
City of San Antonio Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Transportation Advisory Board Minutes Wednesday, March 15, 2023

Board Members Present:

George Mery
George Garcia
Robert Gonzales
Nick Roberson
Ty Edwards
Eddie Rodriguez

Board Members Absent:

Javier Tristan

Others Present

Richard Riley, Assistant Police Director SAPD
Janette Torres-Gloria, Administrative Services Officer SAPD
Gary Gilbert, Administrative Service Manager SAPD
James Kopp, Assistant City Attorney
Joe Herrera, Ground Transportation Unit Supervisor SAPD

Guests

None

Roll Call & Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Gilbert at 5:13 pm. A Roll Call followed, at least six (6) voting board members were present, and a quorum was established.

1. Approval of Minutes:

Approval of Minutes for February 22, 2023, TAB meeting

T. Edwards moved for approval; R. Gonzales seconded the motion.

For: All **Against:** None **Abstentions:** None **Minutes Approved**

2. Public Comments:

None

Briefing and Possible Action on the following Items:

3. Vehicle-for-Hire Drivers Drug Testing Requirements

Mr. Mery opened the discussion by correcting his statement from the February 22, 2023, TAB meeting where he stated that drug testing is irrelevant, by stating, “he didn’t mean it to sound so harsh, but probably doesn’t have its place where we are doing it, and he wanted to discuss it further because the people that it applied to it is almost irrelevant and the way it’s lied in there and I think it had its purpose but, the fact is we would like to talk a little bit about the yah and nay of that particular requirement.”

Mr. Mery mentioned that it is discriminatory to taxicab drivers since Uber drivers are not required to, and it was a disadvantage to taxicab drivers.

Mr. Roberson motioned for the City of San Antonio to pay for drug testing. No Second. **Motion Failed**

Mr. Gonzales made a motion to have a new driver or renewing driver present a negative drug test to GTU before receiving a driver's permit. No Second. **Motion Failed**

4. Vehicle-for-Hire Drivers Permit Requirements:

Mr. Gilbert briefed the board on the driver's permit requirements outlined in Chapter 33.

Discussion was held

Mr. Gonzales requested GTU to ensure that they are enforcing the requirement for Vehicle-for-Hire driver applicants to be able to read and speak English.

Mr. Gilbert stated that GTU Staff would ensure all applicants meet the requirement.

5. Separation of Industries in Chapter 33, Article I:

Mr. Mery stated that the idea is to separate the limousine industry from the taxicab and charter industries. He felt this was a good idea since each industries have different needs.

Mr. Gilbert reminded the board that Chapter 33 is already separated by industry and that parts of Article I are separated by industry needs, however, if Mr. Mery still wanted to review this issue, Mr. Gilbert suggested that it be done in a sub-committee format.

Mr. Gilbert stated that Article I is designed for requirements that are for all industries and drivers in the Vehicle-for-Hire industry. An example is that an individual with a Vehicle-for-Hire driver's permit does not have a taxicab permit or limousine permit because they can have multiple industries on their license and can move from one industry to another without having to reapply for each industry.

6. Items for the Next TAB Meeting

- TAB Chairperson

7. Announcements:

Mr. Gilbert reminded the TAB that there would not meet in April, and that the next meeting is in May.

Mr. Mery stated that he knows of several individuals who have applied to become TAB Members.

8. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mr. Rodrigues and seconded by Mr. Gonzales

For: All **Against:** None

Meeting adjourned at 6:06 pm

George Mery
TAB Vice-Chairperson

Gary J. Gilbert
Administrative Services Manager
Recorder/Transcriber of Minutes