

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

Minutes

May 15, 2025

The Metropolitan Nashville-Davidson County Transportation Licensing Commission (MTLC) 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, Commissioners Carey Rogers, Freddie Carr, Annie Klaver, Michael Hayes, and Erica Penley (6). Also present were NDOT staff members Diana Alarcon, Lisa Steelman, Richard Rooker, Amanda Mullins, Meghan Mathson, Ava Prater, Roumani Lawandy, and T.D. Schlafer, as well as Metro Legal advisors Erica Haber and Phylinda Ramsey.

The Chair 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 MTLC decisions.

The Chair opened the floor for public comment from those gathered. Grant Rosenblatt and Councilmember Jacob Kupin spoke. There were no further requests to speak.

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

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Consent Items

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

▪ VIP Transportation LLC ▪ Rose Black Car Service LLC ▪ Sidy Limousine LLC ▪ Royal Ride Limo ▪ Travel Services LLC ▪ Baquero Transportation ▪ AA1 Transportation LLC ▪ Variegate Equity Partners and Holding LLC ▪ Nameer ▪ S&S Transportation Services LLC ▪ Premier Transport Nashville ▪ Presidential Luxury ▪ R.G. Transportation LLC ▪ Ricky Duke ▪ Bora LLC ▪ Mimi Limo Services LLC ▪ The Black Car Co. ▪ Kefi Transportation LLC

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

ACTION: Approved 4-0

The following OPVH existing company reapplications were submitted after a failure to timely renew by the March 31st deadline:

▪ Abraham Limo ▪ AJJ Transportation LLC ▪ H and S Limo Service ▪ Ride with Wyatt ▪ King Transportation LLC ▪ West End Livery LLC ▪ True Enterprises LLC dba True Concierge ▪ Luxx Rides Transportation LLC ▪ Empire Limo Service Inc.

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

ACTION: Approved 4-0

The following OPVH company requests to change address were submitted for approval:

- NashRovers LLC from 126 Scenic View Rd. to 1600 Division St., Suite 700
- Excelsior Transportation Services Inc. from 1040 Bradford Park Rd. to 206 Clifton Ave.
- Exclusive Transportation & Logistics LLC from 670 Ken Pilkerton Dr. to 203 Eusa Cantrell Ln.
- GTL Transportation LLC from 408 Barkley Ct. to 442 Ruby Oaks Ln.
- Duke Limousine Company from 2707 Edge-O-Lake Dr. to 904 Split Oak Dr.

- Branch Group LLC from 301 S. Perimeter Park to 6304 Wildgrove Dr.

Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Hayes moved to approve.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

OPVH company TZ Livery submitted a request to change their name to TZ Livery LLC. Commissioner Hayes with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to approve.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

The following OPVH company requests to modify ownership were submitted for approval:

- Luxx Rides Transportation LLC to add partners Michael Gomez and Jordan Sanders
- West End Livery LLC to add partner Debra Ferrin
- AJJ Transportation LLC to add partners Wilfredo C. Arias and Alida Lara DeCenteno

Commissioner Hayes with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to approve.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Disciplinary Hearings

A disciplinary hearing was called to review Entertainment Transportation (ET) company B&T Transportation dba Party Bus Music City for alleged violations of Metro Code 6.77.070 and MTLC Rules and Procedures Section 803 and 812.

The Commission was presented with a timeline of events prepared by Mr. Schlafer, setting forth the allegations of the complaint:

Through July 2024 - Ronnie Stevenson is sole owner of B&T Transportation dba Party Bus Music City, holder of 2 ET permits

July 18, 2024, Meeting – TLC approves request to modify ownership adding partners Justin Lillard and Chris Keith. All paperwork is in order.

July 25, 2024 – B&T Transportation cancels insurance that was due to expire August 1, 2024

August 10, 2024 – B&T Transportation dissolves business entity with TN Secretary of State

August 20, 2024 – Turner Cress emails Director Rooker inquiring the restrictions on purchasing an existing company. Mr. Schlafer responds the same day indicating there are no restrictions prohibiting purchasing a company, however per Metro Code the vehicle permits are not transferable.

September 25, 2024 – Email to Director Rooker from Party Bus Music City states, “Rowdy Bus LLC. has agreed to purchase B & T Transportation, LLC for \$325,000.00 contingent upon B & T Transportation, LLC.’s request and approval by NDOT granting our request to add him as part of the ownership group. We are hoping to have this request added to the agenda of the next scheduled meeting. Ronnie and Turner are available to stop by your office and complete the forms needed to request the change this week. Please advise.”

October 10, 2024 – Mr. Schlafer is asked to inspect Party Bus Music City busses for sound level compliance at 1205 Milson Street at 1 PM. Busses are non-operational (painted black, gutted for renovation, new inward facing speakers being installed).

November 6, 2024 – Mr. Schlafer emails Chris Keith, Justin Lillard, Ronnie Stevenson indicating documentation was received to add Turner Cress as a partner to Party Bus Music City and that staff had become aware of the dissolution of business license and cancelation of insurance policy. The email requested updated documents to be provided.

December 9, 2024 – Mr. Schlafer emails Turner Cress to follow up from a telephone conversation that day. The email states that, “the TLC may approve changes to the original certificate (change of address, name, officers, management, or any other material item in the original application) and the TLC may approve a transfer of the company certificate, but the vehicle permits do not transfer with the certificate and are not transferable. As such, each company issued vehicle permits must continue to maintain and keep in force the required insurance, as well as displaying company name identification on the outside of the vehicle.”

December 9, 2024- Turner Cress completes background check to be added as partner.

December 11, 2024 – Meeting at NDOT between Lisa Steelman, Ricky Rooker, T.D. Schlafer, Ronnie Stevenson, and Turner Cress to discuss Party Bus Music City insurance and business information.

January 3, 2025- B&T Transportation applies for reinstatement of business entity with TN Secretary of State

January 16, 2025 – B&T Transportation appears on TLC agenda to request Turner Cress to be added as partner. Commission loses quorum and the item is deferred until the February meeting.

February 20, 2025 - B&T Transportation appears on TLC agenda to request Turner Cress to be added as partner. Item is deferred at attorney’s request.

March 3, 2025 – Rowdy Bus and B&T Transportation submit 2025 ET company applications. Insurance for two separate companies is included in the same policy. Staff inquire with Metro Legal about whether submitted insurance is proper. Balogun Cobb, Metro Legal, approves. The policy effective date is December 6, 2024. Staff still lack documentation of proper commercial general liability insurance on B&T Transportation from July 25, 2024, to December 6, 2024.

March 20, 2025 – B&T Transportation appears on TLC agenda for disciplinary hearing for failure to maintain insurance. Item is deferred for two months.

May 15, 2025 – B&T Transportation appears on TLC agenda for disciplinary hearing for failure to maintain insurance.

Attorney Alex Dickerson was present representing Party Bus Music City. Turner Cress was sworn in to give testimony regarding the complaint.

After some discussion, Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Penley moved to find that Party Bus Music City violated Metro Code 6.77.070 and MTLC Rules and Procedures Sections 803 and 812 by operating eighteen rides without insurance from July 26, 2024, through August 17, 2024, operating without insurance being a serious violation of MTLC Rules and Metro Code.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Commissioner Hayes with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved that the MTLC find good cause for the revocation of the Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity and business permits of Party Bus Music City due to a material violation of a regulation governing the permit demonstrated by Party Bus Music City knowingly failing to maintain insurance as supported by the testimony and evidence provided in the hearing.

ACTION: Revoked 3-1 (Commissioner Rogers dissenting)

A disciplinary hearing was called to review ET company Nashville Ultimate Party Bus for alleged violations of Metro Code 6.77.420 C and MTLC Rules and Procedures Sections 804 B and 812.

Heather Cormier was present representing Nashville Ultimate Party Bus and NDOT Enforcement Officers Ava Prater and Roumani Lawandy were present to testify to Metro Citations 203376, 203213, and 203211, issued in their course of duty. All parties were sworn in. Director Rooker recused himself, as a witness to an alleged violation. Each party presented evidence and gave testimony regarding the complaint.

Commissioner Carr arrived.

After some discussion, Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Penley moved that based upon the NDOT citations issued and evidence and testimony provided in the hearing, Nashville Ultimate Party Bus violated Metro Code 6.77.420 C and MTLC Rules and Procedures Section 804 B and 812.

ACTION: Approved 4-0-1 (Commissioner Carr abstained)

After further discussion, Commissioner Rogers with a second from Commissioner Hayes moved to suspend one Seated Sightseeing permit for Nashville Ultimate Party Bus for 30 days.

ACTION: Suspended 5-0

Commissioner Hayes left the meeting.

Chair McNally called for a 10-minute break.

Chair McNally called the meeting back to order.

After a request for clarification from attorney Alex Dickerson, Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Penley moved to set Party Bus Music City's revocation of 2 ET permits effective July 31, 2025.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

A disciplinary hearing was called against taxicab driver Bikorimana Onesphore for alleged violations of Metro Code 6.72.190 and 6.72.265. Hasan Akrem of American Music City/Checker Cab was present requesting to revoke the driver's permit. Director Rooker confirmed he spoke with Mr. Onesphore and staff had informed him to attend the hearing, but he was not present.

After further discussion and the presentation of evidence and testimony by Mr. Hasan, Commissioner Carr with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to revoke the taxicab driver permit of Mr. Onesphore.

ACTION: Revoked 4-0

Entertainment Transportation (ET)

An agenda item was called for B&T Transportation dba Party Bus Music City to add partner Turner Cress, deferred from January 2025, but no one in the room was present for the request. The Chair rolled the request to the back of the agenda.

A Public Hearing was called regarding a proposed amendment to MTLC Rules and Procedures 807 A.

Section 807 VEHICLE OPERATIONS

- a) No ETV may conduct normal operations within a one city block boundary of a school, daycare center, healthcare facility, or place of worship. Operations will be silent, and passengers cautioned on behavior when routes to/from loading zones require passage inside the boundary of a school, daycare center, healthcare facility, or place of worship. Additionally, when ETVs are operating beneath the Music City Center on 6th Avenue between Demonbreun and Korean Veterans Boulevard, or beside the Country Music Hall of Fame on Demonbreun from Rep. John Lewis Way to 4th Avenue South, operations will be silent, and passengers cautioned on behavior.

The Chair opened the public hearing. Kyle Young, CEO, Country Music Hall of Fame, Nina Burghard, CFO, Country Music Hall of Fame, Ed Shulte, Senior Director of Facilities, Country Music Hall of Fame, and Grant Rosenblatt, Owner, Honky Tonk Party Express, spoke during the public hearing. With no further requests to speak, the Chair closed the public hearing. The Country Music Hall of Fame provided evidence supporting their request to the Commission. Honky Tonk Party Express provided a statement from their attorney.

After some discussion, Commissioner Klaver moved to approve the rule change with the following amendment:

Section 807 VEHICLE OPERATIONS

- a) No ETV may conduct normal operations within a one city block boundary of a school, daycare center, healthcare facility, or place of worship. Operations will be silent, and passengers cautioned on behavior when routes to/from loading zones require passage inside the boundary of a school, daycare center, healthcare facility, or place of worship. Additionally, when ETVs are operating beneath the Music City Center on 6th Avenue between Demonbreun and Korean Veterans Boulevard, or beside the Country Music Hall of Fame on Demonbreun, Rep. John Lewis Way South, and 4th Avenue South to Korean Veterans Boulevard, operations will be silent, and passengers cautioned on behavior.

Commissioner Penley seconded the motion.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Shared Urban Mobility Devices (SUMD)

An update was provided to the Commission on the docked bikeshare RFQ.

T.D. Schlafer presented information related to the consideration of approval of one-year contract renewal for Spin (Contract #6491854), Bird (Contract #6491853), and Lime (Contract #6491852) and renewal of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity. The companies accounted for 1,216,448 total SUMD rides in 2024, including 27,584 on dockless e-bikes. Mr. Schlafer shared accomplishments of the program, including a 30% ride discount for all Metro Nashville employees, advertisements created to highlight access ride programs in WeGo busses, and the installation of downtown parking corrals for over 1600 scooters and nearly 200 e-bikes.

John Lankford, representing Bird, Lilli Krauss, representing Lime, and Jermaine Knight, representing Spin, were present to give testimony and answer questions from the Commission.

After some discussion, Commissioner Rogers moved to require the SUMD companies to deploy vehicles at a rate of one e-bike to every four scooters of their full deployment. The companies verbally agreed to comply with the request. The motion was withdrawn.

Commission Rogers with a second from Commissioner Penley moved to approve one-year contract renewal for Spin (Contract #6491854), Bird (Contract #6491853), and Lime (Contract #6491852).

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commission Rogers moved to approve renewal of Certificates of Public Convenience and Necessity for Spin, Bird, and Lime.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Other Passenger Vehicles for Hire (OPVH)

Metro Legal attorney Erica Haber left the meeting.

OPVH company MacDrive submitted an age waiver request to operate a 1988 Daimler. Per Metro Code 6.74.230, except for a classic, vintage, or unique passenger vehicle for hire, no vehicle to be operated as a passenger vehicle for hire shall be more than fifteen years old. MacDrive owner Mark McPherson was present to answer questions from the Commission. Per Metro Code 6.74.010, “unique” means a passenger vehicle for hire that is custom-designed, unusual, and innovative.

After some discussion, Commissioner Penley with a second from Commissioner Klaver moved to find the vehicle was unique and to grant the waiver request.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Public Hearing

The Chair opened a public hearing regarding the newly proposed MTLC Rules and Procedures Section 119. There were no requests to speak. The Chair closed the public hearing.

Section 119 REVOCATION FOR DISUSE OR DORMANCY

Upon an administrative hearing held before the MTLC and providing notice as provided in Section 105, the MTLC may revoke a vehicle permit issued to a business that provides passenger vehicle for-hire services for the disuse or dormancy of a vehicle permit for a period of six (6) months or longer prior to the MTLC taking action to revoke the permit. This rule shall take effect beginning on June 1, 2025.

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

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Other Business

Director Rooker announced that in 2026, the MTLC would meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 1:00 P.M. in the Sonny West Conference Center of the Howard Office Building at 700 President Ronald Reagan Way.

Director Rooker provided a reminder that the June 2025 MTLC meeting would occur on June 12th to allow for observance of the Juneteenth holiday.

Application Reviews

The Chair requested that Metro Nashville Network cease recording during the applicant background reviews.

The Chair called an application review for ET driver Larry G. Steele Jr., but a company representative was not present. Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to defer.

ACTION: Deferred 4-0

Ismael T. Habib applied for a taxicab driver permit but failed to disclose background information on the application. Doug Trimble, a representative of Yellow Cab, was present. After review of the application, Mr. Trimble withdrew his intent to hire Mr. Habib. The Chair noted that he accessed Davidson County Criminal Court records and Mr. Habib had pending charges bound over the grand jury, which were not disclosed on the application. Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to deny the application.

ACTION: Denied 4-0

Yeison Uribe Escudero applied for an OPVH driver and new company permit for E.B.O. Nashville Transportation LLC but failed to disclose background information on the application. Mr. Escudero addressed the Commission with an English language interpreter. After some discussion, Commissioner Carr with a second from Commissioner Penley moved to approve the applications.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Metro Legal attorney Phylinda Ramsey advised that she communicated with attorney Alex Dickerson and he indicated to her that the request to add Turner Cress as a partner to Party Bus Music City was moot.

Commissioner Penley with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to dismiss the request.

ACTION: Dismissed 4-0

Jeremy Flagg applied for an ET driver permit but failed to disclose background information on the application. Grant Rosenblatt, a representative of Honky Tonk Party Express, was present. After review of the application, Mr. Rosenblatt withdrew his intent to hire Mr. Flagg. Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Penley moved to deny the application.

ACTION: Denied 4-0

Director Rooker contacted Patrick Kludac, a representative of Upstage Party Bus, and he confirmed his intent to hire Larry G. Steele Jr.

Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Rogers moved to rescind the previous motion to defer and to approve the ET driver application for Larry G. Steele Jr.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Joe Holt applied for a wrecker driver permit but failed to disclose background information on the application. Andre Rivers, a representative of Andre’s Towing, was present to confirm his intent to hire Mr. Holt. After some discussion, Commissioner Klaver with a second from Commissioner Penley moved to approve the application.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

Deshaun Brown applied for an OPVH driver permit but failed to disclose background information on the application. A representative of TES Satellite Communications was reached over the phone to confirm his intent to hire Mr. Brown. After some discussion, Commissioner Penley with a second from Commissioner Carr moved to approve the application.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

With no further business, Commissioner Rogers with a second from Commissioner Penley moved to adjourn.

ACTION: Approved 4-0

ATTEST:

APPROVED:

Richard Rooker
Executive Secretary

Pat McNally
Chair

Date