



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY
TAXICAB AUTHORITY**

MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER 18, 2024, BOARD MEETING

1. Call to Order

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

Board Members Present

Chair Dan Reaser
Vice Chair Donald Soderberg
Member Rusty Graf
Member J.D. Decker
Member Dr. Lawrence Weekly
Joseph Ostunio, Deputy Attorney General

Present from the Taxicab Authority

Todd Park, Administrator
Lona Webb, Attorney

A. Pledge of Allegiance

Member Decker led the Pledge of Allegiance.

B. Compliance with Open Meeting Law

The Chairperson confirmed that the meeting was properly noticed and posted in accordance with Nevada's Open Meeting Law, as verified by the Secretary.

2. Life Saving Award Presentation

The Life Saving Award was presented to Investigator Miller. The Administrator highlighted Miller's heroic actions in saving a life earlier in the year, when he administered Narcan to an unconscious individual in distress, reviving the person. The board and the audience expressed appreciation for his actions.

3. Public Comment

No public comment. Item closed.

4. Action Item: Approve Board Meeting Minutes from November 20, 2024

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice Chair Soderberg and seconded by Member Graf. The voting proceeded with members in favor, except for Member Decker, who abstained.

5. Industry Discussion (For Discussion Only)

No industry discussion. Item closed.

6. Discussion re Board initiated timing and process of annual review and rates pursuant to NRS 706.8819, NRS 706.8824 and NAC 706.471 (for Discussion and Possible Action)

Administrator Park suggested that the review should occur in the first quarter of each year beginning in 2025.

The board agreed to schedule the annual rate review for March 2025.

Motion passed unanimously.

7. Continued Public Hearing—Nevada Taxicab Authority Board initiated proposed future special events surcharges to modify taxi rates for services provided during special events, and proposed designation of special events. (For Discussion and Possible Action)

The board continued the ongoing discussion of a standing order for proposed surcharges for taxi services during special events in 2025. A draft order was provided by the Administrator for Board discussion. The Administrator highlighted specific provisions and explained challenges with traffic and pick-ups at events like Formula 1 (F1) and Electronic Daisy Carnival (EDC).

Member Decker questioned the current list of special events in the draft order which were designated for a rate surcharge. He stated that the purpose of the surcharge is to incent drivers to (i) work for certificate holders during specific special events that pose obstacles to permitted drivers accepting shifts; or (ii) not driving for TNC for better compensation, noting:

- Events like the EDC and F1 have specific geographic and traffic-related challenges, which align with this purpose.
- Annual predictable events such as New Year's Eve in Las Vegas, the NAB Show, the SHOT/World of Concrete Show, and CES which are annual events were not part of the previous pilot surcharge programs.
- The inclusion of venues like "The Sphere" was also questioned noting that justification for its addition had not been clearly provided during the current or prior meetings.

Chair Reaser clarified that in Member Decker's absence at the previous monthly meeting, Administrator Park recommended that the Board consider special event surcharges for three specific venues -- the Sphere, Allegiant Stadium and T-Mobile -- that experience very large visitor attendance for a concert or sporting event that cause the same types of issues for certificate holders in incenting permitted driver work force participation.

Member Weekly proposed inviting Patrick Garvey, head of Southern Nevada Transportation, to attend a future meeting to discuss possible solutions regarding venue surcharges and transportation issues. He also suggested inviting Virginia Valentine, President of the Nevada Resorts Association, to provide insight from the resort industry and help us to figure out how we can remedy this problem.

The Board discussed the inclusion of New Years Eve in Las Vegas based on the same traffic disruption and roadway access problems exist as do with F1.

The Administrator indicated that the inclusion of CES, SHOT/World of Concrete Show, NAB and SEMA in the draft order was based on comments from certificate holders. Chair Reaser reminded the Board that during the Independent Cab CPCN case, testimony and other evidence was received on the challenges of taxicab service at major conventions and shows.

Chair Reaser recommended that the Board not approve the draft order, but instead consider two separate orders. The first order would be the 2024-2025 annual standing order for special events and would only apply to New Year's Eve for both 2024 and 2025, and include both the EDC and F1 events. Based on the fact that no pilot program had been conducted related to conventions, he suggested only a pilot program should be considered for special event surcharges at the CES and SHOT/World of Concrete Show events scheduled in January 2025, followed with a statistical evaluation as had been conducted with other pilot programs. Finally, Chair Reaser suggested that surcharges for certain venues be excluded from the orders and evaluated further consistent with member Weekly's proposal.

Vice Chair Soderberg moved to approve a 2024-2025 annual standing order for special events applicable to New Year's Eve for both 2024 and 2025, the EDC and F1 events, and subject to the other general terms provided in the draft order prepared by the Administrator. The motion was seconded by Member Graf. *The motion passed.*

Vice Chair Soderberg moved to approve a second order for a pilot program that would authorize a special event surcharge on the January 2025 CES and SHOT/World of Concrete Show subject to the other general terms provided in the draft order prepared by the Administrator, including the requirement that certificate holders record and submit statistics reported back to the board at the March meeting to evaluate its success and effectiveness. The motion was seconded by Member Graf. *The motion passed.*

This agenda item was subsequently reopened at the suggestion of Chair Reaser based on information provided by the Administrator related to complaints received during administration of the special event surcharge for F1 in November 2024. Chair Reaser recommended that the Board consider an amendment to the special event surcharge orders imposing a requirement that certificate holders place a surcharge notice on the back of the seats in taxis during special events in an effort to address complaints from passengers on the adequacy of disclosure by certificate holders of special event surcharges. This amendment would ensure better visibility of surcharge notices.

Vice Chair Soderberg moved to amend the orders to include back-of-seat signage. The motion was seconded by Member Graf. *Motion passed. Item closed.*

8. Review and consideration of Advisory Opinion pursuant to Application for Relief by Members of the Livery Operators Association of Las Vegas submitted in accordance with Nevada Administrative Code 706.980. (For Discussion and Possible Action)

Chair Reaser facilitated a discussion and proposed a motion to accept the withdrawal of the advisory opinion application. The motion was moved by Member Decker and seconded by Vice Chair Soderberg.

Motion passed. Item closed.

9. Staff Report (For Discussion Only)

A. Administrator's Report

- Administrator discussed the recent F1 event and highlighted some challenges the agency faced, including 22 documented complaints, particularly related to the surcharge.

B. Enforcement/Compliance Report

- Administrator introduced Michelle Campbell, who recently joined the agency a few weeks ago. Michelle is currently in field training and comes to the agency with extensive experience, having previously worked with the Nevada Gaming Control Board.

C. Statistics Review

- Monthly and Year-to-Date Statistics: December's trip numbers were lower than expected, not breaking the million-ride mark.
- Revenue Comparison: Year-over-year revenue showed a 5.68% decrease, while lease revenue remained stable.
- Medallions and Decals: There were no changes in the number of medallions. The decal count stands at 1,743.
- Citations and Impounds: The agency issued 89 citations for 99 violations over the past month, along with 10 impounds, which was notably higher than usual.
- Administrator shared a pie chart showing a comparison of impounds from 2016 (29) to 2024 (62). While there was a drop in 2023 due to staff shortages (43 impounds), the agency is now operating with more staff and expects to match or exceed past numbers.
- Training and Scheduling Updates: Administrator mentioned that a schedule change was set to take place in January, aimed at dedicating more resources to the agency's UPT (Undercover Patrol Team) and pilot program.
- Accidents and Properties: Accidents remained steady, typically ranging between 300 and 350 per year. Property violations also continued to be a large number, with no significant changes from previous months.
- Cab Numbers: Administrator announced that the agency has now surpassed 3,100 cabs in service, reaching a total of 3,106. This represents a positive increase in the number of vehicles available for service.

Vice Chair Soderberg raised a question regarding impounds, noting that the previous director and legal counsel had explained that for some individuals, impounding and fees are merely a cost of doing business. These individuals show up with the cash because they are familiar with the process and find the fines not to be a deterrent.

Administrator agreed to discuss the matter further, noting that implementation would need coordination and a review of the necessary legalities.

D. Legal Counsel
No discussion

E. Future Agenda Items
No discussion

10. Public Comment

Public comment was provided by Mario Locascio, General Manager, Deluxe Taxi

Mr. Locascio explained that even though there's still heavy traffic on the I-15 and the Strip, taxi drivers are having a hard time making money, which led to the certificate holders requesting a surcharge, especially for New Year's Eve. He also discussed the problem of short trips, where drivers may not take rides if the fare isn't worth the time, especially during big events like the F1 Grand Prix or CES. The surcharge is needed to encourage drivers to work for the taxi companies instead of switching to TNCs which often pay better during peak times. Taxi companies want to keep drivers motivated by offering surcharges, making sure they cover important venues like the Convention Center, EDC, and the Sphere.

Mario Locascio supported the surcharge system being tested as a pilot program for CES and other conventions to evaluate whether the surcharge is effective and whether it helps address the challenges faced by taxi services during these major events. There was a suggestion that if the surcharge proves problematic, adjustments could be made for future conventions, with the possibility of discontinuing it entirely.

No further public comment
Item closed

11. Adjournment (Action)

Chair Reaser request concurrence for adjournment.
Members in favor of adjournment. Motion passes.

By the Nevada Taxicab Authority Board,


Dan Reaser, Chair

Dated: February 19, 2025
Las Vegas, Nevada