

**MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL TAXI AUTHORITY
MINUTES**

April 22, 2013

10:00 a.m.

One Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey

Present:	Fernando Armenta	County of Monterey
	Tony Barrera	City of Salinas (10:02 a.m.)
	Kristin Clark	City of Del Rey Oaks
	Alan Cohen	City of Pacific Grove
	Alvin Edwards	City of Seaside
	Mary Ann Leffel	Monterey Peninsula Airport District
	David Pendergrass	City of Sand City
Absent:	Victoria Beach	City of Carmel-by-the-Sea
	Libby Downey	City of Monterey
Staff:	Hunter Harvath	Asst. General Manager/Finance & Administration
	Carl Sedoryk	General Manager/CEO
	Kelly Halcon	Director of Human Resources and Risk Management
	Dave Laredo	De Lay & Laredo
Public:	Alex Lorca	De Lay & Laredo
	Angela Dawson	MST
	Tom Hicks	MST
	Karen Faurot	MPD
	Tom Mancini	TAC Representative
	Ken Griggs	Monterey Peninsula Airport District
	Michael Cardinalli	Salinas Yellow Cab
	Roy Graham	TAC Representative
	Luis Lomelli	Green Cab
	Kathi Krystal	TAC Representative/Associated Taxi

1. CALL TO ORDER

1-1. Roll call.

1-2. Pledge of Allegiance.

In the absence of Chair Downey, Vice-Chair Cohen called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. and Roll Call followed. Director Edwards led the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

- 2-1. Review highlights of Agenda.
- 2-2. Informational minutes from regular meeting of January 28, 2013.
- 2-3. Receive January - March 2013 Financial Statements.
- 2-4. Receive FY 2013 Audit of the RTA.

Public Comment – none.

Director Pendergrass made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda and was seconded by Director Leffel. The motion carried unanimously.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

- 3-1 Receive update from Monterey Peninsula Airport District.

Ken Griggs provided an update on the impact the MCRTA has had on the operations and finances of the Monterey Regional Airport. The airport's taxi management system was officially implemented on March 1, 2012. Mr. Griggs stated that the overall effect of implementation has been positive for airport customers, although the airport is still in a negative position financially as a result of participation in the MCRTA. Taxi companies have complained that the difference between RTA and Airport regulations are their biggest concern. Mr. Griggs stated that the airport is forgiving the Senior Voucher surcharge coming and going to the airport.

Public Comment – none.

4. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Roy Graham, TAC representative, asked why the TAC is no longer being utilized. He stated that he has received complaints that the permitting process for drivers takes too long, and there is only one taxi inspection location. He stated that the Senior Voucher program is not working fairly for all companies and he has received requests for more accessible vehicles.

Kathi Krystal stated that customers do not inform cab drivers that they are using Senior Vouchers which results in many cab drivers do not get properly paid for trips.

Tom Mancini stated that all Senior Vouchers should include the names of participating cab companies.

Close Public Comment

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5-1. Receive update from RTA staff.

Hunter Harvath referred the board to page 37 of the agenda. He stated the overall day-to-day operations of the RTA are going well. Staff is receiving updates on taxicab meter inspections and the information received allows staff to cross reference with the City of Monterey permit roster to identify non-compliance more effectively. Monthly incident reports received from the City of Monterey RTA Administrator are being forwarded to the City of Salinas Police Department which has resulted in improved enforcement of RTA regulations and in identifying taxis operating without RTA permits. Mr. Harvath stated that the primary intent of establishing the RTA was to ensure that taxicab companies, drivers, and vehicles complied with established safety standards. If taxicab companies and drivers are being cited for non-compliance, then the system is working according to the original intent of all participating jurisdictions.

The City of Pacific Grove has joined the Senior Voucher program. All nine accessible vehicles, as well as three accessible vans and six purpose-built accessible vehicles have been leased to taxicab companies.

Director Clark stated that the taxi dispatching companies should be asking customers if they are using the Senior Voucher and alerting taxi drivers before they pick up the customer.

Mr. Sedoryk stated that he has conducted three Administrative Hearings since January 28, 2013, regarding taxicab driver permit denials. Mr. Sedoryk has met with the City of Salinas Chief of Police who assigned Sergeant Ross to work with the RTA and follow up on non-compliance issues. Director Barrera asked staff to keep him informed of any issues in Salinas so he can provide assistance to RTA administrative staff.

Director Armenta stated that the RTA can no longer be lenient regarding unlicensed drivers. He wants to make sure that all complaints are being addressed and that companies and drivers are being cited.

Director Edwards asked if more accessible taxis could be made available to companies, and asked what kind of penalty was imposed on drivers operating taxis without permits. Mr. Sedoryk stated that the grant that funded the accessible vehicles, the New Freedoms Grant, no longer provides funding for accessible vehicles within the guidelines of the new federal surface transportation bill (MAP-21), and no other funding source has been identified.

Ken Griggs stated that the airport will not issue an airport permit if a cab does not display an RTA permit. Karen Faurot of the City of Monterey stated that she was unaware of the specific fine imposed on drivers operating a non-permitted cab. RTA

legal counsel sends “cease and desist” letters to the companies that own the non-permitted cabs.

Mr. Harvath stated that Coastal Yellow Cab has submitted a letter informing the City of Monterey that they will no longer be providing taxi service in Monterey County; therefore, at least one more vehicle will be available to other companies.

Vice-Chair Cohen referred all questions regarding penalties to staff for an update at the next RTA Board meeting. Director Armenta asked that the Salinas and Monterey Police Departments provide an update as well.

Public Comment

Mr. Graham stated that the taxicab companies do want to see proper enforcement, although they want to see the permit process move along more quickly.

Ms. Krystal requested that interim permits be issued to speed up the process. She provided information on a complaint by a Monterey Police Officer that taxi drivers were not following vehicle codes, explaining that taxi drivers often must wait curbside for their customers to arrive.

Close Public Comment

5-2. Ad Hoc Nominating Committee Minutes of January 28, 2013.

6. BIDS/PROPOSALS

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8-1. Receive update on RTA start-up costs and adopt start-up cost pro-rata share.

MST staff recommends adoption of the pro-rata share for reimbursement to MST, with MST forgiving \$18,000 in staff salary costs. The RTA auditor has confirmed that MST could forgive this amount and it would not be considered a gift.

Director Leffel stated that she was certain the MPAD Board of Directors would not approve paying start-up costs above the original estimated start-up costs and could not support the staff recommendation.

Director Pendergrass asked what effect carrying this debt will have on MST. Mr. Sedoryk stated that MST has raised fares and has had to lay off staff during the time it incurred the \$108,000 in additional RTA start-up fees; therefore, there has been a negative financial impact on MST.

Public Comment

Roy Graham stated the implementation of the RTA was difficult, but that the taxi companies should not have to bear the burden of the costs.

Close Public Comment

Director Pendergrass made a motion to approve the pro-rata share and was seconded by Director Barrera. The motion passed 6-1.

- 8-2 Receive update on requests for RTA members to forgive a portion of RTA start-up costs.

Mr. Sedoryk stated that there has been a long standing request that jurisdictions forgive all or a portion of the original contribution by each participating jurisdiction for estimated RTA start-up costs. To date, MST has agreed to forgive \$18,000 of staff salaries incurred during the start-up and the city of Sand City has agreed to forgive its share contingent on the decision of other jurisdictions; the cities of Seaside, Del Rey Oaks, and Pacific Grove have responded that they are not willing for forgive; and the Cities of Monterey, Salinas, and the County of Monterey have not yet brought the request before their Councils or Board. Staff is recommending that MST send bills to each jurisdiction for the approved pro-rata share of outstanding start-up fees; each jurisdiction can, in turn, request repayment for their initial start-up contribution.

Dave Laredo stated that the JPA is clear that forgiveness of start-up costs must be unanimous among jurisdictions, although each has the ability to forgive their share individually. The JPA is also clear that all start up costs must be repaid by each jurisdiction.

Director Armenta has requested that he be copied on the invoice sent to the County of Monterey.

Public Comment – none.

Director Clark made a motion to receive the report and was seconded by Director Edwards. The motion carried unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

- 9-1. Appoint Members to Ad Hoc Nominating Committee.

Director Armenta made a motion to appoint current members Pendergrass, Clark, and Edwards to serve on the FY 2014 Ad Hoc Nominating Committee and was seconded by Director Leffel. The motion carried unanimously.

- 9-2 Receive Draft FY 2014 Operating Budget and refer to Finance Committee.

Mr. Harvath presented the Draft FY 2014 Budget as presented to the Finance Committee. The Committee did receive the Draft Budget, but did not make a recommendation as a quorum was not met.

Public Comments – none.

Director Armenta made a motion to bring the Draft FY 2014 Budget back to the Board for approval in July and was seconded by Director Leffel. The motion carried unanimously.

10. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS

10-1. Receive January – March 2013 report from RTA Administrator.

11. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

11-1. Reports on meetings attended by Board members at RTA expense.

11-2. Board Member Comments.

Director Edwards stated that the City of Monterey RTA Administrator was recognized as Employee of the Year. He requested staff send her a letter of congratulations for her recognition and thanks for her work.

11-3. Board Member Announcements.

11-4. Board Member Referrals to TAC or future agendas.

Director Armenta requested that the RTA Board establish a recognition program for taxicab companies and drivers.

Mr. Sedoryk will present a comprehensive update on the RTA permitting process and enforcement issues at the next meeting.

Director Leffel requested an update on how CSUMB is served by the RTA.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

14. CLOSED SESSION

15. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Vice-Chair Cohen adjourned the meeting at 11:45 a.m.

Prepared by:


Deanna Smith, Deputy Secretary