



Taxicab Advisory Committee Agenda

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



Live Verbal Public Comments:

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

Public Comments Made Via Zoom

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



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



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



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 two minutes per person, unless specified by the Chairperson. Requests to speak will not be taken after the public comment period ends, unless under the Chair's discretion.

Instructions for providing in-person public comments:

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

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



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) 595-4977 or by mail at 1255 Imperial Ave. Suite 1000, San Diego CA 92101.



Agenda del Comité Consejero de Taxis

Haga clic en el enlace para acceder a la reunión:

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

Funciones del Seminario En Línea:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
|  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. |
|  | ▶ | Este símbolo indica que su micrófono se encuentra encendido . Haga clic en este símbolo para silenciar su micrófono. |
|  | ▶ | La herramienta de chat deben usarla los panelistas y asistentes únicamente para asuntos “pertinentes a la reunión”, ya que comentarios realizados a través de esta herramienta no se conservarán como parte del registro de la reunión. Consulte el Comentario público verbal en vivo para obtener instrucciones sobre cómo hacer un comentario público. |



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



Teléfono:

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



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

Comentarios Públicos a Través de Zoom

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

Comentarios Públicos Realizados Únicamente por Teléfono

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



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



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



Participación en Persona: Los comentarios públicos en persona se escucharán primero. Después de los comentarios públicos en persona, se escuchará a los asistentes virtuales en el orden en el que levanten la mano a través de la plataforma de Zoom. El tiempo para hablar se limitará a dos 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) 595-4977 o por correo postal en **1255 Imperial Ave. Suite 1000, San Diego CA 92101.**



**Metropolitan
Transit
System**

Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting Agenda

February 26, 2025 at 1:00 p.m.

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

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

| NO. | ITEM SUBJECT AND DESCRIPTION | ACTION |
|------------------|---|-----------------|
| 1. | Roll Call | |
| 2. | Public Comments | |
| 3. | Approval of Minutes Action would approve the November 13, 2024, Taxicab Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes. | Approve |
| PUBLIC HEARING | | |
| 4. | 2025 Maximum Rates of Fare (Leonardo Fewell) | Informational |
| DISCUSSION ITEMS | | |
| 5. | Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership (Leonardo Fewell) | Informational |
| 6. | For Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Required Driver Training (Leonardo Fewell) | Informational |
| 7. | Autonomous For-Hire Vehicle Operations (Leonardo Fewell) | Possible Action |
| 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 |

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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.



- 10. Committee Member Communications and Other Business**
- 11. Next Meeting Date: May 28, 2025, at 1:00 p.m.**
- 12. Adjournment**

MINUTES

MEETING OF THE SAN DIEGO METROPOLITAN TRANSIT SYSTEM

TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC)

November 13, 2024

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

1. **Roll Call**

Chair Elo-Rivera called the Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. A roll call sheet listing Taxicab Advisory Committee member attendance is attached as Attachment A.

2. **Public Comments**

Izzy Aala – CEO of Flywheel Technologies and Flywheel Radio Dispatch - Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Izzy requested that the Airport Authority allow drivers to have Uber-referred rides, for drop-offs at the airport.

Carelyn Reynolds - Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Carelyn expressed concern about the cab industry becoming a subset of Uber and wants the city to consider that the cab industry provides a foundational transportation system.

Kamran Hamidi - Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Kamran suggested there should be a finance subcommittee and stated informational items on the committee's agenda should return to being action items.

Horacio Sanchez – Operations Lead at Flywheel Technologies - Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Horacio commented that taxicab drivers are concerned about being able to do drop-offs at the airport through Uber services, and mentioned there are advantages to customers and drivers if cabs work with Uber to service areas beyond the airport.

3. **Approval of Minutes**

David Tasem moved to approve the minutes of the May 22, 2024, MTS Taxicab Advisory Committee meeting. Antonio Hueso seconded the motion, and the vote was 11 to 0 in favor with Zewdu Girma, Letty Canizalez, Eduardo Gonzalez, Michael Trimble, and Margo Tanguay absent.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

4. **Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Amended Budget Forecast (Gordon Meyer)**

Gordon Meyer, MTS Manager of Financial Planning, presented on Fiscal Year (FY) 2025 Amended Budget Forecast for the For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA). He provided details on: MTS budget overview, total operating revenue, total operating expenses, net operating income, reserves analysis and 5-year budget forecast.

Public Comment

Kamran Hamidi – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Kamran expressed dissatisfaction with the annual fees and the reserves, and requested lowering the fees, specifically the dispatch fee.

Alem Zebib – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Alem expressed dissatisfaction with the increase in fees and stated it would be a good idea to set a flat rate around the airport.

Committee Comment

Committee Member David Tasem asked that day-to-day expenses be reviewed before the TAC meeting, and that membership should review. He asked to review the budget allocation and expenses.

Alternate Committee Member Peter Zschiesche opposes a fee increase this year, stating that having reserves exceeding 100% of the annual operating revenue is unprecedented. He believes the drivers' money allows MTS to operate.

Committee Member Antonio Hueso stated that since Covid, industry numbers have increased, leading to the increase in reserves. He said Mr. Hamidi's comment that a refund or credit made to the industry, possibly with \$100 towards the regulatory fee, is on the table to react on, with Chair Elo-Rivera's lead. He also stated that based on the numbers from the accounting department's analysis and forecast, the industry will still be healthy in 2-3 years. Committee Member Hueso suggested the Committee should decide what amount they want credited to the industry.

Chair Elo-Rivera asked Mr. Meyer for his response to the committee's questions and concerns.

Mr. Meyer stated the reserves do generate interest, but the interest generated for the contingency reserves go right back into it. This was done before the year end books officially closed. Mr. Meyer agreed there is a need to define a reserve target and mentioned Sharon Cooney, MTS Chief Executive Officer (CEO), could provide directions to produce a target number of what the fee should be for next time.

Chair Elo-Rivera asked Mr. Meyer to explain why fees would be increased to a substantial number before a target is set.

Mr. Meyer responded to Chair Elo-Rivera's question by pointing out the long-term result of not increasing the regulatory fee for the next 4 years. Mr. Meyer stated he initially recommended keeping the fees unchanged, until he reviewed an updated 5-year forecast. He realized that focusing only on the current year might be misleading, and although things seem fine now, ignoring future projections could lead to a situation where a \$100 fee increase becomes necessary, potentially putting a lot of cab drivers out of business. Mr. Meyer suggested that it might be too early to do a fee increase, but establishing a reserve fund could help with future issues and benefit everyone involved.

Committee Member Able Seifu requested to remove the recently added radio fee until next year, then revisit the budget to determine if a radio fee needs to be charged. This is with the assumption that there will only be a 4.8% increase in projected budget expenses.

Committee Member Akbar Majid asked if there was anything shown for outside legal services.

Mr. Meyer responded to Committee Member Majid's question, stating there is a \$10k emergency line item for outside legal services included in the budget every year, but we never spend it. It is there in case MTS receives a claim.

Committee Member Majid asked Mr. Meyer if it was correct to say the Taxicab Administration uses outside legal services.

Mr. Meyer responded that he has not seen any expenses on the general ledger.

Samantha Leslie, MTS Deputy General Counsel, answered Committee Member Majid's question stating we currently do not have any outside counsel for taxicab related items.

Committee Member Majid recommended at least \$250k should be placed in reserve for outside legal services since there are threats of lawsuits.

Alternate Committee Member Zschiesche responded to Committee Member Majid's recommendation, stating MTS has attorney services and if the attorney services come out of their budget, MTS can worry about where the \$250k comes from, and it won't come from Lenny.

Ms. Leslie stated that if outside counsel is needed for any taxicab for-hire vehicle related item, legal fees would be paid from the department's budget since FHVA is a cost recovery department.

Alternate Committee Member Zschiesche reiterated his earlier comment that the reserve is too high, an analysis needs to be conducted before fees are raised, and a healthy reserve needs to be established. He wants the committee members to review the information and assess whether it is comparable to other agencies. Additionally, he wants any contingencies involved identified. Alternate Committee Member Zschiesche also corrected his earlier comment and stated we do need legal fees.

Committee Member Hueso stated it is up to the Committee to get facts and make recommendations. Mr. Hueso's recommendation is to reserve \$100k in the legal fund, leave fees as they have been this past year with no increase, and determine how high to set the bar for the reserves.

Committee Member Tasem requested a detailed copy of the present budget for all committee members with a detailed expenditure report for the next fiscal year.

Chair Elo-Rivera asked Committee Member Tasem if he was asking for a detailed expenditure report.

Committee Member Tasem expressed to Chair Elo-Rivera that he wants Leonardo Fewell, Manager of For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA), to produce a physical report detailing the expenditures of the FY25 budget.

Mr. Meyer responded to Committee Member Tasem referring to Attachment B in the pre-packet meeting materials, provided with the agenda item, which shows the actuals for FY24, and shows by individual ledger codes, what is being budgeted for FY25. Mr. Meyer offered to give a more detailed presentation along with a year-end report if requested.

Committee Member Tasem stated he wants an email of all of it.

Chair Elo-Rivera told Committee Member Tasem that Mr. Meyers pointed to where the documents can be found, and that it is the committee members responsibility to review the materials, which are also posted and available to the public. Chair Elo-Rivera agreed there is

clear concern and clear consensus amongst the group about the projected fee increase because of the reserve goal. He asked Mr. Meyer if he could help committee members understand the recommendations.

Mr. Meyer explained to Chair Elo-Rivera that he does a projection, they produce a range of options, there is a discussion, and the information is provided to the MTS CEO. Mr. Meyer stated the decision passes through four people, and Chair Elo-Rivera added it is then presented to the Board. Mr. Meyer stated he did not know the process of not doing a fee increase at this point but in terms of setting a reserve target, Mr. Meyer stated the goal is to slow the usage of reserves, not increase it, and to prevent a spike in the future.

Ms. Leslie added that a decision on the fee schedule needs to be posted 30-days prior to January 1, 2025, before it goes into effect. She recommended taking feedback from the TAC meeting to the MTS CEO, keeping the fee at the same rate as in 2024, figuring out an aim percentage of a reserve for the contingency, and talking with the Committee about the aim goal. Ms. Leslie suggested revisiting the 5-year projection with the contingency goal and deciding if increases in yearly expenses are needed.

Leonardo Fewell, MTS Manager of For-Hire Vehicle Administration, commented that the main factor for the budget forecast was based on the lessons learned in the middle of COVID in 2020 and 2021. He reminded the Committee that over 200 permits were lost during that time, and the regulatory fee was doubled. Mr. Fewell stated the goal of the budget forecast, with direction from the MTS CEO, is to stabilize the regulatory fee. He reminded the Committee that the industry is volatile and to consider the many factors in San Diego that might offset the lack of permit renewals, or the adding of permits. Mr. Fewell stated the annual fee is the only change being made to the fee schedule.

Alternate Committee Member Zschiesche recommended the following two things: no fee increases, and to discuss reasonable reserves in terms of legal fees and volatility in the industry at the next TAC meeting

Chair Elo-Rivera suggested moving the conversation along to talk about the fee schedule, open things up to public comment on the fee schedule, then, close out both the budget item and the fee schedule.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

5. 2025 Fee Schedule (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell presented the 2025 Fee Schedule. He touched on the following items: FHVA being a fully cost recovery entity per Public Utilities Code, Section 120266; calculation of fees for expenses, enforcement requirements, and processing of permits; annual review of expenses and revenue of previous fiscal year associated with FHVA activities; examples of MTS's expenses; slight fee schedule change only for the regulatory fee, no other changes to the 2025 Fee Schedule; date invoices will be mailed; deadline date for regulatory fee payment; and late renewal date and late renewal fee to avoid permit being voided

Public Comment

Kamran Hamidi – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Kamran expressed frustration with the increase in fees, asked for fees to be lowered, and suggested having a finance subcommittee to review and approve fees and budget.

Alem Zebib – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Alem expressed opposition to the fee increase, voiced his concern if Uber was incorporated with the taxi industry, and stated having a flat rate would make it equal for all drivers.

Abdusalan Abdikadir – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Abdusalan expressed dissatisfaction with the radio service fee and asked for the fee to be waived this year and removed from the schedule in the future and is in favor of having a flat rate to areas around the airport.

William Alozie – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. William expressed opposition to the fee increase.

Fawzi Nur – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Fawzi expressed frustration with the budget, and arbitrary rates, and stated he is ok with having a flat rate.

Committee Comment

Chair Elo-Rivera noted everyone's frustrations and concerns about the fee increases, and the high cost of living in San Diego. He stated he felt it was fair for drivers to ask how MTS will keep costs down and expressed he wished he had a solution. Chair Elo-Rivera addressed comments about competition with Uber and Lyft, stating they are on a different playing field and are not under the same regulatory structure that MTS is under. He commented he will take the initiative as an MTS board member, and that the MTS staff can hear the concerns and try to integrate them in the decision-making process.

Committee Member Hueso commented that he is reinstating his previous recommendation.

Mr. Fewell provided context about the dispatch service change fee and offered a detailed explanation as to why this is not an arbitrary fee, based on the effort of processing dispatch service requests.

Alternate Committee Member Michael Anderson stated he noticed the fee schedule introduced a new waiver for wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAV) this year. He asked if there was anything the Committee would recommend the airport to do to support the goal of reducing WAV fees.

Mr. Fewell responded and stated the decision was made to waive all fees for existing WAV permit holders and offer fee waivers to new permit holders entering the business with a WAV. This is being done as an incentive to boost the number of WAVs in San Diego and other cities regulated by MTS. He mentioned that all of MTS's partner agencies with a stake in taxicab regulations are working with MTS to better incentivize maintaining the number of permits and facilitating the market entry of new permits to have a healthy number of WAVs in San Diego.

Committee Member Seifu stated the only issue seen in the past were with drivers with Uber accounts, pending approval for radio service. He asked if MTS could be more flexible with

drivers as they wait for approval from Uber before finalizing their paperwork to give them the option to switch back to their old radio service, if needed.

Mr. Fewell explained to Committee Member Seifu that FHVA does not get involved in the business operations of each dispatch service, stating the baseline of what we require is in MTS's regulations, and that is our limitations. Mr. Fewell stated permit holders are responsible for getting the proper information from dispatch services and he reiterated that FHVA charges fees to process dispatch service changes.

Committee Member Seifu asked Mr. Fewell if he could give drivers time to finalize their paperwork and accounts with Flywheel before charging fees.

Mr. Fewell stated the solution for the drivers would be to complete their process with their dispatch service, then come to FHVA and receive the final inspection within 48 hours.

Committee Member Seifu stated his understanding is that the driver receives a call right away from MTS to do the inspection.

Mr. Fewell answered that the statement was correct.

Committee Member Seifu responded that Uber has their own time processing their paperwork.

Chair Elo-Rivera summarized what Mr. Fewell said to Committee Member Seifu, stating the driver should complete the process with Uber before contacting MTS to request a change in dispatch service.

Committee Member Hueso added the issue with the industry is that drivers who do not command the English language or have issues with technology depend on others for their information and might receive false or misleading information. The drivers are not forced to switch dispatch services, but many will follow the lead of others thinking they have to change. He stated that many members of the Committee and MTS are willing to help drivers fully understand the guidelines and parameters of entering into new agreements.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

6. Flat Rate Research for Airport Originated Trips (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell advanced the presentation, due to meeting time constraints, by saying MTS will follow through with this agenda item with a working group committee, to analyze and determine the best way to proceed.

Ms. Leslie stated this is a brief agenda item and the presentation can be waived since it is clearly described in the agenda item.

Chair Elo-Rivera moved to waive the presentation of Agenda Item 6 and to take public comments and questions.

Public Comment

Kamran Hamidi – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Kamran stated drivers want the freedom to switch between dispatches that provide a flat rate without a penalty fee for the change, and that flat rates would help the airport rides, especially for the short trips.

William Alozie – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. William expressed support for flat rates originating from the airport.

Henry Agoh – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Henry stressed the need for MTS to emulate flat rate fees from the airport, like they do in airports in Seattle, Minnesota, and Los Angeles.

Osman Ibrahim – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Osman expressed support for having a flat rate implemented at the airport since most drivers wait several hours to get a passenger, only to drop the passenger off about 2-3 miles near the airport.

Committee Comment

No comments were made from Committee Members.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

7. Wildcatter Public Safety Awareness Campaign Update (Leonardo Fewell)

Mr. Fewell presented on the Wildcatter Public Safety Awareness Campaign Update. He outlined the following information: Public Safety Awareness Campaign (PSA) against wildcatting and the dangers of utilizing wildcatters; printed and digital assets; informational page on the MTS website titled: “Don’t Risk Your Safety, Say NO to Wildcatters”; English and Spanish website providing information about wildcatters and licensed taxicabs; Billboard Advertisements in both digital and solid forms; and next steps which include signage installations, discussions on best enforcement practices targeting wildcatting, and solutions to discourage and inhibit wildcatting.

Mr. Fewell also mentioned MTS had a press conference in the morning with public officials and the media about mitigating the wildcatter problem.

Chair Elo-Rivera thanked Mr. Fewell, Ms. Leslie and the MTS team for planning and coordinating the press conference about wildcatters. He stated this was a tangible example of how the concerns expressed by the drivers are being acted on in a real way to move forward in a positive direction.

Public Comment

Kamran Hamidi – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Kamran stated the federal police were ticketing Rancheros at Otay but stated the city police needed to have vehicles towed.

Jose Jaime Mejia – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Jose stated wildcatters have been around for four decades and the drivers can finally see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Committee Comment

Alternate Committee Member Zschiesche stated he would like to see reasonable discussion with the DA's office about how taxi drivers can help with safe and reasonable enforcement through information and pictures.

Committee Member Hueso commented that wildcatters hurt drivers economically and customers indirectly. He expressed hope that everyone will collaborate collectively to successfully resolve this pressing problem.

Chair Elo-Rivera stated that the collaboration that has taken place up to this point is a good indicator of the seriousness with which this issue is being taken.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

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

Mr. Fewell presented on For-Hire Vehicle Administration Operations Update. He invited committee members and the public to visit MTS's website on their own time for notifications, contact information, and fee collection and deadline dates.

Mr. Fewell urged permit holders to check their emails for invoices and noted that emailing is our main method of communication. Mr. Fewell presented on the following topics: future ad-hoc meetings to facilitate and discuss industry topics will be conducted, active and surrendered permits, statistics with enforcement, and detailed granular information on warnings, customer feedback and airport trips

Public Comment

Kamran Hamidi – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. Kamran suggested having a meeting about insurance, stating he believed there was only one insurance company in San Diego and if they go out of business, everyone will go out of business.

Alem Zebib – Decided not to comment on this agenda item.

William Alozie – Provided a verbal statement to the Committee during the meeting. William expressed frustration with insurance rates being so high. William encouraged the taxicab industry members to share the information on MTS's website.

Committee Comment

Committee Member Banks spoke about the radio service issue, stating MTS is more focused on Uber and Lyft and is neglecting the taxi industry, which will create problems for senior citizens who would rather use taxi services.

Action Taken

Informational item only. No action taken.

OTHER ITEMS

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

Mr. Fewell listed the next proposed TAC meeting topics: 2025 Maximum fare rates, flat rate research for airport originated trips, wildcatter PSA campaign update, and FHVA operations update.

Mr. Fewell invited anyone wanting to include other topics in the next agenda to reach out to him directly.

10. Committee Member Communications

No Committee Member communication or other business discussion.

11. Next Meeting Date

To be determined for 2025.

12. Adjournment

Chair Sean Elo-Rivera adjourned the meeting at 3:05 p.m.

Chairperson
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

Committee Clerk
San Diego Metropolitan Transit System

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

ROLL CALL

MEETING OF (DATE): November 13, 2024

CALL TO ORDER (TIME): 1:06 PM

ADJOURN: 3:05 PM

| COMMITTEE MEMBER | | ALTERNATE | | ORGANIZATION | PRESENT (TIME ARRIVED) | ABSENT (TIME LEFT) |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Voting Committee Members | | | | | | |
| Sean Elo-Rivera (Chair) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | MTS Board of Directors/ SD City Council | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Able Seifu | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Permit Holder / Odyssey Cab | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Agustin Hodoyan | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Permit Holder / Soul Cab | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Akbar Majid | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Permit Holder / SDYC Holdings | 1:06 PM | 2:14 PM |
| Zewdu Girma | <input type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Permit Holder / Beezee Taxi | Absent | Absent |
| George Abraham | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Daniel Fesshaye | <input type="checkbox"/> | Permit Holder / Eritrean Cab | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Antonio Hueso | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Permit Holder / USA Cab, LTD | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Letty Canizalez | <input type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | SD Tourism Authority | Absent | Absent |
| Eduardo Gonzalez | <input type="checkbox"/> | Jose Raul Alcantar | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cross Border X-Press | Absent | Absent |
| Mikail Hussein | <input type="checkbox"/> | Peter Zschiesche | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | United Taxi Workers SD | 1:14 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Daryl Mayekawa | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Thanh Nguyen | <input type="checkbox"/> | SD Convention Center | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Marc Nichols | <input type="checkbox"/> | Michael Anderson | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | SD Regional Airport Authority | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Michael Trimble | <input type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | SD Gaslamp Quarter Association | Absent | Absent |
| Alfred Banks | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Taxicab Lease Driver | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Margo Tanguay | <input type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Taxicab Lease Driver | Absent | Absent |
| David Tasem | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | Taxicab Lease Driver | 1:06 PM | 2:37 PM |
| Non – Voting Committee Members | | | | | | |
| Jonathan Garcia | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Austin Shepard | <input type="checkbox"/> | SD Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |
| Jessica Marty | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | None | <input type="checkbox"/> | SD County Sheriff's Department Licensing Division | 1:06 PM | 3:05 PM |

COMMITTEE CLERK: /S/ Brenda Jackson



**Metropolitan
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Agenda Item No. 4

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

February 26, 2025

SUBJECT:

2025 Maximum Rates of Fare (Leonardo Fewell)

INFORMATIONAL ONLY:

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

In accordance with MTS Board Policy No. 34 (For-Hire Vehicle Services), the annual change in the All Urban Western Transportation Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the San Diego region is the sole calculation method to determine the maximum rates for both city and airport originated trips. Taxicabs equipped with Point of Sale (POS) devices 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.

There was a slight increase in the 2024 CPI annual change compared to 2023. As a result, there was a nominal \$0.01 increase to the flag drop rate, a \$0.10 increase to the per-mile rate, and \$1.00 increase to the per-hour waiting time rate. All three rate categories are rounded to the nearest 0.10 cent.

Adoption by taxicab permit holders of the 2025 maximum rates is optional. Taxicab permit holders may, at their discretion, continue to utilize the 2024 maximum rates of fare, or any other rates of fare so long as those rates are equal to or less than the 2025 maximum rates of fare. No additional information or steps are needed to be performed with For-Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA).

Any change to taximeter rates must be performed by an authorized taximeter service agent. Additionally, permit holders must register their taximeter and complete the certification process with the San Diego County Department of Agriculture, Weights and Measures.

As part of their duties, Regulatory Inspectors will conduct taximeter inspections in the field. Any taxicab with taximeter rates higher than the authorized 2025 Maximum rates will be taken out of service until the taximeter is adjusted and a \$50 re-inspection fee will apply.

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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.



Below are the 2024 versus 2025 maximum rates of fare comparison:

2024 v. 2025 Maximum Rates of Fare Comparison

2024 Maximum Rates of Fare

| | 2024 Maximum Rates | 2024 Max Rates + 6% (POS equipped) |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Flag Drop | \$3.80 | \$4.00 |
| Per-Mile Rate | \$4.00 | \$4.20 |
| Per-Hour Waiting | \$32.00 | \$34.00 |

2025 Maximum Rates of Fare

| | 2025 Maximum Rates | 2025 Max Rates + 6% (POS equipped) |
|------------------|---------------------------|---|
| Flag Drop | \$3.80 | \$4.00 |
| Per-Mile Rate | \$4.10 | \$4.30 |
| Per-Hour Waiting | \$33.00 | \$35.00 |

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

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

- Attachments: A. MTS Board Policy No. 34
B. 2025 Maximum Rates of Fare Calculations
C. 2024 All Urban Western Transportation Consumer Price Index (CPI) for the San Diego Region



**Metropolitan
Transit
System**

Policies and Procedures No. 34

Board Approval: 3/14/2024

SUBJECT:

FOR-HIRE VEHICLE SERVICES

PURPOSE:

To establish a policy with guidelines and procedures for the implementation of MTS Ordinance No. 11.

BACKGROUND:

Regulation of for-hire vehicle service is in the interest of providing the citizens and visitors to the MTS region and particularly the Cities of Chula Vista, El Cajon, Imperial Beach, La Mesa, Lemon Grove, National City, Oceanside, Poway, San Diego, and Santee, with a good quality local transportation service. Toward this end, MTS finds it desirable to regulate the issuance of taxicab permits, to establish maximum rates of fare, and to provide for annual review of cost-recovery regulatory fees.

POLICY:

34.1 City of San Diego Entry Policy

New City of San Diego taxicab permits will be issued in accordance with San Diego City Council Policy No. 500-02, "Taxicab Permits".

34.2 Maximum Rates of Fare Policy

Except for Electronically Booked taxicab trips, as further defined at MTS Ordinance No. 11, maximum rate of fare for exclusive ride and group ride hire of taxicabs shall be made in accordance with the change in the Annual All Urban Western Transportation Consumer Price Index (CPI)/San Diego. The fare structure shall consist of the dollar amounts charged by permit holders for the flag drop, the per-mile charge, waiting-time charge, first zone, and each additional zone charge. The maximum rates of fare shall be computed annually by the Chief Executive Officer and presented at a noticed public hearing of the Taxicab Advisory Committee.

34.2.1 Maximum Rates of Fare Determination

Unless Section 34.2.2 applies, the maximum fare determination shall be adjusted annually based on the 1990 Western transportation CPI/San Diego amounts of \$1.40 flag drop, \$1.50 per mile, and \$12.00 per hour waiting. Adjustments shall be rounded up or down, as appropriate, to the nearest even \$0.10 increment.

34.2.2 Maximum Rates of Fare Determination - Only for Taxicabs Equipped with Point Of Sale Devices Electronically Connected to the Taximeter and Equipped with Printed or Electronically Conveyed Receipt Capability

Taxicabs equipped with point-of-sale devices electronically connected to the taximeter and capable of printing or electronically conveying receipts may charge the an increase of 6% more than the Maximum Rates of Fare for Taxicabs without such devices, as determined pursuant to Section 34.2.1. Adjustments shall be rounded up or down, as appropriate, to the nearest \$0.10 increment.

34.3 Airport Taxicab Fare Policy

In addition to the applicable maximum rate of fare described in Section 34.2.1, a taxicab operator may charge an “extra” equal to the Airport Trip Fee assessed against the individual taxicab operator by the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. The extra may not be charged on any trip that does not originate at the airport or on any trip where the taxicab operator does not pay the fee to the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority. The extra charge may only be charged to the customer by utilizing the extra button on the taxicab meter. A driver may not verbally request payment.

34.4 Regulatory Fee Review

The following procedures will be utilized for the establishment of for-hire vehicle regulatory fees.

34.4.1 In accordance with State of California Public Utilities Code Section 120266, MTS shall fully recover the cost of regulating the taxicab and other for-hire vehicle industry. Pursuant to MTS Ordinance No. 11, Sections 1.3(b), 1.4(a), 1.4((c), and 1.5(d), the Chief Executive Officer establishes a fee schedule to effect full-cost recovery and notify affected permit holders of changes in the fee schedule.

34.4.2 The procedure for establishing a regulatory fee schedule will include an annual review of the audited expenses and revenue of the previous fiscal year associated with MTS for-hire vehicle

activities. The revised fee schedule will be available for review by interested parties in November each year and is subject to appeal as provided for in Ordinance No. 11, Section 1.5(d).

34.4.3 A fee schedule based on previous year expenses and revenue amounts will be put into effect each January.

POLICY.34.FOR-HIRE VEHICLE SERVICES

This policy was originally adopted on 12/8/88.

This policy was amended on 7/26/90.

This policy was amended on 5/9/91.

This policy was amended on 6/13/91.

This policy was amended on 1/28/93.

This policy was amended on 5/11/95.

This policy was amended on 10/31/02.

This policy was amended on 4/24/03.

This policy revised on 3/25/04.

This policy was amended on 4/26/07.

This policy was amended on 7/17/08.

This policy was amended on 4/19/12.

This policy was amended on 4/16/15.

This policy was amended on 12/12/2019.

This policy was amended on 10/19/2023.

This policy was amended on 3/14/2024.



2025 Maximum Rates of Fare

| | <u>2025 Maximum Rate of Fare</u> | <u>2025 Maximum Rate of Fare, Point of Sale (POS) Device Equipped Taxicabs, Additional 6%</u> |
|-----------------------|----------------------------------|---|
| Flag Drop | \$3.80 flag drop | \$4.00 flag drop |
| Per Mile Rate | \$4.10 | \$4.30 |
| Per Hour Waiting Time | \$33.00 | \$35.00 |

Instructions on How to Calculate Rates of Fare:

293.422 (Annual Consumer Price Index report value for 2024)

-121.000 (1990 Value)

172.422 (Replace "Y" with the subtracted value)

Flag Drop

Step 1 - $1.40 \times 172.422(Y) = 241.390$, convert it into a dollar amount **\$2.41**

Step 2 - $\$1.40 + 2.41 = \3.81 round up/down to the nearest .10 cent = **\$3.80 flag drop**

Per Mile

Step 1 - $\$1.50 \times 172.422(Y) = 258.633$, convert it into a dollar amount **\$2.58**

Step 2 - $\$1.50 + 2.58 = \4.08 round up/down to the nearest .10 cent = **\$4.10 per mile**

Wait Time

Step 1 - $\$12.00 \times 172.422(Y) = 2069.06$ convert it into a dollar amount **\$20.69**

Step 2 - $\$12.00 + 20.39 = \32.69 round up/down to the nearest \$1.00 = **\$33.00 wait time**

Fraction Calculation

Step 1 - $\$4.10$ (per mile) / .10 cent (fraction in which the meter clicks) = 41 = 1/10th fraction

The Time it Takes for Each Fraction to Click the Meter

Step 1 - $\$33.00 / .41\text{cents} = 80.5$ (total clicks per hr.)

Step 2 - 3600 (seconds per hour) / 80.5 = 45 seconds the meter will click



Databases, Tables & Calculators by Subject

Special Notices 4/25/2024

Change Output Options:

From: To:

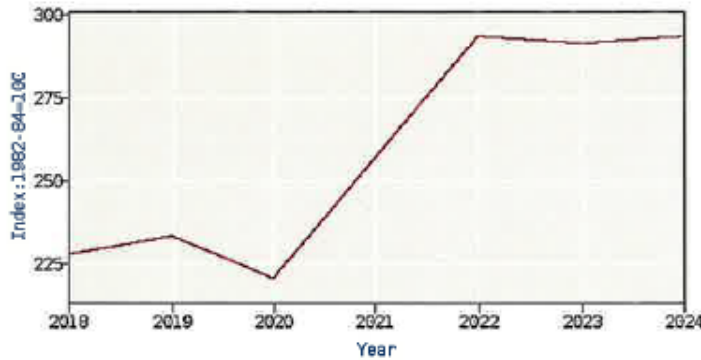
include graphs include annual averages

[More Formatting Options](#)

Data extracted on: January 27, 2025 (2:13:06 PM)

Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers (CPI-U)

Series Id: CUUSS49ESAT
 Not Seasonally Adjusted
Series Title: Transportation in San Diego-Carlsbad, CA, all urban consumers, not seasonally adjusted
Area: San Diego-Carlsbad, CA
Item: Transportation
Base Period: 1982-84=100



Download: .xlsx

| Year | Jan | Feb | Mar | Apr | May | Jun | Jul | Aug | Sep | Oct | Nov | Dec | Annual | HALF1 | HALF2 |
|------|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|-----|---------|---------|---------|
| 2018 | 220.368 | | 225.661 | | 229.934 | | 229.921 | | 229.015 | | 228.504 | | 227.594 | 226.494 | 228.694 |
| 2019 | 225.073 | | 225.313 | | 240.940 | | 234.757 | | 234.106 | | 235.748 | | 233.299 | 232.005 | 234.592 |
| 2020 | 231.819 | | 223.714 | | 210.241 | | 218.122 | | 218.701 | | 224.415 | | 220.628 | 220.500 | 220.757 |
| 2021 | 231.390 | | 248.311 | | 256.596 | | 266.031 | | 259.830 | | 265.840 | | 256.345 | 247.856 | 264.834 |
| 2022 | 274.672 | | 295.251 | | 300.607 | | 301.990 | | 299.113 | | 289.404 | | 293.475 | 291.916 | 295.033 |
| 2023 | 279.733 | | 285.635 | | 291.319 | | 294.025 | | 302.481 | | 291.341 | | 290.973 | 286.586 | 295.360 |
| 2024 | 286.099 | | 294.740 | | 302.397 | | 294.030 | | 290.951 | | 291.556 | | 293.422 | 295.089 | 291.756 |



Agenda Item No. 5

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

February 26, 2025

SUBJECT:

Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) Membership (Leonardo Fewell)

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

1. Permit Holder and Lease Driver Elections

The Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) is comprised of sixteen voting members as follows: The Chair of the TAC, designated by the MTS Board of Directors on an annual basis, six organization representatives, six taxicab permit holder representatives, and three lease driver representatives.

Per the TAC Membership Guidelines (Attachment A), Taxicab lease driver representative elections shall take place every three years at the same time as the taxicab permit holder representative elections. The current term for taxicab lease drivers and permit holders expires in June 2025. For Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) will provide an update on the election planning process, including key timelines and deadlines. The newly elected permit holder and lease driver representatives would be introduced at the July 30 TAC meeting.

2. Current TAC Vacancies

Per the TAC Guidelines, the taxicab permit holders, lease drivers and United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD) representatives shall always meet the eligibility requirements while serving on the Taxicab Advisory Committee.

Currently, because three elected representatives no longer meet eligibility requirements, there are two vacant seats in the lease driver category and one vacant seat in the permit holder of one permit category.



Per the TAC Guidelines, the TAC or the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) or designee shall make an interim appointment if a member's seat becomes vacant within the three-year term.

To reduce the concern of not meeting quorum and to maximize TAC participation for the February 26 and May 28 TAC meetings, the CEO has appointed the following permit holder and lease driver representatives for their respective categories:

- Gonzalo Ayala, Permit Holder of One Heritage Cab
- Boris Mafarfiy, Lease Driver for USA Cab
- Fabiano Saramento, Lease Driver for Jazzy Cab

/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



TAXICAB ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) GUIDELINES

1 PURPOSE

The Taxicab Advisory Committee's purpose is to:

- 1.1 Provide feedback to the Chief Executive Officer and designated staff on taxicab matters to formulate recommended courses of action that the Chief Executive Officer or Board of Directors, whichever applicable, may review for approval;
- 1.2 Review summaries of administrative hearing officer decisions concerning taxicab permit holder and lease driver penalties;
- 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, process, results, and rankings;
- 1.6 Review the Chief Executive Officer's Annual Fee Schedule; and
- 1.7 Comment on MTS's work program concerning taxicab matters.

2 MEMBERSHIP

Sixteen voting members are appointed as follows:

- 2.1 One 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 One member appointed by the San Diego Convention and Visitor's Bureau, the San Diego County Regional Airport Authority, San Diego Convention Center, Gaslamp Quarter Association, Cross Border Express and the United Taxi Workers of San Diego (UTWSD), 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.
 - b. The UTWSD member must either be: a current member of the UTWSD; or be a current employee or other authorized representative of the UTWSD.

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



**Metropolitan
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Agenda Item No. 6

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

February 26, 2025

SUBJECT:

For Hire Vehicle Administration (FHVA) Required Driver Training (Leonardo Fewell)

INFORMATIONAL ONLY

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

Per MTS Ordinance No. 11, “No person shall drive or operate any for-hire vehicle, under the authority of a permit granted under this Ordinance unless such person has successfully completed an MTS-approved driver safety training course concerning driver safety rules and regulations, map reading, crime prevention, courtesy and professionalism, and compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). As determined by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), a corresponding qualification examination may be required.” The Sheriff’s Licensing Division also requires drivers complete the driver training program to issue a Sheriff’s driver identification card to new drivers.

Currently, FHVA provides this driver training at least twice a month via Zoom. Drivers must sign up for each training session and submit a \$30 training fee via check or money order payable to MTS. Upon completion, drivers receive an electronic copy of the training certificate.

A driver is required to complete driver training at least once. However, the following circumstances may require the driver to re-take driver training: Sheriff’s Identification Card expires, if FHVA deems appropriate as a potential measure in certain circumstances of noncompliance with MTS Ordinance No. 11, or they are subject of a passenger complaint found to be sustained by FHVA, the San Diego Airport, or the Sheriff’s Licensing Division.

FHVA is requesting feedback from stakeholders on possible improvements to the driver training program, including its content and delivery methods. The goal is to update the training to provide drivers with the most current and relevant information to assist them in compliance with rules and regulations, for-hire vehicle business trends, as well as other topics that enhance safety and passenger experience.



FHVA will evaluate all feedback to determine the appropriate updates to its driver training program.

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

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



**Metropolitan
Transit
System**

Agenda Item No. 7

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

February 26, 2025

SUBJECT:

Autonomous For-Hire Vehicles Operations (Leonardo Fewell)

RECOMMENDATION:

That Taxicab Advisory Committee (TAC) receives a report concerning autonomous for-hire vehicles and provide a recommendation to staff on what additional research or next steps should be conducted.

Budget Impact

None

DISCUSSION:

Autonomous for-hire vehicles are self-driving vehicles that transport passengers for-hire without a human driver. Autonomous for-hire vehicles are currently regulated in part by California Department of Motor Vehicle and California Public Utilities Commission. Currently, the following companies are allowed to conduct for-hire vehicle trips in certain areas of California: Waymo, Nuro Inc and Mercedes-Benz. Other companies are allowed to test with or without drivers, but not yet operate for-hire service with passengers.

Waymo is currently testing in San Diego but does not yet have the permit or authorization to conduct passenger trips in San Diego. It is unclear how future operations by these autonomous for-hire vehicle companies may impact the for-hire vehicle industry at this time. Feedback is requested on what concerns TAC may have relating to autonomous for-hire vehicle operations in the San Diego region and whether any additional research or next steps would be appropriate to address this emerging transportation 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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**Metropolitan
Transit
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Agenda Item No. 8

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

February 26, 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: Ad-hoc finance working group, current permit renewal period, number of active and surrendered permits by vehicle type, number of field contacts, issued citations, taxicab airport originated trips, customer feedback cases, and other for-hire vehicle statistics, and an update on administrative operations.

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

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

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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.





**Metropolitan
Transit
System**

Agenda Item No. 9

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

February 26, 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 May 28, 2025. At this time, staff recommends the following agenda items:

- Taxicab Advisory Committee Election
- For-Hire Vehicle Administration Update

/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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