

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM  
TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
1255 Imperial Avenue, Suite 1000  
San Diego, CA 92101

January 15, 2020

[Clerk's note: Except where noted, public, staff and committee member comments are paraphrased].

1. Roll Call

Chair Ward called the Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting to order at 10:00 am. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached.

2. Approval of Meeting Minutes – December 2, 2019

Mr. Hueso moved for approval of the meeting minutes of the September 11, 2019 TAC Meeting, with a second by Mr. Palmeri. The vote was 10 to 0 in favor with Mr. Chasteen, Mr. Hilemon, and Mr. Nichols absent and one member vacancy.

3. Non-Agenda Public Comment

*Mark McGee, Lease Driver* - Mr. McGee spoke to address the current lack of taxi stands throughout San Diego and downtown areas. The areas of greatest need noted were Balboa Park, Broadway Pier, The Fish Market, the San Diego Zoo and some Pacific Beach areas. He stated that this is not only a great need for the drivers themselves but for the public, particularly the disabled and elderly. He said there is also a great abuse of taxi stands by other non-taxi vehicles, especially on weekend evenings in the Gaslamp Area. He said he has pointed out the problem to San Diego Police Department but they do not have the resources to address the issue. In addition to Lyft, Uber, UPS and scooter charging vehicles, there are even downtown employees who use the spots for entire days while working. He believes that most people park there as they know that there is no enforcement by Police or MTS Enforcement.

4. Fiscal Year (FY) 2020 Amended Budget

Gordon Meyer, MTS Operating Budget Supervisor presented a PowerPoint on Taxicab Administration Finances including, a summary and detailed budget report, the current contingency reserve balance, and a report of the finalized FY20 amended budget. A copy of the presentation and supplemental reports were provided with the original meeting packet. Ms. Cooney and Chair Ward noted the efforts by the Taxicab Administration Department to affect savings where possible. Chair Ward and Ms. Cooney both shared that they recognize the reduction in ability to make revenue and the difficulties facing permit holders; as such, they are invested in assisting with efforts to aid in the support and success of the industry.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Committee Member Comment

Mr. Hussein said that he has gone to the MTS Board previously to inquire about a possible reduction, or waiver, of rent costs and would like to know what decision was made. He also mentioned that Taxi Administration is heavily staffed, although he knows they have let some people go; he would like to know if there has been any research into what other regulatory agencies in other areas are doing with their operations.

Mr. Hueso asked if permit counts included all modes of regulated transportation. Mr. Fewell gave a verbal report of the permit breakdown as: 847 Taxicabs, 20 Low Speed Vehicle, 159 Charter vehicles, 376 Nonemergency Vehicles and 8 Jitneys for a combined total of 1,410. Mr. Meyer clarified that the permit figure of 1273 was used for budgeting purposes to account for voided/revoked permits, he noted that last years final figure was 1255. Mr. Fewell confirmed Mr. Hueso's question regarding NEM vehicles and the likelihood that those permits will continue to increase. Ms. Cooney said that may be impacted due to the way the State is handling Managed Care Providers and how they are paying for medical transportation. Those discussion are still ongoing so it is unclear if this will benefit NEM's, taxis or other TNC's. She is having conversations with Sacramento to keep a close watch on any potential negative impact to our industry.

Action Taken

None. Informational only.

5. Maximum Rates of Fare

Leonardo Fewell, Taxicab Administration Manager presented the 2020 Maximum Rates of Fare released by the US Bureau of Labor Statistics on January 14, 2020. In addition to the established Maximum Rates of Fare taxicabs equipped with Point of Sale Devices (POS) electronically connected to the taximeter and printed or electronically conveyed receipt capabilities may charge 6% more than the maximum rates of fare for taxicabs without such devices. Mr. Fewell noted that taxicab companies may adopt the 2020 maximum rates of fare immediately thereafter by filing a Statement of Rates of Fare form and finalizing a taximeter inspection by Taxicab Administration.

Public Comment

*Kamran Hamidi, SD Airport Dispatch/VIP Taxi*-Mr. Hamidi thanked the committee for the support of Agenda Item 4. He stated that currently anyone can complete a Statement of Rates of Fare with MTS to raise their rate to the maximum. He said that city rates and airport rates will now be aligned with the use of the CPI method and the additional 6% with POS technology. AB1069 allows drivers to charge up to the maximum rate but they may also charge a lower fare if desired. He did note that San Diego is really behind on industry technology.

Committee Member Comment

Ms. Tanguay said that she is in favor of keeping the rates as they are, and even possibly reducing them, to be more competitive. Mr. Banks asked if it is possible for a permit holder to opt out of increasing the rate. Mr. Fewell clarified that the rates established are a Maximum Rate but adoption of the rate increase is *completely optional*. Mr. Tehrani said that business is really not good and many customers are not happy with the existing prices; he questioned the decision to increase rates in such a market. He said this is going to contribute to further killing the taxi market. Mr. Hueso thinks that there is misunderstanding of what the maximum rate means. He said the industry is fairly

saturated and needs to find other cost saving methods, such as more economical vehicles. He said that he will not be raising rates as the market is dictating prices and it is already very difficult to be competitive. In speaking with other permit holders, he has found that they will not be raising their rates either. Mr. Majid asked if this rate increase would impact airport rates, he also asked if perhaps the rates should be frozen to reduce confusion. Mr. Nichols, San Diego County Regional Airport Authority clarified this change applies to City maximum rates only and do not impact airport rates at all, the airport does not have a separate rate but rather an established "trip/access fee". Mr. Abraham said that there is very little work already, this matter was discussed at the Workshop on Regulatory Matters (WORM) and he feels it is a waste of time to have discussions regarding rate increases. Mr. Banks would like to see the rates frozen as well, he asked if this is something that needs to be presented to the State. Ms. Cooney said that industry interest, and request, were the motivating factors in both the maximum rate increase and the additional 6% for Point of Sale equipment. Chair Ward reiterated that charging an increased rate, up to the maximum, is a personal business decision to be made by each permit holder. He said that customer feedback regarding this matter, particularly in regards to airport fare confusion, will be monitored and reported back to the committee.

#### Action Taken

None. Informational only.

#### 6. February 12, 2020 Deadline for Permits Held by Corporations and LLC's to Meet Council Policy 500-02 Screening Criteria Extended to January 1, 2021

Mr. Fewell noted that February 12, 2020 vehicle requirement changes due to Policy 500-02 could create a potential loss of regulatory fees for 133 taxicab permits. Council Policy No. 500-02 states that new taxicab permit holders must have a vehicle that 1) is no older than 10 years of the model age and 2) not have a salvage title. For all existing permit holders held by corporations or limited liability companies, City Council Policy No. 500-02 required compliance within 5 years. In response to these concerns, MTS Taxicab Administration has reviewed this issue. Mr. stated in order to allow time for the City of San Diego to review this issue, MTS Taxicab Administration will not enforce these two requirements until January 1, 2021. If by January 1, 2021 the City of San Diego has not adopted changes to Council Policy 500-02 in regards to vehicle age limits and title status, MTS will enforce Council Policy 500-02 and MTS Ordinance No. 11 as currently stated.

#### Public Comment

*Kamran Hamidi, SD Airport Dispatch/VIP Taxi* – Mr. Hamidi said that Policy 500-02 also addresses security cameras and that he has been using dash cameras for around three years. He thinks cameras can help reduce regulatory burden on MTS and aids with driver safety. He has notices, in English and Spanish, informing passengers that they are being recorded. He said this is another step towards moving ahead in technology.

#### Committee Member Comment

Ms. Tanguay shared that she has been a lease driver since 1979 and that she recalls that many permit holders were told to register as LLC's and now they are being faced with this additional expense when there is no business or money. She feels like this is discriminatory. Chair Ward clarified that the item being presented today is to extend the deadline and that there will be further conversations taking place at the WORM and the City level. Mr. Hussein would like the off-street

parking regulation to be addressed as well. Mr. Banks asked if there is any enforcement happening around cameras in taxis, he thinks that many customers are opposed to the use of cameras.

Action Taken

None. Informational only.

7. Workshop on MTS For-Hire Vehicle Insurance Requirements

Mr. Fewell reviewed the MTS Taxicab Administration minimum required public liability insurance requirements and coverage amount limits for Taxicabs and for-hire vehicles. The minimum required public liability insurance limit for taxicabs (9 passengers or less) is \$350,000 combined single limit. The insurer must have a minimum A.M. Best rating of A-minus (A-) or above, and a financial size category of no less than VII (seven), or a similar Standard and Poor's rating.

He noted that there have been multiple requests from Taxicab Advisory Committee members, drivers and permit holders to revise the current MTS for-hire vehicles insurance requirements, specifically, to eliminate insurance company minimum standard ratings with the expected result of lower insurance premiums for the San Diego taxicab industry.

Mr. Fewell said minimum insurance requirements are established in the interest of public and passenger safety and that MTS current insurance coverage limits and requirements are on par with similar regulatory agencies in the state of California. In order for MTS to consider revisions to the current for-hire vehicle insurance requirements, and in an effort to find effective and sustainable solutions that may result in lower insurance premiums for taxicabs, Taxicab Administration will convene an invitation only, one-day workshop Friday, January 17, 2020 at 10:00 am.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Committee Member Comment

Mr. Hussein asked if changes in the rating would happen in time for insurance policy renewals in April. Mr. Fewell acknowledged the urgency and hopes to have any approved changes in place by the time policy renewals happen.

Action Taken

None. Informational Only.

8. Revisions to Taxicab Advisory Committee Membership

Mr. Fewell reviewed the Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) committee member make up and recent changes. On December 2, 2019, TAC member Anthony Palmeri, San Diego Traveler's Aid Society announced his retirement and Hotel Industry Representative, Mr. Ryan Chasteen has relocated out of state. Neither organization reappointed a new representative. On the suggestion of the WORM sub-committee members both the Gaslamp Quarter Association (GQA) and Cross Border Xpress (CBX) airline bridge terminal in Otay Mesa were recommended as potential committee members. Both organizations expressed interest in participating in the TAC, a proposal to amend the Taxicab

Committee Guidelines will be presented at the next scheduled TAC meeting and provided to the MTS Board of Directors for final approval.

Public Comment

No Public Comment.

Committee Member Comment

Mr. Tasem asked why CBX was invited to join as they are a privately-owned company, he said that he thought the Committee was to be comprised of public entities. Mr. Fewell explained that there is no regulation that Committee members be public organizations; he also noted that CBX was approached based on the WORM recommendation. He said there is a lot of development happening in the Otay Mesa area and CBX's participation is an opportunity for a good business partnership. Mr. Tasem would like them to change their requirements regarding required permitting to work at CBX. Mr. Banks shared that he has had problems at CBX as well, he would like to see MTS and CBX work together. Mr. Ward suggested that once a CBX representative attends a meeting more time be spent to suss out such matters. Mr. Hussein said that he feels there needs to be value to whomever is added to the TAC and that he also has had problems with CBX in the past regarding their policies and procedures. He feels that it is not a good idea to invite CBX and thinks it would be preferable to add an NEM company as they currently do not have representation. He alternatively suggested more single cab permit holders. Ms. Cooney explained opportunity of inviting an organization like CBX; their attendance will provide for relationship building, facilitate shared policy and regulation development, and encourage accountability across agencies. Mr. Hueso echoed that there are significant transportation opportunities for taxicabs and this should be seen as a positive. Mr. Ward suggested that once CBX attends a meeting, more time be spent to suss out any issues or concerns

Action Taken

None. Informational Only.

9. Additional Committee Member Comment
10. Next Meeting – April 15, 2020 at 10:00 am.
11. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 11:07 am.

Accepted:

/s/Chris Ward

Chris Ward  
Chair of Taxicab Advisory Committee

Filed by:

/s/Jamila L Larkins

Jamila Larkins, Clerk of the Committee  
MTS Taxicab Administration

Attachments: Roll Call Sheet  
2020 Maximum Rates of Fare

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

MEETING OF (DATE): January 15, 2020

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 10:00 am

ADJOURN: 11:07 am

COMMITTEE MEMBER		(Alternate)		ORGANIZATION	PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED)	ABSENT (TIME LEFT)
Christopher Ward	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			MTS Board of Directors/SD City Council	10:00 am	11:07 am
George Abraham	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Taxicab Owner/Eritrean Cab Co.	10:25 am	11:07 am
Alfred Banks	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Taxicab Lease Driver	10:00 am	11:07 am
Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>			Organizational Representative		
Brian Hilemon	<input type="checkbox"/>			San Diego Tourism Authority		
Antonio Hueso	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			USA Cab, LTD	10:00 am	11:07 am
Mikail Hussein	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Abebe Antalio	<input type="checkbox"/>	United Taxi Workers Federation San Diego	10:00 am	11:07 am
Daryl Mayekawa	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			San Diego Convention Center	10:00 am	11:07 am
Akbar Majid	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Taxicab Owner/SDYC Holdings, LLC	10:00 am	11:07 am
Guillermo Morquecho	<input type="checkbox"/>			Taxicab Lease Driver		
Houshang Nahavandian	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Taxicab Owner/ESM Corporation	10:00 am	11:07 am
Marc Nichols	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Michael Anderson	<input type="checkbox"/>	San Diego County Regional Airport Authority	10:03 am	11:07 am
Vacant	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	Organizational Representative		
Margo Tanguay	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Taxicab Lease Driver	10:04 am	10:50 am
David Tasem	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Taxicab Lease Driver	10:00 am	11:07 am
Nasser Tehrani	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Taxicab Owner/N.A.T. Cab Co.	10:00 am	11:07 am
Garret Cooper non-voting	<input type="checkbox"/>			San Diego Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures		
Edna Rains non-voting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			San Diego County Sheriff's Department Licensing Division	10:00 am	11:07 am
Sharon Cooney non-voting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			MTS Chief of Staff	10:09 am	11:07 am
Leonardo Fewell non-voting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			MTS Taxicab Administration Manager	10:00 am	11:07 am
Paul Jablonski non-voting	<input type="checkbox"/>			MTS Chief Executive Officer		
Samantha Leslie non-voting	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			MTS Staff Attorney/Regulatory Compliance	10:00 am	11:07 am

CLERK OF THE TAC: 

TAXICAB ADMINISTRATION MANAGER: 

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

## 2020 Maximum Rates of Fare

	<u>2020 Maximum Rate of Fare</u>	<u>2020 Maximum Rate of Fare, Point of Sale (POS) Device Equipped Taxicabs, additional 6%</u>
Flag Drop	\$3.00 flag drop 1/10 of a mile	\$3.20 flag drop 1/10 of a mile
Per Mile Rate	\$3.20	\$3.40
Per Hour Waiting Time	\$25.00	\$27.00

### Instructions on how to calculate rates of fare:

233.299 (Annual Consumer Price Index report value for 2019)

-121.000 (1990 Value)

112.299 (Replace "Y" with the subtracted value)

### Flag Drop

Step 1-  $\$1.40 \times 112.299(Y) = 157.2186$  convert it into a dollar amount \$1.572186

Step 2-  $\$1.40 + 1.1572186 = \$2.972186$  round up/down to the nearest .10 cent = **\$3.00 flag drop**

### Per Mile

Step 1-  $\$1.50 \times 112.299(Y) = 168.4485$  convert it into a dollar amount \$1.684485

Step 2-  $\$1.50 + 1.684485 = \$3.184485$  round up/down to the nearest .10 cent = **\$3.20 per mile**

### Wait Time

Step 1-  $\$12.00 \times 112.299(Y) = 1347.588$  convert it into a dollar amount \$13.47588

Step 2-  $\$12.00 + 13.47588 = \$25.47588$  round up/down to the nearest \$1.00 = **\$25.00 wait time**

### Fraction Calculation

Step 1-  $\$3.20$  (per mile) / .10 cent (fraction in which the meter clicks) = 20 = 1/16<sup>th</sup> fraction

### The Time It Takes For Each Fraction to Click the Meter

Step 1-  $\$25.00 / .20$  cent (or 1/16<sup>th</sup> in which the meter clicks) = 125

Step 2-  $3600$  (seconds per hour) / 125 = 28.8 seconds the meter will click 1/16<sup>th</sup> of a mile every 28.8 seconds the taxicab moves

