Board, the representative from the BTC will be formally introduced at the TAC meeting on November 19, 2025.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

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

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



SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE GUIDELINES

1 PURPOSE

The Taxicab Advisory Committee's purpose is to:

- ~~1.1~~ 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~~ 1.2 Review ~~summaries of administrative hearing officer decisions concerning~~ taxicab permit holder ~~and lease driver penalty~~ ies; guidelines;
- ~~1.3~~ 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~~ 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

2.2 — One (1) member appointed by the Border Transportation Council. — each serving
a three-year term.

~~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. 2.2.6~~

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~~. September 11, 2025
- 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. 5, 07/30/2025

Proposed Revisions to Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Guidelines

Proposed Revisions to (TAC) Guidelines

- At the May 28, 2025, TAC meeting, FHVA provided a report on how the San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Association had missed over four (4) consecutive TAC meetings
- The TAC Guidelines state that any member who misses four consecutive meetings can be subject to removal
- At the May 28, 2025, TAC meeting, FHVA proposed a revision to remove the Gaslamp Quarter Association as an organizational member, and requested feedback from TAC on which organization could be an appropriate replacement

Proposed Revisions to (TAC) Guidelines

- Based on the feedback from TAC, FHVA reached out to the Border Transportation Council (BTC)
- The BTC's stated mission is to promote the use of legitimate transportation carriers, eliminate wildcatting, encourage fair competition, support the activities of law enforcement & the community, and advocate member's interest
- FHVA has confirmed that Eric Lopez, Vice President of the BTC, is interested in joining the TAC

Proposed Revisions to (TAC) Guidelines

- It is recommended that the San Diego Gaslamp Quarter Association be removed from the TAC, and replaced by the Border Transportation Council as a TAC organization member
- Upon TAC approval to appoint the BTC, a proposal to amend the TAC Guidelines will be presented to the Board of Directors at the September 11, 2025, meeting for final approval
- If approved by the Board, the representative from the BTC will be formally introduced at the November 19, 2025, TAC meeting

Staff Recommendation

- Action would forward a recommendation to the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors to approve proposed membership revisions to the TAC Guidelines.

Questions/Comments



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Agenda Item No. 6

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

July 30, 2025

SUBJECT:

Wildcatter Enforcement Update (Leonardo Fewell)

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

Taxicab drivers continue to report wildcatting activity at the San Ysidro and Otay Mesa border areas. For Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) will provide a presentation on the latest developments on wildcatter enforcement, including a recent sting operation conducted by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and the San Diego Police Department (SDPD).

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

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

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Item No. 6, 07/30/2025

Wildcatter Enforcement Update

Wildcatter Enforcement Update

- On July 21, 2025, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and San Diego Police (SDPD) conducted an operation targeting wildcatters at the San Ysidro area
- As a result, one SUV vehicle was impounded, and several wildcatters' vehicle information was obtained
- The CPUC and SDPD plan to increase the frequency of wildcatting operations in San Ysidro and Otay Mesa

Wildcatter Enforcement Update

- MTS will continue its efforts against wildcatting by:
- Collaborating with law enforcement, public officials, and other stakeholders to deter wildcatting activity
 - FHVA has offered to participate and coordinate targeted enforcement operations between agencies against wildcatters and maintain records of results to evaluate enforcement strategies
- Continue to expose and report wildcatting activity
 - Maintain contact with taxi drivers on reported wildcatting activities
 - Make wildcatting enforcement updates a standing information item for future TAC meetings
 - Maintain and update “Say No to Wildcatters” webpage

Wildcatter Enforcement Update

- Continue research and development of enforcement strategies targeting wildcatting
 - FHVA will conduct ongoing research on how other transportation regulatory and law enforcement agencies deal with illegal for-hire transportation
 - Recommend strict parking (curb) enforcement by the city of San Diego as the most appropriate response to displace wildcatters from their street-side staging location
 - Collaborate with the District Attorney on their recommendation to explore the possible development of codes or ordinances that could assist with enforcement as well as vehicle impound procedures

Questions/Comments



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Agenda Item No. 7

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

July 30, 2025

SUBJECT:

Driver Recognition Program (Leonardo Fewell)

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

MTS will be implementing the For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Driver Recognition Program for the purpose of recognizing drivers who provide excellent customer service. FHVA will provide a presentation about the program's objectives, scope, eligibility, nomination, selection process, awards, promotion, and recognition ceremony.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

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





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Item No. 7, 07/30/2025

Driver Recognition Program

Driver Recognition Program

- FHVA consulted with various peer regulatory agencies on similar driver recognition programs
- FHVA's driver recognition program will primarily focus on customer service, courtesy, professionalism, and compliance with regulations
- There will be two driver recipients:
 - One from the taxicab, Jitney and Low Speed Vehicle category, and
 - One from the Nonemergency Medical and Charter vehicle category

Driver Recognition Program (Objective, Scope & Eligibility)

- **Objective:**

- To recognize drivers in the (Taxicab, Jitney or Low-Speed) and (Nonemergency or Charter) vehicle categories who demonstrate excellence in customer service, courtesy, and professionalism

- **Scope:**

- All drivers of MTS permitted for-hire vehicles

- **Eligibility:**

- Must have a valid Sheriff's Driver Identification Card in the prior 12 months of the award date
- Must not have been subject to disciplinary action (i.e. notice to appear, administrative report, or a complaint) found to be sustained by FHVA or the Sheriff's Licensing in the prior 12 months of the award date.

Driver Recognition Program (Nomination and Selection Process)

- Drivers will be nominated and selected based on the following criteria:
 - Driver Compliments received by FHVA
 - Feedback from Dispatch Services (recommending a subscriber(s))
 - Feedback from FHVA Regulatory Inspector staff (firsthand knowledge of professionalism and compliance)
- **The CEO or their designee will evaluate the recommendations and select the winner for each category.**

Driver Recognition Program (Awards)

- It is anticipated that the winner for each category will receive the following awards:
 - A plaque and/or paper certificate
 - A \$100 gas gift card
 - Four (4) car wash tickets
 - The driver's picture and professional profile showcased on the MTS FHVA website for two (2) months after the award
 - Large Vehicle "Award Recognition" decal to be affixed to the driver's taxicab. The decal can remain part of the vehicle as long as the driver continues to drive it
 - MTS promotional merchandise
 - Sheriff's Driver I.D. renewal fee waiver

Driver Recognition Program (Promotion and Award Ceremony)

- FHVA will promote the award program at driver safety training sessions, on the FHVA website and future TAC meetings
- FHVA will request all dispatch services and NEMT/Charter companies to promote the award program internally to all their subscribers and drivers
- FHVA will notify the award winners via e-mail and request their presence at the designated time and date for the TAC meeting
- It is anticipated that the Chair of TAC will present the award at the third TAC meeting of the year (usually around July 2026)

Questions/Comments



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Agenda Item No. 8

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

July 30, 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: 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, an update on the newly authorized airport trip fee, and administrative operations.

/S/ Leonardo Fewell

Leonardo Fewell

For-Hire Vehicle Administration Manager

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

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Item No. 8, 07/30/2025

For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Operations Update

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 emails 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	Leonardo.Fewell@sdmts.com
Regulatory Supervisor (Field Enforcement, Complaints)	Sergio Iniguez	(619) 744-5969	Sergio.Iniguez@sdmts.com
Regulatory Assistant (Permit Applications and Transfers)	Brenda Jackson	(619) 595-3086	Brenda.Jackson@sdmts.com
Regulatory Analyst (Permit Applications and Transfers)	Alexis Dizon	(619) 595-3081	Alexis.Dizon@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspectors (Vehicle Inspections)	Tom Lee	(619) 557-4534	Tom.Lee@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspector (Driver Training)	Mark Palmer	(619) 398-9595	Mark.Palmer@sdmts.com
Regulatory Inspector (Enforcement)	Joe Ross	(619) 398-9573	Joe.Ross@sdmts.com

FHVA Operations Update

Active and Surrendered Permits

Number of Active vs. Surrendered For-Hire Vehicle Permits (as of 7/15/2025)					
Permit Type	Total Number of Permits	% of Overall Permits	Currently Active Permits	Number of Permits Surrendered	% Surrendered Permits
Charter	88	5.5%	82	6	5.5%
Jitney	6	0.4%	6	0	0%
LSV	41	2.5%	36	5	12%
NEM	630	39%	613	17	2.5%
Taxi	851	52.5%	752	99	11.5%
Total (All Types)	1616	100%	1489	127	8%

FHVA Operations Update

Field Contacts

2025 (April-May-June) 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	883	169	248	116	127	24	49	127	62	16	378	2199
Cites	5	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	11
Parking	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
Warnings	6	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	14
Field Rep	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	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	872	39.35%
NEM / Charter	1303	59.25%
Jitney	12	0.55%
Low Speed Vehicle	12	0.55%
Total	2199	100%

FHVA Operations Update

Field Contacts

Issued Warnings	
Does not have Sheriff ID	7
Sheriff ID Not Worn or Displayed	0
No Trip Log / Incomplete	0
Mechanical	0
No Operation Permit	5
Other :	
Expired Registration	0
No Fire Extinguisher	2
Window Tint	0
No AC	0
No Horn	0
Total Warnings	14

FHVA Operations Update

Airport Fee Adjustment

- On June 5, 2025, the San Diego Regional Airport Authority Board approved raising the airport fee from \$2.98 to \$3.56
- FHVA verified that the new airport rates is programmed into the taximeter, and, that three (3) new rate stickers are placed inside the taxicabs (two on the rear door windows and one on the front dashboard)
- Per MTS and Airport regulations, the airport rate stickers must be displayed to passengers
- Any taxicab that does not display the rate stickers may be taken out of service by MTS or the Airport

FHVA Operations Update

Airport Fee Adjustment

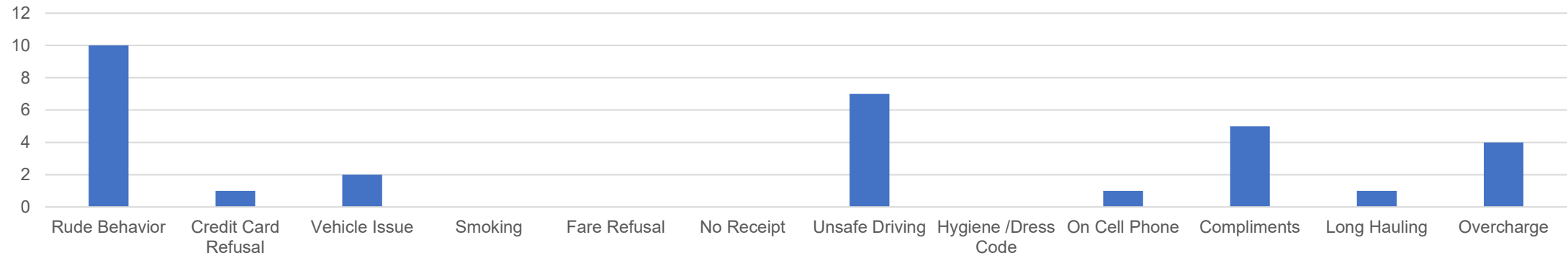
- Between Tuesday, July 8th and Saturday July 12th, FHVA was at the airport holding lot verifying taximeters and affixing the new rate stickers. A total of 414 verifications were conducted.



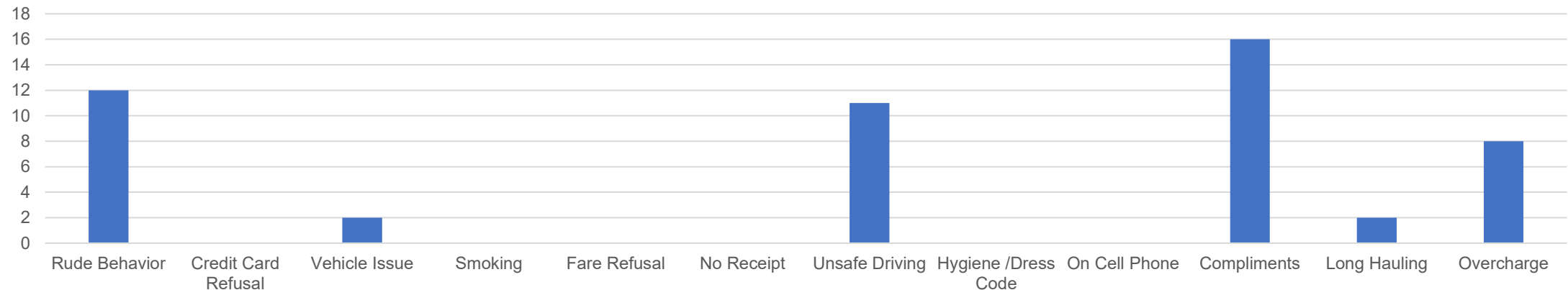
FHVA Operations Update

Customer Feedback Cases

Customer Feedback Cases: January-March



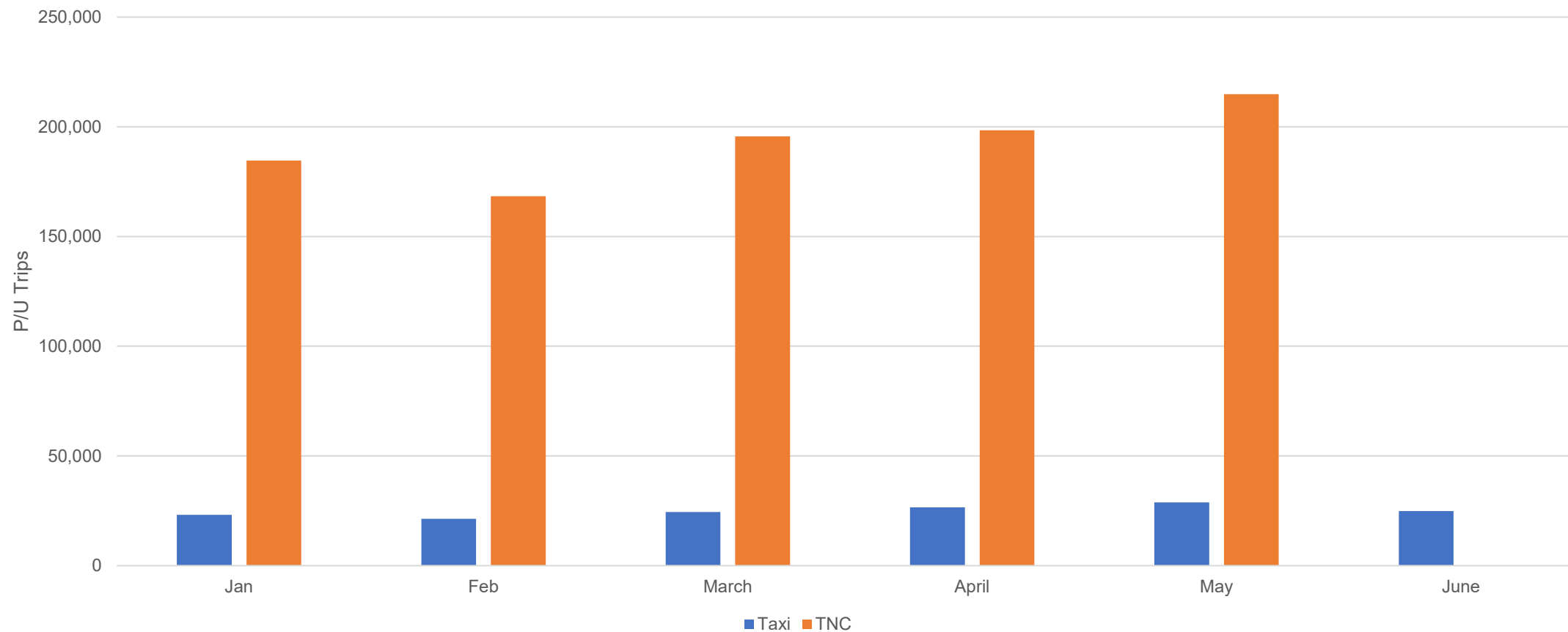
Customer Feedback Cases: April-June



FHVA Operations Update

Airport Trips

Airport Trips (pick-ups only)(TNC trips for June TDB)



Questions/Comments



**Metropolitan
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Agenda Item No. 9

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

July 30, 2025

SUBJECT:

Topics for next Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting (Leonardo Fewell)

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

Feedback is requested on what topics should be addressed at the next TAC meeting on November 19, 2025. Currently, staff recommends the following agenda items:

- Airport Taxicab Trips
- 2026 Administrative Fee Schedule
- For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Operations 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

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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.





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Item No. 9, 07/30/2025

Topics for Next Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Meeting



Topics for Next TAC Meeting

- Feedback is requested on what topics should be addressed at the next TAC meeting on November 19, 2025
- Currently, staff recommends the following agenda items:
 - Airport Taxicab Trips
 - 2026 Administrative Fee Schedule
 - FHVA Operations Update
 - Sustainable Measures for Taxicabs: Smart Meter Technology



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Item No. 10-12, 07/30/2025

Committee Member Communications and Other Business

Taxicab Advisory Committee