

**Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force
Meeting Summary
12:00pm to 2:00pm, Thursday, November 29, 2007
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

Attendance:

A. **Members:**

Tom Culpepper, City of Alexandria
Crystal Slade-Graybeal, Loudoun County
Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County
Richard Hartman, Arlington County
Naomi Klaus, MWAA
Jeffrey Lehman, WMATC
Ronald Mitchell, DDOT
Bill Morrow, WMATC
Joseph O'Pharrow, Prince George's County
Tom Patton, Loudoun County
David Reidenbach, Fairfax County
James Ryan, Montgomery County
Steve Sinclair, Fairfax County
Paul Smith, City of Frederick
Leon Swain, Jr., D.C. Taxicab Commission
Stanley Tapscott, D.C. Taxicab Commission
Doreen Thompson, D.C. Taxicab Commission

B. **TPB Staff:**

Monica Bansal, Department of Transportation Planning
Jerry Miller, Department of Transportation Planning

C. **Members of the Public**

Four members

Opening:

In Doreen Thompson's initial absence, David Reidenbach served as substitute chair and welcomed everyone.

Discussion:

A. **Roundtable Discussion on Major Taxi Regulatory Issues**

David Reidenbach opened the meeting with a roundtable discussion of the DC meters issue, which included questions from several members on the details of DC's implementation of the

switch to meters from zone fares. Doreen Thompson continued the meeting by giving an overview of this issue with Leon Swain. A tentative date for implementation is in April 2008. Fares were also discussed, such as the \$4 drop rate and the issue of interstate fares.

Another issue discussed during the roundtable discussion was gas surcharges. Questions of the benefits of the surcharge were raised with one suggestion to eliminate surcharges and instead adjust fares to reflect rising gas prices. In order to understand the regional background for gas surcharges, each member stated information on their jurisdiction's current use of gas surcharges.

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 on Enforcement Procedures in the Washington Region

Monica Bansal, TPB staff, provided an overview of efforts to create a document that provides enforcement and industry profiles for each of the jurisdictions represented in the Task Force. Only 4 jurisdictions responded to an enforcement questionnaire distributed via email in October, providing little information for comparison or analysis of procedures. Doreen Thompson stated that this effort could be an important contribution by the Task Force, including such useful information as what companies are licensed in the jurisdiction, the ownership structure, etc. It was stressed that members who have not responded to the questionnaire are encouraged to do so before the next meeting.

Doreen Thompson mentioned the use of enforcement tools by some jurisdictions that may be helpful for other jurisdictions, particularly software used by Montgomery County to track violations and other enforcement indicators. She stated that many jurisdictions would benefit from this kind of information sharing. In this vein, Leon Swain posed the question of sharing information on violations across each jurisdiction.

There was also further discussion about the lack of enforcement in DC, including debate on the possibility of revocation of drivers' licenses as is done by Virginia when drivers do not appear for court dates. It was decided however, that this is not in the regulatory sphere of influence, but rather the in the power of the court.

Bill Morrow suggested revisiting the complete list of the Task Force's priorities to perhaps attack other issues, besides reciprocity and enforcement that could be more fruitful. David Reidenbach suggested examining possibilities for a more general reciprocity agreement that could gain greater consensus. He cited his draft of an agreement in 1998 that included enforcement provisions as perhaps providing more specificity than could be agreed on. Doreen Thompson stated this draft could be useful for the Task Force to look at.

D. **Selection of 2008 Task Force Chair**

David Reidenbach was selected by the Task Force as the new chairman for 2008.

Comments from the Public

Bill Orleans presented the idea for parking lots in each jurisdiction that could serve as waiting stations for taxis, which could eliminate the problems of soliciting illegally in another jurisdiction and dead-heading.

Next Meeting:

The next meeting will be Thursday, January 31 from 12pm to 2pm at COG.