

ITEM 8 - Information

June 20, 2007

Briefing on the Establishment of a Regional Taxicab Regulators' Task Force

Staff

Recommendation: Receive briefing on the enclosed proposed mission statement.

Issues: None

Background: At the July 18 meeting, the Board will be asked to approve the establishment of the TPB Regional Taxicab Regulators' Task Force with this mission statement. During the past year, taxicab regulatory staff from jurisdictions and agencies in the Washington region have been meeting on an ad hoc basis to share information and discuss common taxicab regulation issues. The group has requested that it be given formal status as a task force of the TPB.

National Capital Region Transportation Planning Board

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M E M O R A N D U M

June 14, 2007

TO: Transportation Planning Board

FROM: Ronald F. Kirby
Director of Transportation Planning

Subject: Proposed TPB Regional Taxicab Regulators Task Force

At the June 20 meeting, The Board will be briefed on the proposed mission statement for a regional task force of taxicab regulators. At the July 18 meeting, the Board will be asked to approve the establishment of the TPB Regional Taxicab Regulators' Task Force. This memorandum provides background and context for the establishment of this task force.

Background

Taxicab service is an important element of the region's transportation system and is utilized by thousands of people every day. It provides a reliable source of transportation for people who need to get somewhere quickly, or for people who may not own a vehicle and must travel to places inaccessible by transit.

The taxicab regulations for the jurisdictions in this region differ and this can affect what taxi service is available to residents and visitors. A cab from one jurisdiction can drop off a customer in another county or city, but may not be allowed to pick up a customer in that county or city which would require the cab to "dead-head" back to its home jurisdiction. This situation limits customer choice and is an inefficient use of fuel and the driver's time. During the past twenty years there have been several initiatives by taxicab regulators from around the region regarding reciprocity agreements that would address customer pick-ups and drop-offs and other service issues. While some jurisdictions have developed reciprocity agreements, no regional agreement exists.

Taxicab regulators from the District of Columbia and other major jurisdictions have been meeting since 2005 on an ad hoc basis to exchange information and to discuss items of mutual interest. I was contacted in October 2006 by the acting chair of the group, Mr. Causton Toney, then Chairman of the D.C. Taxicab Commission, to inquire about the possibility of COG/TPB hosting the group. The

group wished to have more structure and meet on a regular basis. TPB staff helped organize the next four meetings of the group (November 16, 2006, January 18, 2007, March 15, 2007 and May 17, 2007) and assisted in drafting the attached proposed mission statement.

Task Force Mission and Membership

The mission of the proposed task force is to encourage cooperation and information sharing among taxicab regulators. The task force will explore the possibility of developing a common set of standards that could be implemented across all of the jurisdictions. The task force will also work on developing a draft regional reciprocity agreement, which would be distributed widely within participating jurisdictions for review and possible adoption.

Proposed task force members will represent the local, regional or state taxicab regulating agencies from TPB member jurisdictions. Participation from all TPB members will be encouraged. Taxicab regulating agencies from jurisdictions outside of the TPB planning area are also encouraged to participate. Ms. Doreen Thompson, Interim Chairperson for the D.C. Taxicab Commission, has agreed to serve as Chair of the task force for the first year. The proposed mission statement calls for the Chair to serve a one-year term, and for the position to rotate between representatives from the District of Columbia, Maryland, and Virginia.

Task Force Coordination and Governance

The proposed task force will meet every other month and coordinate with the TPB's Private Providers Task Force and Human Service Transportation Coordination Task Force. While taxicab regulation is related to the mission of these other two task forces, the topic of regulation is not currently addressed. Coordination with these two task forces will occur on issues related to private taxi providers and wheelchair accessible cabs. Currently the District of Columbia has no accessible cabs and Prince George's County has only one.

The proposed task force will provide periodic updates on its activities to the TPB. TPB staff does not anticipate requesting additional funding to support the task force because it can be supported under the existing Private Providers Task Force work element in the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP).

MISSION STATEMENT FOR THE TPB REGIONAL TAXICAB REGULATORS' (RTR) TASK FORCE

Mission

The mission of the Regional Taxicab Regulators' Task Force is to:

- Encourage close cooperation and sharing of information between municipal and county taxicab regulators in the National Capital region and to work to resolve common problems; and
- Explore the possibility of developing standards to improve the quality of service for taxicab customers in their respective jurisdictions.

Goals

1. Develop a regional reciprocity agreement that will be distributed widely within participating jurisdictions for review and possible adoption;
2. Discussion and exchange of ideas among government officials concerning the regulation of taxicabs;
3. Coordination of efforts to improve the regulatory framework of taxicabs; and
4. Coordination with the TPB Private Providers Task Force and the TPB Human Services Transportation Coordination Task Force to strengthen the alliance between public and private interests.

Membership

Task force members represent the local, regional or state taxicab regulating agencies from TPB member jurisdictions. Taxicab regulating agencies from jurisdictions outside of the TPB planning area are also encouraged to participate. Task Force meetings are open to the public. Proposed task force members are taxicab regulators from the following jurisdictions or agencies:

Jurisdictions

Arlington County
City of Alexandria
City of Falls Church
District of Columbia
Fairfax County
Frederick County
Loudoun County
Montgomery County

Prince George's County
Prince William County

Agencies

Maryland Public Service Commission
Metropolitan Washington Airports
Authority
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit
Commission

Participating Jurisdictions or Agencies Outside of the TPB Planning Area:

Anne Arundel County
Baltimore-Washington International Airport
City of Annapolis

Governance

Governance of this task force will follow standard TPB protocols. The task force will be established by TPB and it will report to the TPB. It will meet every other month, or as needed. A chair will be selected by the task force. The chair will serve a one-year term and the chair position will rotate between representatives from the District of Columbia, Maryland and Virginia.