

REGIONAL TAXI AUTHORITY
TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TAC) MEETING
February 17, 2011

2:00 p.m.

Monterey Conference Center – Ferrante Room
One Portola Plaza

TAC Members:
Theresa Canepa
Steve Cardinalli
Christine Erickson
Roy G. Graham
Tom Greer
Hunter Harvath
John Narigi
Phil Penko
Chris Sommers

Absent:
Alma Almanza
Gerardo Alejos
COL Darcy Brewer
Eddie Estrada

RTA Staff:
Theodore Kosub

Deputy Secretary to the RTA Board

Public:	
Verge Barnes	Citizen / taxi driver
Brandon Bent	Citizen / taxi driver
Chris Chidlaw	MCHA
Kathi Krystal	Alternate to Gerardo Alejos
Alex Lorca	De Lay & Laredo
Sam Martinez	Yellow Cab
Scott Phillips	Citizen

Chair Penko called the meeting to order at 2:05 p.m.

Public Comment

Hunter Harvath resigned his position on the TAC and informed TAC members that he would be representing RTA staff from that point forward.

3.1 – Fee Structure Worksheet and Chart

Mr. Harvath gave a presentation of permit fees and clarified several taxi industry definitions.

Mr. Graham thought the definitions were a good start, but they needed additional tweaking or clarification.

Ms. Canepa was concerned with the fees that taxi drivers would pay and believed flag drop fees would increase dramatically under the new system.

Mr. Cardinalli expressed concern regarding title 49 requirements.

Mr. Narigi thought it was prudent for the RTA's ordinance to mimic Monterey's ordinance concerning title 49 requirements and testing.

Mr. Harvath clarified that companies are subject to title 49, not the RTA. Further, he stated that the RTA would not be involved in testing drivers or consortiums.

Chair Penko asked what was included in taxicab permit fee of \$415 dollars. Mr. Harvath replied that of the \$415 fee, \$335 was administrative.

Ms. Canepa expressed concern that the public would ultimately be responsible for increases in administrative fees related to the RTA.

Public Comment

Verge Barnes of Yellow Cab believed there were enough existing cabs within the peninsula area. He also believed the RTA would impede his ability to earn a living.

Chris Chidlaw believed the hospitality industry is on the taxi companies' side and is actively working to ensure that permit fees remain as low as possible. Further, he stated the RTA was formed in order to improve service on the peninsula. Mr. Chidlaw believed the situation of animosity between hospitality and taxi drivers was unfortunate.

Sam Martinez asked why there was a need for the RTA, why taxi drivers had to pay more for vehicle inspection fees and why MST has ordered new cabs. He thought MST was only interested in increasing its coffers through exploitation of taxi drivers. He believed Yellow Cab had a history of safe and excellent service.

Brandon Bent thought the RTA was a huge mess and believed there had to be an easier approach to the entire taxi issue. He suggested minor adjustments to existing rules.

3-2. Taxi Rates Sampling Sheet

Hunter Harvath highlighted taxi rates and fares from several California cities.

John Narigi inquired as to why the existing Monterey rates were so low. He pointed out Santa Cruz and Gilroy as having significantly higher rates.

Mr. Cardinalli gave a brief history on how Monterey and Santa Cruz diverged from being similar in number of cabs many years ago. He believed the overall impact of higher rates and drop fees was negative to every stakeholder involved. He commented that present day, Monterey has roughly twice as many cabs as Santa Cruz. He was joined in agreement by Mr. Graham, who said that lower rates were beneficial in serving the community.

Mr. Martinez suggested that increased taxi rates would result in 'scrips' being less valuable.

Mr. Harvath stated that MST is working to expand the senior scrip program from the Carmel area to the entire RTA region. There are ongoing negotiations with area jurisdictions concerning the scrip program.

Ms. Canepa believed taxis are in the Monterey area because of the people who live here, not hospitality.

Ms. Canepa suggested the minutes from January be corrected to reflect that Chair Penko was not in attendance. Mr. Penko also suggested Steve Klein be corrected to Michael Klein. Mr. Narigi motioned to edit the minutes as noted above. The motion was seconded by Ms. Canepa and passed unanimously.

Other motions:

Ms. Erickson made a motion that provides a specified adjournment time of 3:45 p.m. for future TAC meetings. The motion was seconded by John Narigi and passed unanimously.

Theresa Canepa made a motion to have every recommended fee proposed by the RTA in one chart on the next TAC agenda and make a recommendation to the RTA at the next TAC meeting. The chart shall include a cost breakdown of each fee, a breakdown of the total costs to a taxi driver and include airport fees if possible. The motion was seconded by John Narigi and passed unanimously.

Theresa Canepa moved to adjourn and was joined by Chris Sommers. The motion carried unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 4:25 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Theodore Kosub, Deputy Secretary to the RTA