

**Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force  
Meeting Summary  
12:00pm to 2:00pm, Thursday, March 15, 2007  
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board  
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

**Attendance:**

A. **Members:**

Marceline Alexander, DC Taxicab Commission  
Tom Culpepper, City of Alexandria  
Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County  
Jai Kundu, Montgomery County  
Nancy Kutz, Montgomery County  
Jeffrey Lehman, WMATC  
Michelle Lyons, Prince George's County  
Bill Morrow, WMATC  
David Reidenbach, Fairfax County  
James Ryan, Montgomery County  
Matthew Thomas, Prince George's County  
Doreen Thompson, D.C. Taxicab Commission

B. **TPB Staff:**

Ron Kirby, Director, Department of Transportation Planning  
Wendy Klancher, Department of Transportation Planning  
Jerry Miller, Department of Transportation Planning  
Beth Newman, Department of Transportation Planning

C. **Members of the Public**

Two members

**Opening:**

Doreen Thompson welcomed everyone.

**Discussion:**

A. **Discussion of Proposed Structure for TPB Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force**

Wendy Klancher of the TPB staff presented the proposal for the structure of the Task Force. The proposal is based on the TPB's normal structure for task forces. The membership is somewhat loose and would include airport representation, but there would be no TPB appointments to the Task Force. There was some discussion about whether the focus of the committee would be specifically on taxis, or broadened to vehicles for hire, which would include sedans, limousines, shuttles, etc. The group decided to limit the focus, at least initially, to taxis. The group also agreed that representatives from industry groups would also from time to time be invited to

meetings or to provide input on issues. ACTION: Wendy will update the proposed structure with the changes discussed and circulate with the summary. The group will finalize the structure at its next meeting (May 17) and present it to the TPB in June.

**B. Nominations for Chair**

The Task Force will follow the standard TPB protocol for rotating the chair every calendar year among representatives from DC, MD and VA. Doreen Thompson volunteered, and the group agreed that she would remain as Chair for 2007.

**C. Reciprocity Agreement**

The group discussed the reciprocity agreement and the main points. Tom stated the purpose of the better service for customers. There was discussion of the previous effort at a reciprocity agreement, and a lesson learned that the agreement ultimately needs to be sold to elected officials and the taxi industry. Several members noted that their jurisdictions are operating under a very similar agreement or regulation to the unsuccessful reciprocity agreement that was developed in 1989. The group discussed ways to work with the industry on a potential reciprocity agreement, and ways to move a reciprocity agreement to adoption in participating jurisdictions. Bill from WMATC made an observation that the taxicab industry is a concentrated industry and the reciprocity agreement is a way to introduce some competition. Someone else noted that the Dulles Airport is served by the Washington Flyer franchise, and that cabs experience difficulties in having to “dead head” on one of the legs of the trip, and some cabs have received tickets for being on the airport lanes or I-66 while “dead-heading”. The issue of illegal or “scab” cabs was discussed, as well as cross-jurisdictional enforcement of such cabs and other violations. Enforcement depends on the regulations of each jurisdiction, and they vary. As an example, WMATC attempts to resolve issues informally by asking the driver to come in and discuss them. If there is a basis for restitution, then WMATC makes that recommendation, but if not, nothing further is done. If the driver is a no-show for the discussion, it would be nice to flag it for all of the jurisdictions. The reciprocity agreement could attempt to establish “global” rules for enforcement, plus it makes the taxi drivers jobs easier because it helps them understand what the rules are. ACTION: David Reidenbach and Tom Culpepper will provide the 1989 agreement to Wendy, who will circulate it with the summary. Members should come to the next meeting (May 17) with their comments on the 1989 and/or 2006 draft reciprocity agreements.

**Next Meeting and Agenda Items:**

The next meeting will be Thursday, May 17 from 1 to 3pm at COG.

At that meeting the group will 1) finalize the structure for a formal TPB task force and 2) continue discussion on the reciprocity agreement.