

**Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force
Meeting Summary
1:00pm to 3:00pm, Thursday, September 13, 2007
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

Attendance:

A. **Members:**

Chris Aquino, WMATC
Tom Culpepper, City of Alexandria
Naomi Klaus, MWAA
Jeffrey Lehman, WMATC
Michelle Lyons, Prince George's County
Ronald Mitchell, DDOT
David Reidenbach, Fairfax County
James Ryan, Montgomery County
Paul Smith, City of Frederick
Leon Swain, Jr., D.C. Taxicab Commission
Doreen Thompson, D.C. Taxicab Commission
Pat Tigs, City of Annapolis

B. **TPB Staff:**

Monica Bansal, Department of Transportation Planning
Ron Kirby, Director, Department of Transportation Planning
Jerry Miller, Department of Transportation Planning
Beth Newman, Department of Transportation Planning

C. **Members of the Public**

Four members

Opening:

Doreen Thompson welcomed everyone.

Discussion:

A. **Report on TPB Action: Establishment of the TPB Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force**

Ron Kirby provided an overview of the TPB resolution to create the official Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force and the Task Force's mission statement.

B. Overview of Existing Reciprocity Agreements

Ron Kirby presented the history of MWCOG’s involvement in developing a regional reciprocity agreement. He discussed the most recent MWCOG agreement from 1996 in further depth as a stepping stone for future action that this new Task Force may take. He noted that the agreement was comprehensive but never approved. In developing a new agreement, Doreen Thompson expressed particular concern regarding D.C. cabs and Dulles and National Airport access. She also highlighted concerns surrounding D.C.’s different definition of “pre-arranged.”

David Reidenbach presented a reciprocity agreement between Fairfax County, Arlington County, City of Alexandria and Prince William County. He presented several issues facing taxicab regulators, such as enforcement, green vehicles, and driver knowledge. He also highlighted that the previous agreement involving Fairfax County was with Arlington County and addressed only the concern of adequate insurance in each jurisdiction. Doreen Thompson stated that while an agreement between Fairfax County and D.C. is evident in the D.C. regulations, the actual agreement could not be found, indicating a possible one-sided agreement.

C. Concerns with Existing Reciprocity Agreements

Enforcement was stated to be of great concern in crafting a successful reciprocity agreement. For instance, David Reidenbach stated that Fairfax County currently has 396,000 unpaid tickets from D.C. cab drivers. Other issues such as needing multiple tags and licenses were also mentioned. Doreen Thompson questioned the detail to which the Task Force can and should consider these issues. David Reidenbach suggested creating general agreements by tackling the large low-hanging fruit, which may have a greater likelihood of getting approved. Ron Kirby stated that issues such as enforcement are likely to emerge immediately if a general agreement were offered for approval. He suggested that one-on-one agreements that other jurisdictions could then sign onto or building off of current agreements may be more fruitful.

Ron Kirby stated that an important step that has never been done before is to obtain industry buy-in on past reciprocity agreements. The focus should be on convincing the industry that these agreements are in their best interest. Tom Culpepper suggested each member to take a past agreement to their respective industries and asking their feedback. Doreen Thompson expressed concern about the lack of trust that the industry has for their host jurisdictions to currently handle illegal operators. A common enforcement agreement, or code, was stated to be necessary to handle inter-jurisdictional violations. The idea of starting with enforcement and working backwards was offered.

Another large issue is access to airports for taxicabs. Naomi Klaus stated that any taxi can pick up at Dulles and National with prearrangement. However, concerns surrounding the “deadhead” issue still remain.

Next Meeting and Agenda Items:

The next meeting will be Thursday, November 29 from 12pm to 2pm at COG. Agenda items will include the members’ feedback from their respective taxi industries, a comparison of the latest MWCOG reciprocity agreement and Fairfax County’s agreement, a new chairperson for the Task Force, and a discussion on a potential enforcement agreement.