



**Mobility Committee
MINUTES**

**REGULAR MEETING
April 1, 2015**

The Mobility Committee convened in a regular meeting on April 1, 2015 in Austin, Texas.

Chair Ann Kitchen called the committee Meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.

Committee Members in Attendance:

Chair Ann Kitchen
Vice Chair Sheri Gallo
Council Member Delia Garza
Council Member Don Zimmerman

Staff in Attendance:

1. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes from the 3/25/15 meeting were approved on Commissioner Zimmerman's motion; Commissioner Garza second; the motion passed on a 4/0 vote.

Ayes:	Kitchen, Gallo, Garza, Zimmerman
Nays:	None
Abstain:	None
Absent:	None

2. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION: GENERAL

Joseph Iley, Pedicab, Former Taxicab driver: Demanded equal regulations for taxicab operators and TNC drivers

David King, Resident: Sidewalk program, consider taking a look at program to make adjustments. In Zilker neighborhood, there is a need for sidewalks. See if program has intended effects

Chris Nielsen, Electric Cab: Concerned about TNC regulations.

John Woodley, Resident/ADA Advocate: Concerned about not being able to talk about funding item; also concerned about accessibility on sidewalks throughout Austin.

Sinclair Black, Resident: Concerned about street closures, specifically on South 1st; Black says he has clients who own property on S. 1st and says his clients are unsure of access to their businesses, but he's sure they're unsafe; Black recommended alternative access routes.

STAFF BRIEFINGS

3. Transportation funding briefing – overview and discussion of existing and potential funding for mobility projects.

Presenters: Mike Trimble, Officer, Capital Planning Office; Rob Spillar, Director, Austin Transportation; Howard Lazarus, Director; Public Works; Greg Canally, Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Finance

Funding source dependent on project; discussed interagency partnerships and the need for all agencies to come together and coordinate on regional mobility network; outlined grant opportunities; pass through financing with TXDOT; “infrastructure bank”; transportation user fees; quarter cent funding; debt financing.

4. Ground transportation follow-up briefing – comparison of regulatory framework for transportation network companies, taxis, and other ground transportation services.

Presenter: Carlton Thomas, Austin Transportation

Outlined ground transportation regulatory requirements comparison grid.

DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION

5. Consider for recommendation an ordinance amending City Code Chapter 13-2 relating to taxi services to revise requirements.
 - a. Chair Kitchen referred making a recommendation on this item to the 4.8.15 mobility meeting.
6. Consider proposed amendments to taxicab franchise renewal.
 - a. Chair Kitchen referred making a recommendation on this item to the 4.8.15 mobility meeting.

Public Comment

Ed Kargbo, Yellow Cab (invited speaker): Committee needs to take into consideration drivers and passengers; opposed to deregulation of taxicab services; stated regulation helps ensure equal accessibility; encouraged committee to look at all forms of ground transportation; expressed concerns over some of staff's TNC recommendations.

Dave Passmore, Taxi Driver's Association of Austin (invited speaker): Outlined membership and makeup of organization; elaborated loss of income for taxi drivers and economic impact;

Antonio Rojas, speaker on behalf of Dave Passmore: Urged committee to consider a driver co-op.

Merga Gameda, speaker on behalf of Dave Passmore: Urged committee to consider a driver co-op.

David Woody, ADAPT of Texas (invited speaker): Outlined efforts to improve taxicab accessibility; generally supportive of staff taxi recommendations; emphasized that even with technology like a smart phone, he's not able to get a ride as a passenger in a wheelchair.

Becky Moeller, President, Texas AFL/CIO: Encouraged committee not to rush to a decision.

Soloman Kassa, President of Lone Star Taxicab: Discussed his company's services in relation to accessibility, credit card use; concerned about "unfair competition" from TNCs; concerned about staff recommendation to increase handicap accessibility requirement.

Joan Khabele, Austin Cab Company: Suggested mobility committee not rush to a decision; generally supports staff recommendation; emphasized the importance of regulation.

Kris Bailey, Electric Low-Speed Vehicles: Concerned about TNC regulations vs. taxicab regulations; suggested committee work directly with companies as opposed to City staff.

Michael Elder: Discussed universal dispatch, limits on terminal fees; wants better customer service from taxicab companies;

Hannah Rittering, Yellow Cab: Concerned about regulations between TNCs and taxicab companies.

Joseph Ily, Pedicab Driver: Concerned about regulations between TNCs and taxicab companies; legacy permits.

Stephanie Tren, Taxi Drivers Association: Concerned about franchise renewals; suggested a temporary 6-month renewal.

Angelo Atem, Taxicab Driver: Concerned about franchise renewals; suggested a temporary 6-month renewal.

FUTURE ITEMS

7. Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization (CAMPO) Briefing and Public Comment – Regional Transportation Plan Amendment
8. Capital Area Metropolitan Planning Organization Briefing with Committee Action – City of Austin Bike/PED Projects Grant Submittals

7. ADJOURN

Chair Ann Kitchen adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m. without objection.