

JOE LOMBARDO  
Governor

TERRY REYNOLDS  
Director

KARL W. ARMSTRONG  
Administrator



STATE OF NEVADA  
DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY  
**TAXICAB AUTHORITY**

2090 East Flamingo Road, Suite 200  
Las Vegas Nevada 89119  
Telephone (702) 668-4000 • Fax (702) 668-4001  
<http://taxi.state.nv.us>

DAN REASER  
Chairman

DONALD SODERBERG  
Vice Chairman

Members  
J.D. DECKER  
RUSTY GRAF  
JAVIER TRUJILLO

MINUTES OF THE AUGUST 16, 2023, BOARD MEETING

**1. Call to Order**

Chairman Dan Reaser called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. at the location of the Nevada Business Center, 3300 West Sahara Avenue, Suite 400, Nevada Room, Las Vegas, Nevada 89102.

**Present from the Nevada Taxicab Authority Board**

Chairman Dan Reaser

Vice Chairman Donald Soderberg

Member J.D. Decker

Member Javier Trujillo

**Members Not Present**

Member Rusty Graf

**Also Present**

Administrator Karl Armstong

Ziwei Zheng, Deputy Attorney General

**2. Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag**

Chairman Dan Reaser led the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

**3. Compliance with Open Meeting Law**

Deputy Attorney General Ziwei Zheng stated that the meeting was in compliance with Open Meeting Law.

**4. Public Comment**

No public comment. Item closed.



Nevada Department of Business & Industry

## **5. Action Item: Approve Board Meeting Minutes from July 20, 2023, Board Meeting**

Chairman Reaser moved to approve the minutes stating we did not have quorum. All Members are in favor of approval. Motion passes and minutes approved. Item closed.

## **6. Industry Discussion**

No comment/discussion by any Industry Members. Item closed.

## **7. Staff Report**

### **A. Administrator's Report**

#### **i. Licensing**

Administrator Armstrong stated that the first department of the Taxicab authority to do a presentation will be the Licensing department which is under the supervision of Curtis Mell, Management Analyst for the Taxicab Authority.

Curtis Mell discussed the front office permitting process along with the stats for 2022 and 2023. The front office is the main providers of customer service to drivers and the public who visit the Taxicab Authority office. Last year there were over 13 million cab rides, over 10,000 people who came into the Taxicab Authority, and over 4000 permits that were issued. Currently in 2023 there are over 4400 permitted drivers and over 800 people come to the Taxicab Authority monthly to interact with the five front office employees. Some topics to talk about is what needs to be done to become a driver, the process itself, the result and then the future going forward. To start on becoming a cab driver, the applicant must have several required items which are a referral from the company wanting to hire or lease them, an acknowledgement or certificate that they have attended a driver's awareness program that the companies put on and their Nevada driver's license and a three-year DMV printout and all 5 pages of their medical examiner certificate, (DOT Medical Report).

Chairman Reaser asked where the DOT medical report comes from and where do they go.

Curtis Mell responded that there is a website that provides a list of physicians where you can get your DOT medical reports. The applicant will take and pass a 20 question English test, run a preliminary background check and once they pass a \$91.25 fee must be paid to process your fingerprints and submit them for the FBI background. A 90-day temporary permit will be issued while we wait for the FBI background to return. When the reports return, our investigator will review them and if passed, you will then return and receive your permanent permit. This permit is good for one year from the start of the process and if it expires you will have to go through this whole process again because expired permits are not renewable. Starting September 1st of 2023, the Taxicab Authority will no longer be doing fingerprints in house and the applicant will be required to have them done at an approved vendor.





All the information is available in our office or on our website. We are working towards updating the forms and applications which will be available as well on our website and by years end and we are hoping to have the ability to be able to submit the applications and required documents online to start the process.

We're also developing a portal to be able to take payments online along with updating our computer system. In summary, the taxi industry is an ever-evolving business.

Chairman Reaser responds to the fingerprinting process stating that this is going to be like the way the gaming controls started.

Curtis Mell stated that hopefully we can get to where we're receiving them in an email type fashion or on an online portal so we can have that information to process without them physically being there and then schedule an appointment for them to come in.

Administrator Armstrong discussed that we're hoping to have applications online so taxicab companies can assist the drivers with the applications. We want to have a partnership with the industry in terms of doing that process which help both the drivers and their comfort level as well as the companies in terms of us being more efficient and being able to process more people and to get more applications done.

Vice Chairman Soderberg asked about the TA English exam being more practical.

Curtis Mell stated that the TA is trying to look at other ways to make it more job related and using verbiage in the driver's day to day job instead of it being more of a comprehensive test.

Member Trujillo asked what the breakdown of the 4000 new and renewed permits was.

Curtis Mell replied that he didn't have the actual number, but he believed last year there was 400 to 500 new applicants so roughly 10 to 12%.

Chairman Reaser asked how many people we average a day coming in for services at the Taxicab Authority.

Curtis Mell replied between 40 to 60 people come through the front office.

Administrator Armstrong discussed that he could begin the process of restaffing where he needs additional enforcement, licensing personnel, dispatchers, and inspectors.

Member Decker stated that this year is a base year and next fiscal year is the budget bill and it's not easy for the Administrator to add new people. Also, not being granted new personnel in the last legislative session except the Deputy Administrator position but it was a conversion and had to go to the legislature to get it. It sounds like you're already intending to ask for people in this 2025 session.



Administrator Armstrong replied yes, and we are thinking of the possibility of adding those people through the Internal Finance Committee because they will allow us to do that too.

**B. Chief Investigator's Report: NONE**

**C. Stats**

Administrator Armstrong discussed the stats for the month of July where there were 1,079,206 trips for the month of July of 2023 compared to 1,121,000 trips for July 2022. We are down but we have been averaging 1.2 million rides per month. We still have an increased average in terms of our employee revenue trip \$20.56 per trip versus \$19.09 and \$20.22. Combined trip comparisons in terms of 2023, we're still ahead of the 2022 year. The number of rides requested by the elderly and disabled went down from the same time in June of 2023 which is 1,076,522 and we hope we are serving the disabled population as best as we can.

Member Trujillo asked do we as an authority track the stats on the Uber and Lyft side.

Administrator Armstrong replied that they are regulated by the NTA and the only time we encounter them is off their app.

Member Trujillo stated he wondered if they've experienced some of the same reductions in a monthly trip as well.

Member Decker stated that safety and convenience citations are down which is a good focus for enforcement. Also, with the gas price fluctuations has there been any changes in the rate.

Administrator Armstrong replies no, not currently.

Member Decker stated we proposed a couple legislative changes, and the Sunset Subcommittee made a recommendation to the legislature on reviewing the Chapter 706 as it pertains to taxis. Did we get anything passed?

Administrator Armstrong replied yes and stated what happened with the 706 review was that it passed the Assembly but died in the Senate. We're still going to go through the process that we need to revise our statutes because they need to be done and the Governor wants it done.

Vice Chairman Soderberg asked where the TA is in regarding recruitment and how many vacant positions are there.





Administrator Armstrong stated the TA is down a dispatcher, inspector, licensing front office and two enforcement personnel.

#### **D. Legal Counsel**

Deputy Attorney General Ziwei Zheng had nothing to report.

#### **E. Future Agenda Items**

Chairman Reaser requested to put on the agenda next month to have a discussion of how we want, what kind of matrix and information we want from staff or industry when we get to the annual rate review so we can give our input and direction as to how we want that information to come to us in the spring so we can get that process well before the March April time period.

Member Decker recommended for the Administrator that this Board nor the Agency is as good as the industry at figuring out what it cost to operate a cab so to make sure that you're using the same data or their data for that presentation.

Chairman Reaser stated that it will also give the industry an opportunity to come to the table and say this is how we think it should be.

#### **8. Public Comment**

Mario Locascio, General Manager, Deluxe Taxicab: Discussed concerns about accidents, English as a second language and concerns about fingerprinting. Mr. Locascio asked with the changes in the fingerprinting process is the TA still going to be issuing the 90-day temporary permits which Administrator Armstrong replied yes, we will.

Member Decker stated that the delay in permit issuing is the FBI being backed up but that most licensing agencies that he's aware of do not issue a temporary permit pending the return of a FBI background result.

Desiree Dante on behalf of Lucky, Western and Nellis Cab asked that being the drivers now must get their own fingerprints, what would the new cost of the permit be.

Curtis Mell replied stating that due to the Taxicab Authority will no longer be doing fingerprinting the cost will be \$40.00.

Desiree Dante also stated to remind everyone another reason trips are down also is due to the F1 paving which is now taking approximately 50 minutes from the airport to the Venetian. There are no open roads.



Chairman Reaser asked if there were any other public comment in the room from the public participating electronically, seeing none, that will conclude the second public comments session which takes us to the next agenda item.

**9. Adjournment (Action)**

Chairman Reaser moved for adjournment. All Members in favor of adjournment. Motion passes. Meeting adjourned.

Approved by:

Dan R. Reaser

Dan Reaser  
Chairman

10/02/2023

Date

Karl W. Armstrong

Karl Armstrong  
Taxicab Authority Administrator

10/2/23

Date

