

MONTEREY COUNTY REGIONAL TAXI AUTHORITY MINUTES

April 25, 2016
10:00 a.m.

MST Conference Room
One Ryan Ranch Road, Monterey, CA 93940

Present:

Tony Barrera	City of Salinas
Carrie Theis	City of Carmel-by-the-Sea (alt)
Pat Lintell	City of Del Rey Oaks (alt)
Libby Downey	City of Monterey
Mary Ann Leffel	Monterey Peninsula Airport District
Frank O'Connell	City of Marina
Dan Miller	City of Pacific Grove
David Pacheco	City of Seaside
David Pendergrass	City of Sand City

Absent:

Fernando Armenta	County of Monterey
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Staff:

Carl Sedoryk	General Manager/CEO
Hunter Harvath	Asst. GM of Finance & Administration
Mike Hernandez	Asst. GM/COO
Deanna Smith	Executive Assistant/Clerk to the Board
Melissa Valadez	Customer Service Representative
Anita Flanagan	Clerk to the Board
Dave Laredo	De Lay & Laredo

Public:

Jeff Doyle	Monterey Bay Aquarium
Ben Miller	Pebble Beach Company
Alec Stefan	Salinas Yellow Cab
Tom Mancini	TAC Senior Representative
Rajendra Naiken	Salinas Yellow Cab
Hope Ramirez	Salinas Yellow Cab
Steve Adams	Salinas Yellow Cab
Leilani Bustos	Salinas Yellow Cab
Dennis Burrl	Salinas Yellow Cab
Tomas Durant	Salinas Yellow Cab
Kathi Krystal	Associated Taxi
Elias Verdin	Salinas Orange Cab
John Cardinalli	Salinas Yellow Cab
Sheldon Nunn	
Wayne Ivey	
Karen Faurot	Monterey Police Department

1. CALL TO ORDER

Chairperson Leffel called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. Roll call was taken and the Pledge of Allegiance followed.

- 1-1. Roll Call.
- 1-2. Pledge of Allegiance.
- 1-3. Review highlights of the agenda.

Mr. Sedoryk reviewed the highlights of the agenda.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON MATTERS NOT ON THE AGENDA

Alec Stefan of the Monterey Peninsula Taxi Workers Association discussed the inequity of regulatory and competitive disparities between taxi and Uber-type transportation services. He requested the member jurisdictions to enforce traffic regulations that prohibit transportation network companies from directly soliciting fares from their vehicles or responding to street hails. He also requested that the RTA provide the Taxi Workers Association a non-voting seat on this board and provide support to local taxi companies to address the impact of these disparities.

Kathi Krystal of Associated Taxi expressed support for the RTA to work on the disparity issue and stated that drivers are waiting too long for issuance of renewal permits.

Dennis Burrl of Yellow Cab expressed support for Uber disparity assistance and discussed the high occurrence of Uber crimes.

Leilani Bustos, taxi driver, expressed support for Uber disparity assistance and stated that San Francisco Uber drivers come to Monterey during special events to pick up fares.

Steve Adams, taxi driver, noted that Uber drivers have advertising advantages at the Monterey Airport and other locations in the city of Monterey.

Sheldon Nunn, taxi driver, noted the disparity between Uber and taxi regulations and the associated costs that cab companies and drivers incur.

Wayne Ivey, taxi driver, noted the many fees and other costs, including criminal background checks and drug testing, that taxi drivers must pay and also stated that police enforcement regarding transportation services are inconsistent.

Hope Ramirez, Yellow Cab manager, stated that background checks take too long, and the financial impact on taxi companies are impacting families.

Thomas Durant of Yellow Cab stated that taxi and bus services have stringent regulations, but Uber-type services do not, and they are taking away customers.

Close Public Comment

3. CONSENT AGENDA

- 3-1. Adopt Resolution of Appreciation 2016-01 for services rendered by Victoria Beach.
- 3-2. Minutes of the regular meeting of January 25, 2016.
- 3-3. Receive July 2015 – March 2016 Financial Statements.
- 3-4. Receive update on Senior Voucher Acceptance Process.

Public Comment:

Regarding Item 3-4, Tom Mancini, TAC Representative, stated that senior citizens do not understand how the voucher system works, although the local taxi companies are doing their best to support this senior citizen service.

Close Public Comment

4. REPORTS & PRESENTATIONS

- 4-1. Receive update from RTA staff and the January – March 2016 Report from RTA Administrator.

Hunter Harvath provided an update on the reduction of RTA taxicab drivers on the Monterey Peninsula which can be largely attributed to the presence of Uber drivers. RTA staff has communicated with the RTA administrator about the significant reduction in random inspections over the last several quarters. RTA staff is working with Marina taxi to improve compliance requirements, and comment card production and distribution will be completed soon.

Mr. Harvath provided the following responses to Board member questions:

- A payback plan will be drafted for those cities that are due a reimbursement for their start-up funds contributions; this draft plan will be presented to the RTA Finance Committee for review at its upcoming meeting.
- Taxi incidents/complaints are reported to the police departments of the respective cities in which the complaints occurred upon receipt by RTA staff.

Karen Faurot of the Monterey Police Department noted that permit renewal delays are due to the Department of Justice's processing lag time. The MPD recommends that renewal applications be submitted 30 days prior to the expiration date. A temporary permit for drivers is not recommended as it bypasses a criminal check.

Public comment

Tom Mancini noted that Marina senior citizens pay more to go to Monterey.

John Cardinalli of Yellow Cab expressed support to issue temporary permits for drivers waiting for permit renewal approval.

Kathi Krystal stated that she is aware of an Uber driver who was denied an RTA permit.

Wayne Ivey noted that Uber drivers do not need to have inspections.

Close Public Comment

Director Leffel noted that senior vouchers are intended primarily for local transportation services.

Hunter Harvath stated that regarding random inspections, the state has jurisdiction over Uber-type services and will not allow local authorities to regulate these companies. The state's public utilities commission has reserved oversight for Uber-type companies.

5. BIDS/PROPOSALS

6. PUBLIC HEARINGS

7. ACTION ITEMS

7-1. Receive FY 2015 Annual Financial Report & Audit.

Hunter Harvath noted that RTA's net position has increased. The liabilities that MST incurred will be reimbursed through a repayment plan, which will be considered at the next finance committee meeting.

Public Comment - none

7-2. Adopt FY 2017 Preliminary Draft Operating Budget and refer to Finance Committee for review and recommendation.