

**Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force
Meeting Summary
1:00pm to 3:00pm, Thursday, May 17, 2007
National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments**

Attendance:

A. **Members:**

Tom Culpepper, City of Alexandria
Susan Hafeli, Fairfax County
Richard Hartman, Arlington County
Jeffrey Lehman, WMATC
Bill Morrow, WMATC
David Reidenbach, Fairfax County
James Ryan, Montgomery 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

D. **Guests**

David Vacca, Councilman Graham's office

Opening:

Doreen Thompson welcomed everyone.

Discussion:

A. **Approval of Mission Statement for a TPB Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force**

Wendy Klancher of the TPB staff reviewed the changes made to the proposed structure at the last meeting. References to limousines and shuttles were removed and additional jurisdictions were added. The goal language was also changed to reflect that the Task Force will develop a regional reciprocity agreement. The members approved the proposed structure to be presented to the TPB for approval. Wendy will ensure that we ask for representation from all TPB jurisdictions.

B. Discussion of Draft Reciprocity Agreement

The group discussed reciprocity, and what form it will take. Doreen noted that enforcement is a big issue for DC. Tom Culpepper reiterated the need for a customer service focus. The group discussed the idea that tickets should follow drivers to their home jurisdictions. David Reidenbach stated that in Fairfax County, complaints are on the record for the duration of a driver's career. Tom added that Alexandria would be willing to take action based on a driver's failure to comply with the issuing jurisdiction's adjudication of a violation. The group agreed that information sharing is a first step, and that should include complaint information. Bill Morrow offered to look for the document that references agreements for pre-arrangements. He also noted that once a reciprocity agreement is developed, it should include language stating that prior agreements are superseded.

**C. Roundtable Discussion with Institute for Regional Excellence (IRE)
Participants on Accessible Taxicabs**

Wendy introduced Janet Ernst, who introduced the members of the IRE. Janet noted that the group is developing a marketing and outreach plan to promote accessible taxicabs, and wanted to ask the Task Force a few questions. Doreen and David Vacca discussed a proposal being developed for \$200,000 in interest-free loans to provide accessible taxis, to be operated by the University of the District of Columbia. David Reidenbach noted that four percent of Fairfax's fleet must be accessible. He added that most of them are conversion units, for which the durability is lower. In response to a question about new taxis being developed, David stated that the "Black Taxi" doesn't meet ADA requirements and has \$50,000 in spin-up costs. The "Standard Taxi" has promised delivery dates for October, and the spin-up costs are around \$25,000. Durability may be an issue with the Standard Taxi. Wendy provided information packets on the Standard Taxi.

James Ryan noted that drivers in Montgomery County don't want to drive accessible cabs because MV Transportation took away a lot of business.

Next Meeting and Agenda Items:

The next meeting will be Thursday, July 19 from 1 to 3pm at COG.