

CRIS LIBAN
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SELIKA TALBOTT
VICE PRESIDENT

DOUGLAS TOHOM
VIGGEN DAVIDIAN
RAYMOND REGALADO
DAVID MARQUEZ
VACANT

JASMIN SAN LUIS
ACTING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

100 S. MAIN STREET, 10th FLOOR
LOS ANGELES, CA 90012

LAURA RUBIO-CORNEJO
GENERAL MANAGER

3

MINUTES
February 13, 2025
10:00 AM

CONVENED

The Board of Transportation Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, February 13, 2025 at 10:00 AM in Los Angeles, CA.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM NO. 1 – WELCOME

Vice President Talbott 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 Douglas Tohom, Selika Talbott, Vigen Davidian, Raymond Regalado, and David Marquez; Laura Rubio-Cornejo, General Manager (GM); and Michael Nagle, Deputy City Attorney (DCA) and Kevin Dufner, Deputy City Attorney (DCA)

Absent: Commissioner Cris Liban

ITEM NO. 3 - MINUTES

Commissioner Davidian moved, seconded by Commissioner Tohom to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2024. Unanimously APPROVED.

Commissioner Davidian moved, seconded by Commissioner Tohom to approve the Minutes of December 12, 2024. Unanimously APPROVED.

ITEM NO. 4 – COMMISSION BUSINESS

No Commission business reported.

ITEM NO. 5 – COMMUNICATIONS

No communication reported.

ITEM NO. 6 – GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

GM Rubio-Cornejo provided a thorough report on the Department’s response and participation as a City, first to the Palisades fire emergency evacuation efforts, and now to the transition of rebuilding. She mentioned that while the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) was on the frontlines, the response was multi-departmental, unified, and collective. She shared the following detailed information:

- City’s action resulted in the evacuation of 30,000 residence and 10,000 homes protected.
- Timeline of LADOT’s emergency crew efforts within the first 24-hours of the fire: reset and started communications to over 1,000 signals including signals in the evacuated areas; prepared to replace traffic signal systems at 53 locations within the Palisades impacted area; engineered planned and implemented evacuation routes, re-entry escort ques, and road closures using cones, signs, barricades, traffic signal timing, and traffic officer resources; implemented multiple street closures to support evacuation; developed traffic management plans to support two re-entry check points; five pallets (1200) of traffic cones deployed; five pallets (250) of barricades to support traffic plans within the evacuated zone; 39 Department engineers reassigned to support the emergency traffic operation efforts; 45 traffic officers deployed daily to direct traffic at key evacuation intersections in the course of three weeks and traffic officers continue to support as needed; up to date, traffic officers have been deployed to help with the most recent evacuation order; transit team initiated daily shuttles to transport evacuees to shelters, hotels, and other key destinations including the disaster recovery center and continues to operate those shuttles on a daily basis; the Department’s Commercial Rideshare Mobility team established a geo fence perimeter around the evacuated areas to prevent looting activities; implemented measures for relief; transit team delayed the implementation of fare collection by several weeks; Sylmar DASH is fare free until further notice; parking enforcement relaxed in the evacuated areas with exception to safety-related violations; almost 300 parking meters removed from the Palisades area; identified a series of actions to streamline permit reviews and enhance coordination in efforts to expedite rebuilding in response to the Mayor’s Emergency Order; and LADOT is represented by the Transportation Planning and Development Services team providing staff at the Los Angeles one-stop rebuilding center which will be open and fully staffed seven days a week including holidays.
- Continue to coordinate with the US Army Corp of Engineers as phase two is initiated and LADOT will continue to be involved as needed throughout the rebuilding effort.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

No comments.

PUBLIC FORUM

No comments.

INFORMATIONAL ITEM

ITEM NO. 7 – Transit Bus Safety Measures Update

Brian Lee, Chief of Transit Programs, provided an updated report on the transit bus driver safety measures:

- Purchasing new driver barriers similar to one Metro uses for further driver protection.
- On-board supervisors on the bus for problematic areas throughout the City to help support drivers.
- Upgraded panic button on the bus where it alerts the dispatch immediately for awareness of any problems that might be on the bus.
- Upgrade on-board cameras to view real time to see what is going on if a driver calls for some type of incident.
- Training drivers on customer service to help de-escalate problems when issues occur on the bus.
- Coordinating with Los Angeles Police Department (LAPD) to create a new MOU - looking at unarmed response on buses as ambassadors, and have them look at problem areas such as layovers or problem routes where there are issues.

Question and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Tohom asked if there has been any uptick of conflicts risen from the resumption of fare collection.
- Mr. Lee confirmed no conflict at this time and added that with the grace period, it will help for a month or so; and we are enforcing fares and giving a month notice that fares are here for those who are not aware.
- Commissioner Tohom asked for the expected timeline to get the driver barriers installed on all the buses.
- Mr. Lee stated that they are working on a contract with the same vendor that Metro uses and once that is finalized, installation is expected in the summer.
- Commissioner Talbott asked if the panic button went directly into dispatch or also into law enforcement.
- Mr. Lee explained why it will only go to dispatch and added that when appropriate, a call will be made to LAPD.

ITEM NO. 8 – TAVIS Update

Jarvis Murray, Commercial Rideshare Mobility Administrator, explained the Department's Taxicab Ambulance Vehicle Information System (TAVIS) and shared the following information:

- Its function (repository for maintaining all LADOT permits for all modes)
- Data on the number of taxi drivers, DASH drivers, ambulance and attendants, and number of vehicles including taxis and non-taxis

- The scooter program where LADOT manage all the companies, any invoicing through that program
- Why TAVIS was created which began in 2017 - to eliminate long office lines for permitting and create a system to allow for paperless office-type system
- Learning how to do things online, TAVIS began being stretched during COVID
- It is the current system and it does what it needs to do but not a perfect system
- Working through many of the bugs and try to manage the maintenance and operations and conduct any updates needed
- The future of the system is that LADOT is going to create it in-house by building it internally from ground up since we now have the capacity and the know how to do that kind of work but will likely take another year to complete the project.

Question and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Marquez stated how the Commission expects to get an update on the progress of TAVIS.
- Mr. Murray acknowledged the request and will provide an update.
- Commissioner Davidian asked how the robot delivery is regulated, how many are there, and any areas in the City they are limited to.
- Mr. Murray confirmed that robot delivery is regulated by his group with full sets of rules and regulations for them and talked about the two companies: 1) COCO has been around for a little while with approximately 50 devices on the right-of-way; and 2) Serve is just getting started primarily in the Hollywood and Downtown areas. He discussed how they are working to connect the two companies into our Mobility Data Specification, a real-time monitoring system, and that Serve will likely have 100 devices on the right-of-way once Serve completely gets in; how they will be allowed to expand once fully integrated; the current rule and how the system works and the locations where they are mostly seen – Sawtelle, Hollywood, and Downtown areas; described how they operate semi-autonomously; and concluded that they are working towards a higher level of autonomy.
- Commissioner Davidian asked if there has been reports of incidents.
- Mr. Murray discussed how they have not had many; can report any issues through 311; and have a team that monitors. He shared that the biggest incident was when a driverless car hit the robot in the intersection, it happened twice with no damage to the robot, and have not had any incidents reported with people that he is aware of.
- Commissioner Regalado asked to confirm that the driverless automobiles are not regulated and overseen by the City.
- Mr. Jarvis confirmed Commissioner Regalado's statement was correct and explained the two-tier regulation - DMV manages testing, and the CPUC manages passenger service.
- Commissioner Regalado asked how that integrate into the normal flow of traffic in Los Angeles where there are driverless autos and does the Department have any oversight.
- Mr. Murray shared that LADOT technically do not have oversight and discussed having reached out to companies and have conversations with Waymo, the primary one in Los Angeles; there are approximately 30 companies currently testing in California; and working to get some level of control.
- Commissioner Tohom asked what the process is to report a broken device.

- Mr. Murray explained the process - submit report to 311; they are given a two-hour window to clear it up; and we try to audit what we do see in the 311 system to make sure it is being cleaned up.
- Commissioner Tohom asked if there is any conversation of upgrading TAVIS or getting a new system.
- Mr. Murray reiterated that LADOT is looking to build the system from ground up but internally, and shared that one of the challenges to TAVIS is the cost and the City in deficit.
- Commissioner Talbott asked, with respect to TAVIS, what his biggest obstacle is today, internally, not the public facing part.
- Mr. Murray explained the biggest challenge they have internally as follows: when changes or upgrades are needed, it is very difficult to do because it is built in a setup-kind of rules within the system, and if we wanted to make changes to those rules, it costs and it is a challenge to keep paying for those costs.
- Commissioner Talbott asked if there is a phone number for the public to call when they are having an issue with TAVIS.
- Mr. Murray clarified that if referring to the industry itself and not the public, then yes there is a phone number; and they do reach out regularly and sometimes it can be resolved in minutes or sometimes a week or two depending on the issue, and for the most part, staff is able to manage.

CONSENT ITEM

ITEM NO. 9 – Recommend Approval of KNB Transportation Inc for Two Unrestricted Non-Ambulatory Passenger Vehicle Permits

ITEM NO. 10 – Recommend Approval of Pacific Elite Care Services LLC for Two Unrestricted Non-Ambulatory Passenger Vehicle Permits

Commissioner Tohom moved, seconded by Commissioner Davidian to approve Items No. 9 and 10. Unanimously APPROVED.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM NO. 11 – Amendment of the Parking Restriction in Preferential Parking District No. 3 in the Reseda Area of Council District 4

Felix Valde, Management Analyst of Permit Parking Division, presented the report.

Questions and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Davidian asked to clarify if Garden Grove is being added to the current district.
- Mr. Valde replied that Garden Grove was already within the district and they just wanted the extra restriction.
- Commissioner Davidian asked if there was no concern that the segment of Cantara between Wynne and Garden Grove is non-contiguous with this and there was no concern about doing that as well.

- Mr. Valde reported that there was no concern and it was taken into consideration when the Councilmember submitted the request letter.
- Commissioner Tohom pointed out how this area is split between Council Districts 4 and 12 and there will be parking restrictions on the south side, and asked the following questions: 1) if people would park on the north side now being in Council District (CD) 12 with the park area; 2) would that expand this parking district; and 3) has there been any conversation with CD 12 on what parking patterns might change.
- Mr. Valde stated that one thing to take into consideration is that Parking District 3 has been established since 1982 and have not had any issues until this time when this restriction they want added will address the specific issues in the area right now. He added that this is something both Councilmembers can bring up if it does become a problem and it should have been addressed years ago.

Commissioner Davidian moved, seconded by Commissioner Tohom to approve Item No. 11. Unanimously APPROVED.

ITEM NO. 12 – Final Approval of Board Order 611 re: 2024-25 Private Ambulance Service Rate Adjustment and Adoption of New Methodology for Future Adjustments

Jarvis Murray, Commercial Rideshare Mobility Administrator, presented the report.

Public comments were taken.

Questions and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Talbott acknowledged Mr. Murray and his team for addressing what the County and the City of LA is doing and for taking a good look at this and addressing the issue.
- Commissioner Tohom asked for the timeline when the rates will become effective once the Board and Council approves.
- DCA Nagle explained the process - it has to be published in the newspaper for 21 days and the rates will be effective after Council approves.

Commissioner Tohom moved, seconded by Commissioner Talbott to approve Item No. 12. Unanimously APPROVED.

Commissioner Tohom moved, seconded by Commissioner Talbott to enter into Executive Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ITEM NO. 13 – Appeal of Austin Bryce Pike Concerning the Department's May 24, 2024, Denial of His Application for a New Private Ambulance Attendant Permit, Pursuant to Board Order 600, Rule D2 - Denial

ITEM NO. 14 – Appeal of Luis Miguel Cardenas Concerning the Department's October 16, 2024, Denial of His Application for a New Driver Permit, Per Board Order 600, Rule D1 – Permanent Disqualification

Commissioner Davidian moved, seconded by Commissioner Tohom to return to General Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

DCA Dufner reported that as to Items 13 and 14 in Executive Session, both appeals were granted.

ADJOURNMENT – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.7

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.



