

**METROPOLITAN NASHVILLE-DAVIDSON COUNTY  
TRANSPORTATION LICENSING COMMISSION**

**Minutes**

**January 16, 2025**

The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Transportation Licensing Commission (TLC) met for its regular meeting on this date in the Jury Assembly Room of the Justice A.A. Birch Building. Present were Chair Pat McNally, Vice Chair Carol Westlake, Commissioners Carey Rogers, Erica Penley, and Annie Klaver (5). Also present were NDOT staff members Lisa Steelman, Richard Rooker, Amanda Mullins, and T.D. Schlafer, as well as Metro Legal advisors Erica Haber and Phylinda Ramsey.

Chair McNally called the meeting to order, then led the Pledge of Allegiance, followed by a reading of the Notice of Appeal Statement which outlined the right of appeal of TLC decisions.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment from those gathered. Akrem Hasan and Seyoum Tadesse spoke. There were no further requests to speak.

Vice Chair Westlake arrived at the meeting.

Vice Chair Westlake with a second from Commissioner Penley moved approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.

ACTION:           Approved           4-0

**Consent Items**

The following new applications were submitted for Other Passenger Vehicles for Hire (OPVH):

- JLA Luxury Ride LLC
- Black Car Transportation

After some discussion, Commissioner Rogers with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to approve.

ACTION:           Approved           4-0

Five companies failed to meet the December 1, 2024, renewal deadline for Wrecker and Towing Services.

Nashville Towing, Ben Towing Service, Hosler Tow LLC, and EJ Towing LLC submitted untimely reapplications to operate as General Wrecker and Towing Service companies. Performance Towing and Recovery reapplied late to operate as a Non-Consent company. Director Rooker confirmed these companies were unlicensed to operate since December 1.

After some discussion, Vice Chair Westlake with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the reapplications.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

OPVH company Navi Mo LLC requested to add partner Omar Abuzeid. Vice Chair Westlake with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to approve.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

### **Shared Urban Mobility Devices (SUMD)**

T.D. Schlafer reported that the Metropolitan Government had completed its evaluation of the submitted solicitation offers for RFQ 384391 Docked Bikeshare Mobility. On December 16, 2024, a Notice of Intent to Award was issued to Bicycle Transit Systems, formerly known as B-Cycle. The notice was issued contingent upon approval of the Commission and successful contract negotiations. The Commission was provided a shared file to review the relevant documentation prior to the meeting.

After some discussion, Commissioner Rogers with a second from Vice Chair Westlake moved to approve.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Mr. Schlafer provided the SUMD Ride Summary Report. Nashville took 1,188,864 scooter rides and 27,584 dockless e-bike rides in 2024. Top segments included Broadway, Demonbreun, 10<sup>th</sup> Ave N, and West End, with 72% of rides originating in Downtown and 18.4% in Midtown.

### **Taxicabs**

The Chair opened the Annual Hearing for the purpose of consideration of applications for Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for new and additional taxicabs. The Commission received the following applications:

- WHC TN LLC dba Z-Trip to Operate New Company with 25 Vehicle Permits
- Fast Taxi to Operate New Company with 20 Vehicle Permits
- Regal Taxi to Operate Existing Company with 20 Additional Vehicle Permits

Representatives from each company presented their application and answered questions from the Commission. Bill Zagorski, CEO of American Senior Care Centers, also spoke in favor of Z-Trip's application. With no further requests to speak, the Chair closed the Annual Hearing.

Director Rooker reported that the applications of Fast Taxi and Regal Taxi were not timely filed, however the application deadline was equitably tolled due to the truncated deadline notice given to the applicants resulting from the canceled October meeting. Director Rooker further shared that in an audit of the 502 currently permitted taxicabs in Nashville, only 15 were reported to be accessible vehicles for those individuals with disabilities.

Metro Legal advised that Metro Code requires a finding of Public Convenience and Necessity for additional taxicab permits to be issued.

6.72.060 - Findings—Issuance of certificate or additional permits.

A. If the metropolitan transportation licensing commission finds that further or additional taxicab service in the metropolitan government area is required by the public convenience and necessity and that the applicant is fit, willing and able to provide such public transportation and to conform to the provisions of this chapter and the rules promulgated by the metropolitan transportation licensing commission, the metropolitan transportation licensing commission may issue a certificate of public convenience and necessity, stating the name and address of the applicant, the number of vehicles authorized upon such certificate and the date of issuance.

B. In making the above findings, the metropolitan transportation licensing commission shall, at a minimum, take into consideration the number of taxicabs already in operation, whether existing transportation is adequate to meet the public need; the character, experience, financial condition and responsibility of the applicant, and such criteria as may be adopted by the commission in its rules.

After some additional discussion, Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to find there was a need of Public Convenience and Necessity to allow Z-Trip to operate 20 taxicabs, with 10 of those being accessible vehicles for individuals with disabilities. Commissioner Klaver withdrew the motion.

Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to find there was a need of Public Convenience and Necessity for additional taxicabs.

ACTION:           Approved           4-0

Commissioner Rogers with a second from Vice Chair Westlake moved to approve Z-Trip's new company application for 25 permits, with 10 of those vehicles being ADA accessible, contingent upon successful vehicle inspection by staff.

Commissioner Klaver proposed an amendment to approve Z-Trip for 20 permits, with 10 being ADA accessible. There was not a second. The amendment failed.

The vote was called on the original motion.

ACTION:           Approved           4-0

Commissioner Rogers moved to approve Fast Taxi's new company application for 20 permits, contingent upon successful vehicle inspection by staff. There was not a second. The motion failed.

Commissioner Penley with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to deny Fast Taxi's new company application for 20 permits, based upon their lack of articulated business operational experience, lack of any ADA accessible vehicles in their fleet, and their stated intent to operate primarily in Downtown Nashville, an area reported to be above capacity with traffic congestion in the Connect Downtown study.

ACTION:           Denied           3-1

Commissioner Rogers with a second from Vice Chair Westlake moved to approve Regal Taxi's existing company application to operate 20 additional permits, contingent upon successful vehicle inspection by staff. After some additional discussion, the vote was called, and the motion failed.

ACTION: Motion Failed 1-3

Commissioner Penley with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to deny Regal Taxi's existing company application to operate 20 additional permits, based upon the lack of any ADA accessible vehicles in their fleet and given that the company was initially approved in June 2024 and had not had a year's worth of operations to determine whether a fleet increase was merited.

ACTION: Approved 3-0 (Commissioner Rogers abstained)

### **Entertainment Transportation (ET)**

An agenda item was called for B&T Transportation dba Party Bus Music City to add partner Turner Cress. Ronnie Stevenson was present representing B&T Transportation. The Chair explained that the Commission would be losing quorum, and the item would be deferred until the next meeting.

Vice Chair Westlake with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to defer the agenda item until the February meeting.

ACTION: Deferred 4-0

### **Application Reviews**

The Chair requested that Mr. Michael P. Geise and Mr. Dal Za Tuang come forward. The Chair explained that the Commission would be losing quorum, and their applications would be deferred until the next meeting.

Vice Chair Westlake with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to defer the applications of Mr. Geise and Mr. Tuang until the February meeting.

ACTION: Deferred 4-0

Commissioner Rogers with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to adjourn.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Richard Rooker  
Executive Secretary

\_\_\_\_\_  
Pat McNally  
Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date