

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

San Diego Metropolitan Transit System  
Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting

TAXI 585.3

March 26, 2015

10:00 a.m.

James R. Mills Building  
Board Meeting Room, 10th Floor  
1255 Imperial Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101

Minutes

**Note:** Due to technical problems with recording, the following minutes for the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting have been composed using MTS Taxicab Administration staff notes taken during the meeting. **Please refer to AI7 and AI8, regarding permit holder and lease driver elections.** During this vote, there was one member abstaining; however, the name of the member was not recorded. In order to correct this record, please assist the Clerk of the Committee by providing the identity of this member. In addition, if it is felt any other important items have been omitted and should be included, please contact MTS staff at 619.595.7034 prior to the meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2015.

1. **Roll Call**

The chair called the meeting to order at 10:03 a.m. A roll call sheet is attached listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance.

2. **Approval of Meeting Minutes – November 19, 2014**

A motion was made to approve the meeting minutes from November 19, 2014.

Vote:

The motion passed unanimously.

Yay: Abraham, Boenitz, Hamidi, Haratian, Hilemon, Hueso, Lemma, Majid, Nahavandian, Palmeri, Solati

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Gebreselassie, Layne, Mercer, Staples, Tanguay



3. Non-agenda Public Comment

Mr. Mikail Hussein, UTWSD, 4265 Fairmount Avenue, #180, San Diego, CA 92105, 619.255.7355

Mr. Hussein stated that he felt that although many of the issues had been resolved, there were still many more issues. He said it was his hope that MTS and the UTWSD would continue working together to resolve those issues.

4. Committee Member and Management Communications

Member Communications:

*Mr. Kamran Hamidi* - Mr. Hamidi stated that at a previous meeting, it was discussed that Ms. Cole would take the issue of lowering the insurance requirements to the City Council. Ms. Sharon Cooney replied that there was a meeting scheduled for that day, and that she would report the results back to the Committee.

Management Communications:

*Mr. Bill Kellerman – Verbal Report*

Update – New City of San Diego permitting process - Mr. Kellerman first introduced Ms. Samantha Leslie, MTS Staff Attorney. He then provided an update regarding the new City of San Diego permitting process, stating that as of the date of the meeting, there had been over 800 Interest Forms received, most of which were from those persons requesting single permits. He said it was hoped that the application process would begin the second week of April.

Public Comment:

Ms. Sarah Saez, Program Director, UTWSD, 4265 Fairmount Avenue, #180, San Diego, CA 92105

Ms. Saez expressed concern regarding the permitting process, and said the one-on-one method was too time-consuming, and thought holding a group meeting would be better. She also felt the policy needed to be changed to allow applicants to bring a representative with them to assist with the process. Ms. Cooney replied that staff had discussed this issue, and were willing to allow an interpreter, but that staff felt the one-on-one method worked best.

*Mr. Anthony Palmeri* – Mr. Palmeri wondered if an interpreter was required to be certified by the court, and Mr. Kellerman replied that it was not necessary. Ms. Cooney added that staff had consulted with General Counsel, and that all that was required was for the interpreter to sign off.

*Mr. Hamidi* – Mr. Hamidi inquired as to the timeline regarding the pending lawsuit, and Ms. Leslie replied that staff could not comment, as the lawsuit was still in process.

*Mr. Berhanu Lemma* – Mr. Lemma stated he felt that MTS could have done a better job of communicating the permit interest form process, as most drivers believed there would be no more permits issued after March 31.

5. Taxicab Advisory Committee Proposed 2015 Meeting Schedule

Motion:

A motion was made by Mr. Antonio Hueso to approve the proposed Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting schedule for 2015. The motion was seconded by Mr. Camron Haratian.

Vote:

The motion passed unanimously.

Yay: Abraham, Boenitz, Hamidi, Haratian, Hilemon, Hueso, Lemma, Majid, Nahavandian, Palmeri, Solati

Nay: 0

Abstain: 0

Absent: Gebreselassie, Layne, Mercer, Staples, Tanguay

The approved meeting schedule for 2015 is as follows:

<u>Meeting Date</u>	<u>Time</u>
Thursday, March 26, 2015	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, June 25, 2015	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, September 24, 2015	10:00 a.m.
Thursday, December 17, 2015	10:00 a.m.

All meetings will be held in the San Diego Metropolitan Transit System Board of Directors meeting room Imperial Avenue, 10<sup>th</sup> Floor, San Diego, California.

6. Public Hearing: City of San Diego and Airport Maximum Allowable Taxicab Rates of Fare

Ms. Cole opened the public hearing regarding the rates of fare.

Public Comment:

There was no public comment.

Ms. Cole closed the public hearing portion of the meeting.

Mr. Kellerman reviewed the proposed rates of fare with the Committee, stating that at the November 2014 meeting, following the results of the *Fare Standardization Study*, members had voted unanimously against a standardized/uniform rate of fare and voted that everything remain the same. Since the time was again at hand to recalculate the rates of fare for both the City and the Airport, members were again requested to approve the newly-calculated 2015 rates.

*Mr. Palmeri* - Mr. Palmeri stated that he felt there should be a uniform rate of fare, that the airport should decide the rate, and the City should follow. He said Los Angeles also wanted a uniform rate, and it was his opinion that one meter rate would be better for the industry.

**Motion:**

Mr. Palmeri made a motion for the industry to have a uniform rate of fare based on the airport rate. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hueso.

**Vote:**

The motion passed with Mr. Hamidi opposed.

Yay: Abraham, Boenitz, Haratian, Hilemon, Hueso, Lemma, Majid, Nahavandian, Palmeri, Solati

Nay: Hamidi

Abstain: 0

Absent: Gebreselassie, Layne, Mercer, Staples, Tanguay

7. Taxicab Advisory Committee Permit Holder Member Nomination and Election Process

Mr. Kellerman reminded the Committee that at the November 2014 TAC meeting, it had been decided by unanimous vote that staff return to the TAC in March with a proposed schedule and timeline for the June elections. Mr. Kellerman suggested that since the permitting process had not yet begun for those interested in obtaining a City of San Diego taxicab permit, the Committee wait until September to hold the election.

Chris Morse, UTWSD, 4265 Fairmount Avenue, #18, San Diego, CA 92105

Mr. Morse agreed that the election should be postponed, and thought that the lease driver election process should be changed. He suggested one process for both lease drivers and permit holders.

Sara Saez, UTWSD, 4265 Fairmount Avenue, #18, San Diego, CA 92105

Ms. Saez advised that Civic San Diego was currently proposing a free shuttle in the City. She agreed it would be best not to hold the election until after the new permit issuance, and said that the UTWSD was in favor of a uniform rate of fare for both the City and the airport.

Ms. Cooney explained that the reason the driver election was held differently than the permit holder election was because staff had access to all of the current permit holder information in the Taxicab Administration database, as well as whether they were in good standing. Only the San Diego County Sheriff's Licensing Division had access to current lease driver information. It was her suggestion to review the matter of holding an election for permit holders and drivers in September, pending the new permit issuance, to see whether it would be practical to hold the elections in the near future.

**Motion:**

Mr. Akbar Majid moved to postpone the permit holder and lease driver elections for further review in September, pending the processing of the new applications. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hueso.

Vote:

The motion passed with one abstention.

Yay: Abraham, Boenitz, Hamidi, Haratian, Hilemon, Hueso, Lemma, Majid, Nahavandian, Palmeri, Solati

Nay: 0

Abstain: Unknown

Absent: Gebreselassie, Layne, Mercer, Staples, Tanguay

Councilmember Myrtle Cole suggested that MTS staff and representatives of the UTWSD meet sometime in the future to discuss the election process. Mr. Lemma advised that driver addresses were available through the Sheriff's Department.

8. Taxicab Advisory Committee Lease Driver Member Nomination and Election Process

See above.

Motion:

Mr. Akbar Majid moved to postpone the permit holder election and the lease driver election for further review in September pending the processing of the new applications. The motion was seconded by Mr. Hueso.

Vote:

The motion passed with one abstention.

Yay: Abraham, Boenitz, Haratian, Hilemon, Hueso, Lemma, Majid, Nahavandian, Palmeri, Solati

Nay: 0

Abstain: Unknown

Absent: Gebreselassie, Layne, Mercer, Staples, Tanguay

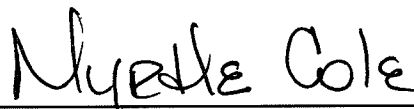
9. Next Meeting – Thursday, June 25, 2015, 10:00 a.m.

10. Adjournment

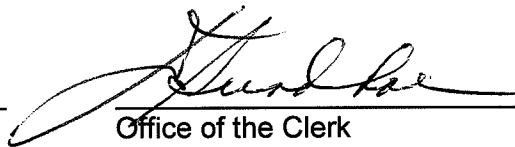
The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Accepted:

Filed by:



Myrtle Cole, Chair  
MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee



Office of the Clerk  
MTS Taxicab Administration

**METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM  
TAXICAB COMMITTEE MEETING  
ROLL CALL SHEET**

DATE: THURSDAY, MARCH 26, 2015

CALL TO ORDER TIME: 10:03

ADJOURN TIME: 10:43

MEMBER NAME		ORGANIZATION	ALTERNATES	
MYRTLE COLE (nonvoting)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MTS Board of Directors/SD City Council		
GEORGE ABRAHAM	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Eritrean Cab Co.		
DAVID BOENITZ	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S.D. County Regional Airport Authority		
ALEXANDER GEBRESELAASSIE	<input type="checkbox"/>	Cross Town Transportation, LLC		
KAMRAN HAMIDI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	V.I.P. Cab		
CAMERON HARATIAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	P. B. Cab	ANOOSH AMAN, Space Cab	<input type="checkbox"/>
BRIAN HILEMON	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S.D. Tourism Authority	JOE TERZI	<input type="checkbox"/>
TONY HUESO	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	USA Cab LTD		
JOSH LAYNE	<input type="checkbox"/>	S.D. Convention Center	DARYL MAYEKAWA	<input type="checkbox"/>
BERHANU LEMMA	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lease Driver Representative		
AKBAR MAJID	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SDYC Holdings, LLC		
NAMARA MERCER	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater S.D. Hotel/Motel Association		
HUSHANG NAHAVANDIAN	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	ESM Corp.		
TONY PALMERI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	S.D. Travelers Aid Society	MICHEL ANDERSON	<input type="checkbox"/>
REZA SOLATI	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lease Driver Representative		
MIKE STAPLES	<input type="checkbox"/>	Greater S.D. Hotel/Motel Association Catamaran Hotel		
MARGO TANGUAY	<input type="checkbox"/>	Lease Driver Representative		

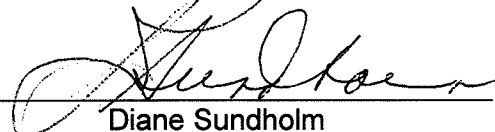
MTS Representatives Present (nonvoting):

Others Present (nonvoting):

PAUL C. JABLONSKI, MTS Chief Executive Officer	<input type="checkbox"/>	STEVE CELNIKER, City of S.D. Liaison/ SANDAG	<input type="checkbox"/>
SHARON COONEY, MTS Chief of Staff	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	EDNA RAINS, S.D. County Sheriff (nonvoting member)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
BILL KELLERMAN, MTS Taxicab Administration Manager	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	SAMANTHA LESLIE, MTS Staff Attorney/Regulatory Compliance	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
KAREN LANDERS, MTS General Counsel	<input type="checkbox"/>		

CLERK OF THE TAXICAB COMMITTEE:

TAXICAB ADMINISTRATION MANAGER:

  
Diane Sundholm

  
Bill Kellerman

  
Date



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## DECLARATION

(LEG 493)

I, Diane Sundholm, declare as follows:

I am the Metropolitan Transit System's (MTS) Taxicab Administration Clerk of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.

On March 26, 2015, my duties included attending the MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee to record the minutes of the meeting on the new recording equipment recently installed in the MTS Board Room.

During the set-up of the recording equipment, I inadvertently pressed the pause button instead of the record button, thus rendering the recording completely inaudible. This was not discovered until the recording was played back after the conclusion of the meeting.

On June 24, 2015, the minutes of the March 26 meeting were sent to all Taxicab Advisory Committee members and interested parties, along with other meeting materials, with the following notation:

***"Note: Due to technical problems with recording this meeting, the following minutes for the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting have been composed using MTS Taxicab Administration staff notes taken during the meeting. Please refer to A17 and A18, regarding permit holder and lease driver elections. During this vote, there was one member abstaining, however, the name of the member was not recorded. In order to correct this record, please notify the Clerk of the Committee as to the identity of this member. In addition, if it is felt any other important items have been omitted and should be included, please contact MTS staff at 619.595.7034 prior to the meeting scheduled for Thursday, July 2, 2015."***

### Results:

Only one Taxicab Advisory Committee member, Mr. Kamran Hamidi, responded to the above regarding a discrepancy in his vote on agenda item 7, changing his *nay* vote to *yay*. No interested parties responded with additions or deletions to the minutes, nor did any member or interested party request any change, additions, or deletions during the meeting of July 2, 2015, and the minutes were approved by the Committee as presented.

I declare the foregoing statement is true and correct under penalty of perjury. Executed on this 8<sup>th</sup> day of July, 2015, in San Diego, California.

Diane Sundholm  
Clerk – MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee

DSUNDH/Taxicab/Taxicab Comm./Min.  
F-DECLARATION-3.26.15 Min.

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

Metropolitan Transit System (MTS) is a California public agency comprised of San Diego Transit Corp., San Diego Trolley, Inc., San Diego and Arizona Eastern Railway Company (nonprofit public benefit corporations), and San Diego Vintage Trolley, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation, in cooperation with Chula Vista Transit. MTS is the taxicab administrator for seven cities. 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.

