MINUTES
April 28, 2023
10:00 AM

CONVENED

The Board of Transportation Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, April 28, 2023 at 10:02 AM in Los Angeles, CA.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM NO. 1 – WELCOME

President Eisenberg called the meeting to order and welcomed all those present noting that those wishing to testify before the Board must fill out a speaker's form. He informed the audience that if anyone is a registered lobbyist, City ordinance requires that it should be indicated on the speaker's form.

ITEM NO. 2 – ROLL CALL

Present: Commissioners Cris Liban, Eric Eisenberg, Douglas Tohom, and Selika Talbott; Jay Kim, Assistant General Manager (AGM); and Michael Nagle, Deputy City Attorney (DCA)

Arrived after roll call: Commissioner Donna Choi
Absent: Commissioners Jazmin Ortega and John Ly

ITEM NO. 3 - MINUTES

Commissioner Liban moved, seconded by Commissioner Tohom to approve the March 9, 2023 Minutes. Minutes was approved. Commissioner Talbott abstained.

ITEM NO. 4 – COMMISSION BUSINESS

President Eisenberg welcomed and introduced the newly appointed Commissioner Selika Talbott.

Commissioner Talbott briefly stated that she was appreciative to be present and to participate in the process.
ITEM NO. 5 – COMMUNICATIONS

President Eisenberg stated and shared some communications he received and asked AGM Kim to follow up with staff: 1) Captain Chris Waters, LAPD, requesting red curb extension at Franklin Avenue; and 2) LAPD requesting more OPG truck drivers available after April 28 on Riverside Drive in Los Feliz or Silver Lake during midnight hours.

ITEM NO. 6 – GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

AGM Kim reported that Interim General Manager Connie Llanos would like an introductory meet & greet with the Commissioners. Small group meetings with less than a quorum will be scheduled.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL COMMENT

No comments provided.

PUBLIC FORUM

There were public comments taken.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

ITEM NO. 7 – Parking Facility Rate Change Notification

Ken Husting, Pr. Transportation Engineer – Parking Management, introduced Sontue Beacham who will present the item.

Sontue Beacham, Sr. Management Analyst, presented the item related to the Mangrove Lot near Little Tokyo.

Comments, questions, and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Eisenberg thanked staff for hearing the Commissioner’s concerns raised at the February meeting and for the report that staff will include in the process, future notification and posted signage to allow the public the opportunity to provide input to future parking rate increases.
- Commissioner Choi echoed Commissioner Eisenberg’s comments and thanked staff for a great presentation.
- Commissioner Liban echoed Commissioners Eisenberg and Choi’s comments and shared an information about a County lot where the posted sign was not visible and frequent enough and wanted to make sure that the 14-day sign notice will be visible and frequent enough to the public.
- Commissioner Tohom echoed Commissioner Eisenberg’s comments and wanted clarification on the exact location where signs will be posted, at pay stations or lot entrances.
- Ms. Beacham explained where the sign for this particular lot will be posted and the same option will be given for future lots.
CONSENT ITEM

ITEM NO. 8 – Recommend Approval of the Application of GT Med Trans LLC for Two Unrestricted Non-Ambulatory Passenger Vehicle Permits

Commissioner Eisenberg moved, seconded by Commissioner Choi to approve Item No. 8. Unanimously APPROVED.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM NO. 9 – Recommend Amendments to Board Order 598

Irene Sae Koo, Sr. Management Analyst, presented the report.

Question and answers were provided.
- Commissioner Liban asked if there will be amendments to the OSPs as well and if so, how will those be addressed.
- Patricia Barker, Sr. Transportation Investigator, stated that “yes” the OSPs will have changes also until such time the industry levels out especially with the EMT issue. She added that when this matter first came up, she did a lot of research and shared the welfare’s and institution’s code and the California Code of Regulations with regards to gurney and litter vans.
- Commissioner Eisenberg asked if there will be no loss in public safety when eliminating the EMT requirement.
- Sr. Transportation Investigator Barker stated that she will hold forth on this and added that they have not had any recorded instances where a patient was harmed or inconvenienced for the lack of an EMT in a litter or gurney van for many years and explained why she did not want to say 100% that it is not going to have an impact on the patient.
- Commissioner Choi mentioned a previous ad hoc committee on permitting and asked if this would be helpful in the permitting process and if it is something that the industry is asking for.
- Sr. Management Analyst Sae Koo, stated that she thought this is not only the industry is asking for and shared the difficulties encountered when staff tried to assist to complete the process.
- Commissioner Talbott asked if there were any industry associations that had concerns about the amendments.
- Sr. Transportation Barker responded that it was Marat Sheynkman’s inquiry that started the revision for 598 and added that he is from the California Medical Transportation Association and present at the meeting.
- Commissioner Eisenberg asked to confirm if this has full staff support and if it was staff’s recommendation that the Board approve it.
- Sr. Management Analyst Sae Koo confirmed that Commissioner Eisenberg’s statement was correct.
- Commissioner Liban commented that the amendments are great but raised his concerns whether these amendments are going to jeopardize the safety and welfare of the patients we are serving.
• Commissioner Eisenberg shared that he bought into the idea that this will not be serving the same patients that it did prior, and that the patients that require the EMT services will now be traveling by ambulance.
• Sr. Transportation Investigator Barker added that in an ambulance, you must have two EMTs minimum and one is always in the back monitoring the patient. She pointed out that if the industry becomes non-supportive, companies will start to drop out, which will result in less services for those people who need it.
• Commissioner Talbott shared her concerns about the language that require someone in the back of an ambulance to ensure that there is still someone in the back, which was not included in the amendments.
• Commissioner Tohom suggested that if the item was approved, if staff could provide an update in a year or so on the amendments to see if the changes are actually helping.
• Commissioner Eisenberg added that he would like to include the following to the statistics: 1) unfortunate incidents that happen to patients because there was not an EMT available; and 2) the increased number of vehicles that are on the road benefitting from this.
• Commissioner Choi pointed out the language referenced on page 1, section b, #8 of the report “Also adding that the crew member designated as the attendant shall remain in the back patient compartment at all times while transporting any gurney patient” and asked Commissioner Talbott if that was the language she was referring to at earlier statement.
• Commissioner Talbott responded that she wanted to make sure that language was included.
• Sr. Transportation Investigator Barker concluded that if in the future the EMT field stabilizes, staff may want to revisit this Board report and add it back in depending on many variable factors including whether or not the patients received the care they needed in the back of the gurney or litter van.
• Deputy City Attorney Michael Nagle reminded the Commissioners that because this is an amendment to a Board Order, it will have to be published in a newspaper pursuant to the Administrative Code and would have to conduct a hearing after it has been published and that there will be another public hearing on this item.

Commissioner Choi moved, seconded by Commissioner Liban to approve Item No. 9. Unanimously APPROVED.

ADJOURNMENT – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.7

With no further business to come before the Board, Commissioner Eisenberg moved, seconded by Commissioner Talbott to adjourn the meeting. Unanimously APPROVED.

The meeting adjourned at 10:40 AM.