

**Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force  
Meeting Summary  
12:00pm to 2:00pm, Thursday, January 31, 2008  
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

**Attendance:**

A. **Members:**

Chris Aquino, WMATC  
Tom Culpepper, City of Alexandria  
Crystal Slade-Graybeal, Loudoun County  
Richard Hartman, Arlington County  
Naomi Klaus, MWAA  
Bill Morrow, WMATC  
Gary Myers, MWAA  
David Reidenbach, Fairfax County  
James Ryan, Montgomery County  
Leon Swain, Jr., D.C. Taxicab Commission  
Stanley Tapscott, D.C. Taxicab Commission

B. **TPB Staff:**

Monica Bansal, Department of Transportation Planning  
Ron Kirby, Department of Transportation Planning  
Jerry Miller, Department of Transportation Planning  
Wendy Klancher, Department of Transportation Planning

C. **Members of the Public**

Two members

**Opening:**

The task force chairman, Dave Reidenbach welcomed everyone. Members each shared relevant jurisdictional updates. MWAA has a new contract at Dulles Airport for the Washington Flyer taxi service, where there will be three operating companies and one dispatch. The City of Alexandria has a small rate increase of 20 cents per mile, which started at the beginning of the year. In Montgomery County, the Public Service Commission will be holding an event for members, where limousine operators in good standing will be put on a list for public information. The DC Taxicab Commission and the Police Department will begin training DC police officers to start enforcing taxicab regulations. Arlington County will soon have 76 new taxis operation throughout the county, 75 of which will be hybrids. Of these 76 cabs, 26 are operating currently. There will be one new company, Envirocab. Arlington County is also looking into rewriting their taxicab ordinance in order to clean up the process, ensure environmentally friendly vehicles, and to resolve current inconsistencies. Fairfax County will have a meeting with their taxi industry on green taxis on February 11 at 1pm. Fairfax County

will also be continuing its \$1 per trip surcharge. Tickets were also given in Fairfax County to a driver from Montgomery County and one from DC.

**Public Comment:**

There were no public comments.

**Discussion:**

**A. Discussion of Other Task Force Priorities**

Wendy Klancher, TPB staff, opened the discussion by asking the group what the most useful and realistic Task Force accomplishments or focus areas would be for 2008. Most found the group educational and a useful forum for the sharing of information and ideas. Members stated that the meetings provide insight into the operations of other nearby jurisdictions and could serve as a useful tool in maintaining the transparency of the agencies. Members also presented ideas for task force focus areas. Reciprocity was highlighted by the majority; however other areas were also highlighted, such as achieving uniformity in procedures. The most useful role of the task force was largely stated to be information sharing on issues such as rate-making, fuel surcharges, mutually supportive programs (such as trainings), codes, violations, and general best practices.

Monica Bansal, TPB staff, discussed the use of web space to facilitate this information sharing process. Members decided to provide the following information for posting to the website: codes, rates, fuel surcharges, and information on filing complaints.

**B. Discussion of Industry Feedback on a Potential Regional Reciprocity Agreement**

Doreen Thompson opened this discussion with a discussion of enforcement as the major issue in DC. She stated that the taxicab industry in DC needs the trust and confidence that other jurisdictions, as well as their home jurisdiction, will take care of any enforcement gaps that could undermine a reciprocity agreement. Members of the public present at the meeting stated that there are many issues with the lack of enforcement in DC particularly and that many cab drivers are not aware of changes in rules, current agreements, etc. Gerald Miller, TPB staff mentioned the need for a compendium of all existing reciprocity agreements.

**C. Discussion of Possibility of Adopting Northern Virginia Reciprocity Agreement as a Regional Agreement**

Dave Reidenbach provided an overview of the Northern Virginia reciprocity agreement and asked members to make any changes to the existing agreement so that it could work for the whole region. Marked up drafts are to be sent to Monica Bansal, TPB staff, who will then post the drafts to the website.

Ron Kirby, TPB staff, provided clarification regarding the TPB process for advancing the reciprocity agreement. The Board could pass an agreement presented by the task force, however, their only course of action could be to then recommend for the local jurisdictions to incorporate the agreement into their codes.

A suggestion was made to consider vetting the agreement with industry representatives. Regular meetings between each jurisdiction and their industries was also stated to be a general best practice and is done by a few jurisdictions in the region.

Task force members also raised questions about specific aspects of the agreement, such as definitions (i.e. “loitering” and “prearranged”). It was decided to keep the language as general as possible since more complexity often makes it harder to reach consensus.

Changes were asked to be made within a few weeks.

### **Comments from the Public**

Bill Orleans presented the idea for a regional taxi regulator (like WMATC), but where all regulatory issues would be regional. He also expressed that there was confusion regarding the new structure of the meetings including 2 public comment periods. He also commented on his initial role in linking the current taxicab regulators task force with COG.

### **Next Meeting:**

The next meeting will be Thursday, March 27 from 12pm to 2pm at COG.