

MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL TAXI AUTHORITY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
REGULAR MEETING
June 27, 2011

One Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Sanchez called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the MST Conference Room. A roll call was conducted and The Pledge of Allegiance followed.

Present:

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
Sergio Sanchez	City of Salinas
Karen Sharp	City of Carmel-By-The-Sea

Absent: Fernando Armenta County of Monterey
Libby Downey City of Monterey

Staff: Hunter Harvath Asst. General Manager/Finance & Administration
Carl Sedoryk General Manager/CEO
Mark Eccles Director of IT
Beronica Carriedo Mobility Trainer
Kathy Williams Director of Budget and Accounting
Kelly Halcon Director of Human Resources
Angela Dawson Accountant
Michael Hernandez Asst. General Manager/Operations

Others: Tom Mancini TAC Representative
Scott Phillips Citizen
Kathi Krystal Associated Taxi
Roy Graham TAC Member
Michael Cardinalli Yellow Cab
David Laredo DeLay & Laredo
Greg Akins Coastal Yellow Cab
Ken Griggs MPAD
Tom Greer MCAD
Duane Guida Central Coast Cab Company

Apology is made for any misspelling of a name.

2. CONSENT AGENDA

2-1 Mr. Sedoryk announced agenda highlights.

The consent agenda items consisted of the following:

2-2. Informational minutes from the regular meeting of May 23, 2011.

Director Leffel made a motion to approve the consent items and was seconded by Director Cohen. The motion carried unanimously.

3. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS

3-1. Receive presentation on Airport District Report position regarding Taxi rates and charges.

Ken Griggs presented a PowerPoint presentation detailing the airport's position on the Airport Open-Entry Taxi System with Airport District proposed rates and charges. Proposed charges were: \$250 per cab medallion fee; \$3 pick-up fee; \$3 drop-off fee. It was recommended that the TAC and RTA Board discuss fines for non-compliance.

Director Cohen asked why it was \$3 to both drop-off and pick-up fares, and if the \$250 medallion fee was assessed per taxi. He also asked who would be scanning taxis at the curb. Mr. Greer stated that unlike municipalities, the Airport must recover actual costs, and they rely on taxi fees to recoup the administration and regulation of taxi service; their estimates based on current service and costs require the fees to be charged upon drop-off and pick-up. The \$250 medallion fee is per taxi cab, for every cab choosing to take advantage of airport fares. Mr. Greer stated that the curbside monitoring of cabs would be contracted out.

Director Clark asked if there was currently a surcharge in place. Mr. Griggs stated that there is currently a \$2 charge for pick-up but not for drop-offs.

Director Edwards asked how many cabs currently operate within the county, and if a survey had been taken to determine the level of interest among cab drivers and companies. Mr. Sedoryk stated there is an estimated 200 cabs operating. Mr. Greer stated that they have not taken a survey.

Director Edwards asked what would happen if a taxi cab attempted to obtain fares without a medallion and if the fines had been set. Mr. Greer stated that there would be fines for first, second, and third offense, with recommendation of RTA permit termination thereafter. Mr. Sedoryk stated that the issue of fines would be sent to TAC for comments and to RTA Board for inclusion in RTA Ordinance upon approval, with the issue to be settled as soon as possible.

Director Leffel stated that it takes a minimum of 120 days to order equipment and train employees in new procedures, so it is important to move speedily.

Director Clark asked if an Air District grant has been applied for to supplement service. Mr. Greer responded that a grant is being written, but implementation of airport surcharge is necessary to avoid losing revenue to cover costs. Mr. Greer also reiterated that any cab desiring to drop-off or pick-up a fare at the airport must have a medallion.

Public Comment

Kathi Krystal of Associated Cab Company and member of the TAC asked if cabs that do not pick-up a fare must pay the \$3 fee; if cabs responding to personal requests for service without picking up passenger must pay the \$3 fee, if cabs from outside Monterey County are required to purchase a medallion, and if MST will pay fees similar to taxi cabs.

Tom Mancini of the TAC asked if cabs just dropping off customers must purchase a medallion.

Mr. Phillips, citizen, stated there are not 200 cabs operating in RTA jurisdiction and that the airport can handle only thirty to forty cabs. He stated that San Jose does not charge for drop-offs.

Mr. Graham asked if the 50,000 trips were both drop-offs and pick-ups.

Close Public Comment

Chair Sanchez asked how the RTA will address the operational issues listed the Airport Presentation. Mr. Sedoryk recommends that MST staff work with Airport staff after general policy guidelines are adopted by the Board; this will then be sent to TAC for comments and sent to RTA Board for final approval.

Mr. Greer stated that there will be no \$3 fee assessed to taxi cabs that do not pick-up a passenger, including no-shows for personal requests for service. San Jose and other cities do not generally drop-off passengers at Monterey Airport, so there is not enough volume to require these cabs to purchase a medallion. Since MST is a public agency, they will not pay the Airport fees. There is a policy being discussed for courtesy vans. He stated that the Airport does not take part in the Senior Scrip program; therefore seniors will have to pay the \$3 airport fee if the cab driver requires it.

Mr. Sedoryk stated that the Senior Scrip program is being negotiated; when it is finalized it will be presented.

Mr. Greer stated that the 50,000 trips used as an estimate for the fee structure is based on current numbers, and includes both drop-offs and pick-ups and that there is currently no fee for drop-offs. Mr. Griggs stated that open-entry service is new territory for the Airport District and is rare for smaller airports in general.

Mr. Laredo confirmed that no motion is necessary at this time. Director Edwards asked staff to move forward to establish with establishing operational policies and fines for non-compliance.

Chair Sanchez requested that the Airport staff conduct a survey to establish an estimate of taxi cab drivers and companies interested in providing service to the Monterey Peninsula Airport.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT ON ITEMS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Scott Phillips stated that he has submitted a Public Records Request. He wants to know the status of GY Investigations, Inc. and asked for the Vehicle Inspection Report. He requested to know exactly who are the RTA staff and their job descriptions. Chair Sanchez asked Mr. Phillips to refrain from directly addressing staff and audience and to speak only to him. Mr. Phillips stated that he has a problem designating Directors from MST Board to the RTA Board.

Ms. Krystal asked for clarification on a letter emailed on June 10, 2011. She believes MST is in direct competition with taxi cab service.

Mr. Graham asked how many permits have been issued to date.

Close Public Comment

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND PRESENTATIONS

5-1. Receive update from RTA staff.

Mr. Harvath stated that the Joint Powers Agreement established the RTA and designated MST to act as staff to provide some administrative functions. MST additionally sub-contracted out to GY Investigations, Inc. to perform a portion of the administrative duties of the RTA. He confirmed that the contract with GY Investigations will expire on July 12, 2011. He confirmed that applications, regulations, permits, and the vehicle inspection report is available on the website, www.mryrta.org, with Spanish translation of materials available soon. He confirmed that permits are currently available and are being processed. He stated that he has met with cab drivers in Salinas to answer questions and that the last TAC meeting was very productive. He confirmed that the letter emailed on June 10, 2011 was a copy of a press release and was intended to confirm that currently licensed drivers could continue to operate in licensed areas, but could not expand into other areas. It was meant to stop expansion of service, not curb current service. He confirmed that approximately five or six permits have been issued.

5-2 Receive minutes from RTA Finance Committee meeting of June 17, 2011.

5-3 Update on TAC member Ethics Training participation.

Mr. Laredo explained that it is a legal requirement for all RTA and TAC members to complete the AB 1234 Training within one year of taking office or serving on a committee.

Director Clark asked that the online link for Ethics Training be placed on the RTA website and sent to all members. Director Edwards requested that staff send letters to all who still need to complete their training.

5-4 Highlights from the TAC meeting of June 23, 2011.

Public Comment

Mr. Phillips asked for confirmation of the RTA website address. He stated that he believes the RTA Finance Committee recommended fees are too high and wants a breakdown.

Close Public Comment

6. BIDS / PROPOSALS

None.

7. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

8. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8-1 Adopt FY 2012 Operating Budget and Fee Structure.

Mr. Harvath presented the recommended FY 2012 Licensing and Permit Fees and Budget. He stated that fees had been set to limit the burden of taxi drivers, and to assess fees for companies based on the number of cabs dispatched by each company. He stated that by contracting out licensing to the Cities of Monterey and Salinas, administrative costs have been lowered. This also provides licensing service five days per week in Monterey and four days per week in Salinas. He noted that as of this morning, Mr. Penko had asked that fees be increased by \$25, bringing the total permit fee for drivers to \$575 annually. This amount would also need to be reflected in the proposed budget, increasing the revenue and expenses to \$169, 825 annually. He stated that Taxi Company permit fees have been set to recover expenses incurred by SMT and RTA jurisdictions to date. Once fees are recovered, the permit fees will be re-evaluated and adjusted if necessary.

Director Pendergrass stated that he believes by contracting out to cities for administration, we are undermining the purpose of the RTA. Mr. Laredo stated that there is a difference between each city permitting individually and the Cities of Monterey and Salinas acting in an administrative role for all RTA permitting.

Mr. Sedoryk understands Director Pendergrass' concern, but it is the option that offers the lowest cost to Taxi Drivers and Companies. He also believes this option minimizes the perceived conflict between the taxi industry and MST. Mr. Sedoryk stated that the budget will be provided to both cities and they will decide how to provide the service and staff to provide the

service. Chair Sanchez stated that the Board must decide whether keeping costs as low as possible is a priority. If MST or a contractor provides the service, the cost to the taxi industry, and the public, will be greater.

Public Comment

Mr. Phillips stated that the RTA needs to listen to those in the taxi industry and does not approve of fees.

Ms. Krystal asked if Taxi Companies are required to pay for owner-operated vehicles.

Mr. Guida of Central Coast Cab Company asked the Board to remember that it is the public who will have to ultimately pay for the fees and encourages them to find a way to keep fares as low as possible. He stated that in 2009, the Bureau of Weights and Measures inspected 190 cabs; in 2010, 160 cabs were inspected.

Mr. Mancini reminded the Board that the RTA was formed to streamline the process and allow Taxi Companies to operate within all jurisdictions for one permit fee.

Close Public Comment

Director Edwards motioned to adopt the FY 2012 Licensing and Permit Fees and FY 2012 Budget, with the adjustment of \$25 for all Driver Permits. Director Leffel seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

9. NEW BUSINESS

9-1 Provide direction to staff regarding proposed Taxi Study Session.

Mr. Sedoryk asked for Board input on scheduling a Taxi Study Session and referred them to Item 13-1 as a reference to an organization with the expertise to facilitate the session.

Chair Sanchez requested that staff prepare a proposal to be brought back to the Board, and asked for input from the TAC.

Public Comment

Ms. Krystal likes the idea of the TAC and staff working to educate each other. She would like an agency from the United States to be used.

Mr. Phillips stated that he never gets his questions answered and apologizes for offending the Board and staff of MST. He does not believe a facilitator is necessary.

Mr. Graham suggested that staff ride in a cab and ask questions to learn about the taxi industry.

10. REPORTS & INFORMATION ITEMS

None.

11. COMMENTS BY BOARD MEMBERS

None.

12. BOARD REFERRALS TO TAC

Mr. Harvath requested that the issue of fines for non-compliance with RTA regulations and Monterey Airport policies be referred to the TAC for comment.

13. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Director Leffel mentioned that the Monterey Airport has met with Alaska Air to discuss adding flights, which should have a positive impact on the demand for taxi service.

14. CLOSED SESSION

None.

15. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

16. ADJOURN

There being no further business, Chair Sanchez adjourned the meeting at 12:23 p.m.

Prepared by:


Deanna Smith, Deputy Secretary