

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

**Minutes**

**March 20, 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, Annie Klaver, Michael Hayes, Freddie Carr, Charles Sueing, and Wm. Alan Slone (8). 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, Claus Donner, and Doug Trimble spoke. There were no further requests to speak.

Commissioner Sueing with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved approval of the minutes from the previous meeting.

ACTION:           Approved           7-0

**Disciplinary Hearing**

The Chair advised that an item would be taken out of order and called for B&T Transportation dba Party Bus Music City's hearing on alleged violations of Metro Code 6.77.070 and TLC Rules and Procedures Section 803 and 812.

Attorney Alex Dickerson was present representing B&T Transportation and requested deferral. Ronnie Stevenson was also present representing B&T Transportation.

After some discussion, Commissioner Carr with a second from Vice Chair Westlake moved to defer the disciplinary hearing until the May meeting.

ACTION:           Deferred           7-0

**Consent Items**

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

- Big Black SUV
- SL Services
- Atmosphere Luxury Rides
- Comfort Ride
- Abraham Limo LLC
- Anbsa Limo Service
- Vivid Lux LLC
- Mustafa's Limo
- CRS Transportation LLC
- Picasso Concepts Inc.
- LTCS LLC
- Exclusive VIP DMA LLC
- A Class Services LLC
- In Black Transportation LLC
- Aziz Transportation
- AVC LLC
- Heni Limo
- Refegee Enterprise LLC
- Best Ride Transportation

After some discussion, Commissioner Sueing with a second from Commissioner Carr moved to approve.

ACTION:           Approved           7-0

OPVH company Executive Limo LLC requested to add partner Michael Elias. Commissioner Klaver requested that Metro Legal provide a future opinion to the Commission on ownership modification requests. After some discussion, Vice Chair Westlake with a second from Commissioner Hayes moved to approve the request to modify ownership.

ACTION:           Approved           7-0

### **Public Hearings**

The Chair opened the Public Hearing on a proposed amendment to TLC Rules and Procedures Section 113. There were no requests to speak. The Chair closed the Public Hearing.

#### **Section 113 TENNESSEE VEHICLE REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT**

A. Certificates of Convenience and Necessity and other permits or licenses shall only be issued to companies which operate vehicles or conveyances that comply with Tennessee vehicle registration requirements.

B. Any company that must register its vehicles in accordance with Tennessee Code Annotated § 55-4- 101 must include a copy of its current, valid Tennessee vehicle registration for each vehicle, with its application for a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity, permit and/or license prior to the relevant application deadline.

Commissioner Carr with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to allow vehicle registration to be collected at the time of the application.

ACTION:           Approved           7-0

Metro Legal advised that the motion should be inclusive of the language proposed in the amendment.

Commissioner Carr with a second from Vice Chair Westlake moved to withdraw the previous motion.

ACTION:           Withdrawn           7-0

Commissioner Carr with a second from Commissioner Slone moved to approve TLC Rules and Procedures Section 113 with the language proposed in the amendment.

ACTION:           Approved           7-0

The Chair opened the Public Hearing on TLC Rules and Procedures Section 118, as proposed by Commissioner Rogers. There were no requests to speak. The Chair closed the Public Hearing.

**Section 118 NOTICE FOR AMENDMENTS TO MTLC RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The Executive Director of the MTLC, or his/her designee, must post any proposed amendment to the MTLC Rules and Procedures on the MTLC website at least 14 calendar days prior to the MTLC’s consideration of such amendment.

After some discussion, Commissioner Carr with a second from Commissioner Slone moved to amend the proposed language as follows:

**Section 118 NOTICE FOR AMENDMENTS TO MTLC RULES AND PROCEDURES**

The Executive Director of the MTLC, or his/her designee, must post any proposed amendment to the MTLC Rules and Procedures on the MTLC website at least 14 calendar days prior to the MTLC’s consideration of such amendment. This rule may be waived for emergent situations by the Executive Director of the MTLC and/or his/her designee.

ACTION: Amended 7-0

Vice Chair Westlake with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to approve the amended language in TLC Rules and Procedures Section 118.

ACTION: Approved 7-0

**Taxicabs**

The Chair called an agenda item to review a recommendation to Metro Council to amend various sections of Metro Code 6.72.

**ORDINANCE NO. \_\_\_\_\_**

An ordinance amending Chapter 6.72 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws to update requirements for taxicabs.

WHEREAS, Section 6.72.265 of the Metropolitan Code of Laws (“Metro Code”) requires taxicabs to be equipped with taximeters; and,

WHEREAS, technology for taximeters has changed over time; and,

WHEREAS, Section 6.72.265 does not allow taxicab operators to install the latest technology for taximeters, known as “smart taximeters”; and,

WHEREAS, while taximeters, as defined in Metro Code Section 6.72.010, are stand-alone devices that perform a single function, smart taximeters are digital, app-based meters that operate using GPS and can integrate with other systems such as dispatching software, GPS, fleet management systems, onboard diagnostics, or payment processing platforms, and may feature interactive monitors; and,

WHEREAS, the Nashville Department of Transportation and Multimodal Infrastructure (“NDOT”) and the Executive Director of the Metropolitan Transportation Licensing Commission (“MTLC”) have received numerous consumer complaints regarding taxicab operators and their alleged overcharging, charging flat rates instead of hourly rates in certain zones, and not turning on taximeters; and,

WHEREAS, smart taximeters ensure transparency and fair pricing for passengers because they use GPS and mobile technology to measure the distance covered and time spent on a trip and then convert those measurements into a fare based on preset rates; and,

WHEREAS, smart taximeters also can enhance business efficiency, customer service, and transparency for taxicab operators; and

WHEREAS, the International Association of Transportation Regulators recommends that taxicab regulators allow for the use of smart taximeters; and,

WHEREAS, other sections of Ch. 6.72 are also outdated; and,

WHEREAS, during its meeting held on March 20, 2025, the MTLC voted to recommend this ordinance to Council for approval; and,

WHEREAS, allowing taxicabs to install smart taximeters and otherwise updating Ch. 6.72 is in the best interest of the Metropolitan Government and the citizens of Nashville and Davidson County.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE METROPOLITAN GOVERNMENT OF NASHVILLE AND DAVIDSON COUNTY:

Section 1. That Metropolitan Code of Laws Section 6.72.010 is hereby amended by adding the following:

“Smart meter” means a system of hardware or software that integrates a taximeter and other components together to perform functions required by this Chapter.

Section 2. That Metropolitan Code of Laws Section 6.72.135 is hereby amended by deleting the section in its entirety.

Section 3. That Metropolitan Code of Laws Section 6.72.265 is deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

6.72.265 - Taximeters. A. All taxicabs operated under the authority of this chapter shall be equipped with taximeters or smart taximeters fastened in front of the passengers, visible to them at all times day and night. After sundown, the face of the taximeter or smart taximeter shall be illuminated. Taximeters or smart taximeters shall be operated mechanically by a device of standard design and construction, operated either from the transmission or from one of the front wheels by a flexible and permanently attached driving mechanism. Smart taximeters shall be operated by a system of hardware and software that integrates a taximeter and other

components together to perform functions required by this Chapter. Each taximeter or smart taximeter shall denote when the vehicle is employed and when it is not employed. It shall be the duty of the driver to activate such taximeter or smart taximeter into a recording position at the beginning of each trip and to deactivate such taximeter or smart taximeter into a nonrecording position at the termination of each trip.

B. Taximeters or smart taximeters shall be subject to inspection by the taxicab inspectors. Any inspector is authorized, either on complaint of any person or without such complaint, to inspect any meter, and upon discovery of any inaccuracy, to notify the person operating such taxicab to cease operation. Such taxicab shall be kept off the highways until the taximeter or smart taximeter is repaired and in required working condition to the satisfaction of the inspector.

C. Taximeters shall be inspected, tested and sealed at least once every year by a taximeter company approved by the Metropolitan Transportation Licensing Commission. The Commission shall establish rules setting forth the criteria by which taximeter companies may apply for approval.

D. Taxicabs operating under this Chapter must transition to a smart taximeter on or before December 31, 2026, and may not operate without a smart taximeter after January 1, 2027.

E. Taxicabs operating under this Chapter must submit a plan for adopting a smart taximeter system to the Metropolitan Transportation Licensing Commission Director at the time of submission of their application for renewal of their Certificates of Convenience and Necessity. Any company applying for a new permit that does not have smart taximeters installed must also submit a plan for adopting a smart taximeter system to the Metropolitan Licensing Commission Director at the time of its application. The Metropolitan Transportation Licensing Commission Director, in his/her sole discretion, may grant an extension of time to comply with the deadline for implementing a smart taximeter system.

Section 4. That Metropolitan Code of Laws Section 6.72.350 is amended by deleting the Section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

6.72.350 - Passengers—Refusal to pay legal fare.

It is unlawful for any person to refuse to pay the legal fare of any for the services mentioned in this chapter after having hired the same, and it is unlawful for any person to hire any such vehicle with intent to defraud the person hired of the value of such service.

Section 5. That Metropolitan Code of Laws Section 6.72.405 is amended by deleting the Section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

6.72.405 - Map requirement.

All taxicabs operated under the authority of this chapter shall carry or keep electronically a current map of Metropolitan Nashville and Davidson County in a place immediately accessible to the driver.

Section 6. That Metropolitan Code of Laws Section 6.72.425 is amended by deleting the Section in its entirety and replacing it with the following:

6.72.425 - Vehicle safety devices.

All taxicabs will have a global positioning system (GPS) installed or immediately accessible to the driver electronically. Subject to the rules and regulations of the metropolitan transportation licensing commission, it shall be lawful for any person owning or operating a taxicab or motor vehicle for hire to permit safety devices, including shields, alarms, cameras, and cash boxes to be affixed to or installed in or on such taxicabs or motor vehicles for hire.

Section 7. That this Ordinance shall take effect from and after its passage, the welfare of the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County requiring it.

Director Rooker addressed the proposed recommendation to Metro Council and explained that staff continued to receive numerous overcharging complaints on licensed taxicabs, primarily resulting from failure to run a taximeter. A September 2024 report from the International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR) on Modernization of the Taximeter recommended that all regulators allow for smart meters. Benefits cited by the IATR report included lower cost than a traditional taximeter, greater flexibility, ease of installation and maintenance with no need for annual calibration, less susceptibility to incorrect calculations from changing tire pressure, better customer experience and satisfaction, accessibility features, automatic completion of an electronic manifest, and assistance with government data collection to support public policy.

Doug Trimble and Akrem Hasan spoke against the implementation of smart meters on behalf of the taxicab industry, citing concerns with cost and time needed to implement. Mr. Hassan suggested that the industry could place their rates on the outside of the vehicles to address overcharging concerns.

After some additional discussion, Vice Chair Westlake with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to recommend the draft ordinance to Metro Council for their approval, with the exclusion of proposed Section 6.72.265.D. & E.

ACTION:           Approved           7-0

#### **Other Business**

Director Rooker recommended rescheduling the October 16, 2025, TLC meeting as it falls during Metro Nashville Public School's Fall Break. Mr. Rooker reminded the Commission that it did not have a quorum at its October 2024 meeting.

Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to reschedule the meeting to October 23, 2025, to avoid issues with quorum.

ACTION:           Approved           7-0

Commissioner Sueing with a second from Commissioner Slone moved to adjourn.

ACTION:        Approved        7-0

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

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

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date