
City of San Antonio Transportation Advisory Board (TAB)

Transportation Advisory Board Minutes Wednesday, February 22, 2023

Board Members Present:

George Mery
George Garcia
Robert Gonzales
Ty Edwards
Javier Tristan
Eddie Rodriguez

Board Members Absent:

Nick Roberson

Others Present

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 5:06 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 January 25, 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 Permit Requirements to include Drug Testing

Mr. Mery opened the discussion by informing the Board that drug testing requirements in Chapter 33 state that a new driver must pass a drug test for their file. He stated that this is unenforceable and that he has 60 drivers, and only 20 of his drivers are drug tested because they have a DOT license. He does not think this needs to be in Chapter 33.

Mr. Rodriguez stated that Mr. Mery had wanted to keep the drug testing in place during previous meetings.

Mr. Mery stated that he feels that drug testing is irrelevant. The requirement either needs to be stricter, similar to what the State does, or removed because it is more of a nuisance.

Discussion was held

Mr. Mery requested that this item be tabled and brought back next TAB meeting.

Mr. Gilbert presented to the Board the Taxicab Drivers test that was previously utilized prior to the removal of the requirement,

Mr. Gonzales stated that testing would help separate the drivers from other companies like Uber/lift, and he is concerned about the degrading of taxicab driver quality by having drivers that can't speak English, don't know how to get from point A to point B, or can't operate a GPS. He also stated that some companies are entering the taxicab industry that doesn't care about the quality of drivers and are hurting all the taxicab companies.

Discussion continued

Mr. Gonzales asked this item be tabled and brought back next TAB meeting.

4. Public Hearing on the Proposed Amendments to the Taxicab Rules and Regulations:

Public Hearing was opened at 5:45 pm.

Mr. Mery stated no one was present to speak and closed the Public Hearing.

5. TAB Chairperson requirements:

Mr. Mery explained to the Board that industry members could not be the Chairperson of the TAB and stated that the staff's position is that the Chairperson of the Board can dictate the items on the agenda.

Mr. Kopp spoke to the issue that back in 1991, the council created this ordinance in part because it had become increasingly difficult to conduct regulatory and enforcement-related business due to the imbalance of membership of ground transportation industry representatives with representatives from other groups. (Ordinance 74977).
Discussion was held

R. Gonzales made a motion to remove the TAB restriction that no ground transportation industry representative may serve as chairperson of the board.; E. Rodriguez seconded the motion.

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

6. Items for the Next TAB Meeting

- The separation of industry in chapter 33
- Vehicle-for-Hire Drivers Drug Testing
- Vehicle-for-Hire Drivers Permit Requirements

7. Announcements:

Mr. Edwards announced that February 22, 2023, was National Margarita Day.

8. Adjournment:

Motion made by Mr. Rodriguez and seconded by Mr. Edwards.

For: All **Against:** None

Meeting adjourned at 6:18 pm

George Mery
TAB Vice-Chairperson

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