

**BOARD OF TRANSPORTATION
COMMISSIONERS**

CRIS LIBAN
PRESIDENT

DOUGLAS TOHOM
VICE PRESIDENT

VIGGEN DAVIDIAN
RAYMOND REGALADO
DAVID MARQUEZ
JUAN SOLORIO JR
VACANT

JASMIN SAN LUIS
ACTING COMMISSION EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

CITY OF LOS ANGELES
CALIFORNIA



KAREN BASS
MAYOR

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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

LAURA RUBIO-CORNEJO
GENERAL MANAGER

3

MINUTES
October 9, 2025
10:00 AM

CONVENED

The Board of Transportation Commissioners convened a regular meeting on Thursday, October 9, 2025 at 10:00 AM in Los Angeles, CA.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

ITEM NO. 1 – WELCOME

President Liban 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, Cris Liban, Vigen Davidian, Raymond Regalado, David Marquez, and Juan Solorio; Ken Husting, Principal Transportation Engineer; Deputy City Attorney (DCA) Michael Nagle

ITEM NO. 3 - MINUTES

Commissioner Davidian moved, seconded by Commissioner Tohom to approve Minutes of September 11, 2025 and September 23, 2025. Minutes APPROVED. Commissioners Liban and Solorio abstained due to their absence at those meetings.

ITEM NO. 4 – COMMISSION BUSINESS

Commissioner Liban acknowledged the Hispanic Heritage and Filipino History Month, and recognized and saluted all the Latino and Filipino American members of the Department for their job contribution.

ITEM NO. 5 – COMMUNICATIONS

None

Commissioner Liban announced that some Commissioners will need to leave early and may have to move items around to ensure there is still a quorum for the action items to be voted on.

ITEM NO. 6 – GENERAL MANAGER’S REPORT

Mr. Ken Husting presented the report on behalf of AGM Tomas Carranza. He reiterated AGM Carranza’s overview of the City’s role in planning and providing transportation services and infrastructure to accommodate the Olympic Games (Games), as some Commissioners were absent during the previous meeting.

- 2028 Games will take place over several weeks, drawing an estimated 5M visitors over 28 days.
- The City of LA hosted the Games in 1932 and 1984, but this will be the first time the City hosts the Paralympic Games.
- Venues throughout the City of LA include: Sepulveda Basin in San Fernando Valley, Downtown LA – Crypto Arena and Convention Center, South LA Exposition Park, Pacific Palisades Riviera Country Club, Venice Beach, Dodger Stadium, and Port of LA; Olympic Village for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games will be located at UCLA; and other venues in surrounding Cities are Inglewood, Carson, Pasadena, and Long Beach.
- Transportation for spectators to get to venues across the region, and ensuring residents could get in and out, is a major challenge that requires close coordination between regional agencies.
- In the last few years, have been in collaboration with partner Cities, Metro, Caltrans, and LA 28.
- A great opportunity for the City to deliver a comprehensive multimodal transportation system.
- LA 28 agency is largely focused on the operations of the venues and providing consistent travel for athletes and officials.
- Metro, the regional lead in LA County for the Games, work closely with the Games Mobility Executive (GME); GME includes the Mayor’s Office, LA 28, Caltrans, Metrolink, SCAG, and City of LA to work together to develop the mobility and transportation plan for the Games; GME was formed to advance a unified comprehensive regional planning effort for the Games and serves as a convening force to land opportunities to seek grant funding and to support infrastructure improvements that will benefit the City not just for the Games but beyond the Games; through the GME, LADOT plays a critical role in developing mobility hubs, supporting the Games route network, Games enhanced transit system, wayfinding signage, first/last mile infrastructure, and supporting Metro in advancing their Bus Only Lane Program and continue the expansion of their rail system.
- Mr. Husting added that AGM Carranza will provide more details at future meetings. He mentioned that LADOT is no stranger to managing large events; the Department manages over a thousand events per year; deal with emergencies; and the City did not have a rail network back in 1984, but now it does and looking forward to show off that rail network at these Games.

Additionally, Mr. Husting provided an update on the start of the City's budget season and its timeline as follows:

- LADOT's budget material submission is November 21st.
- Staff is putting together a request for executive management review to see what rises to the top, and those will be submitted to the Mayor's Office for consideration.
- Mayor's Office releases the Proposed Budget on April 2026 and the Council will approve the Revised Budget in late May or early June.
- Awaiting for this year's upcoming outlook in the first Financial Status Report to get an idea of what financial shape the City is going into the upcoming fiscal year.
- LADOT is currently dealing with the reduced budget given last year; managed to save laying off staff from full time positions but underfunded when it came to overtime; budgeted for \$17.5M in overtime and projected overtime is \$17.4M; the Department is taking drastic measures to reduce the expenditure of overtime.

Questions and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Davidian asked if Metro will be in charge of the public communication, LADOT's role in disseminating information, and when that would start.
- Mr. Husting discussed how Metro is the regional lead with the transportation plans and expect they would have the lead role for public communication regarding transportation, and LADOT will play a support role to help implement and provide input where the impacts would be in the City streets when it comes to getting to different venues. He stated that he does not have information on when public communication will start, but AGM Carranza may have that information for the next meeting.
- With the upcoming World Cup next year, Commissioner Tohom asked what are being tested right now that would be implemented for the Olympics.
- Mr. Husting stated that he is not familiar with the current events related to the FIFA World Cup and offered to report back or ask AGM Carranza to address the question.
- Commissioner Liban commented on Metro's Mega Play Book, described the great reviews it received, and hoped that it could be helpful for the Department as well.

NEIGHBORHOOD COUNCIL

None

PUBLIC FORUM

Yes

CONSENT ITEM

ITEM NO. 7 - Recommend Approval of the Application of In Rhythm Non Emergency Medical Transportation, Inc. for Two Unrestricted Non-Ambulatory Passenger Vehicle Permits

ITEM NO. 8 - Recommend Approval of the Application of MoveMe Medical, LLC dba MoveMe Medical for Three Unrestricted Non-Ambulatory Passenger Vehicle Permits

Commissioner Davidian moved, seconded by Commissioner Marquez to approve Items 7 and 8. Unanimously APPROVED.

ACTION ITEM

ITEM NO. 9 – Proposed Ground Lease Agreement with Larchmont Properties, LTD for Municipal Lot No. 694

A public comment was provided by Emma Howard, Director of Community Development and Planning for Councilmember (CM) Hugo Soto-Martinez. She reiterated several key points to CM Soto-Martinez's letter requesting to continue this item for at least one meeting in order to receive community input.

Michelle Cayton, Acting Supervising Transportation Planner, presented the report.

Mr. Husting pointed out that this could involve litigation, and Peter Cho from the City Attorney's office is present to respond to any questions regarding legal matters.

Questions and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Liban asked if delaying this item for another month or so would have any impact.
- Mr. Husting reported that LADOT was in communication with multiple City departments as well as the Council office, and shared that it is reasonable for the Council office to do additional public outreach and does not see any problem with the Board continuing the item for 30 days to allow for public outreach.
- Commissioner Liban asked if that is enough time for LADOT staff to conduct the public outreach.
- Mr. Husting discussed how LADOT lacks the resources to conduct the community outreach that the Council office would, but will support the Council office who requested a minimum of 30 days.
- Emma Howard commented on the importance of the item; described how the Larchmont community is very active and can engage in the outreach quickly due to its organization level of the community; and because it's a negotiation, will defer to the City Attorney and LADOT to continue for at least a month.
- Commissioner Davidian asked if the Council office would take the lead in the outreach since LADOT does not have enough resources.

- Ms. Howard confirmed that the Council office will have the resources to do the outreach campaign.
- Commissioner Tohom expressed concern about the short 30-day timeline and asked about the usual timeline for this type of outreach, such as email, flyers, and public meetings.
- Ms. Howard discussed how it would be for this circumstance: by phone calls and email to folks that could organize and pass the word quickly; Board could extend to another meeting if there is a staff impact, but do not think her office is overly concerned as they organize quickly; Neighborhood Council might appreciate an additional 30 days beyond that because they only meet a few times a month; given the sensitivity of the negotiations, we would like to ensure the maximum amount of time for community input is given without impacting the legal negotiation or risking hostile legal actions; and will defer to LADOT and the City Attorney if a longer community engagement process impacts the negotiations they have entered into.
- Mr. Husting added that the City Attorney's office and LADOT have a call scheduled with Larchmont Properties and will get a better sense of the timeline, and recommended proceeding with 30 days, but this could be extended if additional time is necessary.
- Ms. Howard added that the Department would definitely hear from the community if they believe more time is needed for the community meetings.
- Commissioner Tohom asked on which day of the week the farmers market is scheduled.
- Ms. Howard stated that it is every Sunday.
- Commissioner Regalado, who has been part of the Neighborhood Council in his community, commented that 30 days is not enough time for the Neighborhood Council to process any input and advocated for an additional 30 days. He added that if there are public comments with significant public interest for or against, he suggested to have a document for the Commission to review the comments and concerns.
- Ms. Howard discussed what is done when they receive a high volume of public comment and will share it with the Commission when it is available; how constituents would be encouraged to contact this Board simultaneously; and will give them the Board's contact information as well as theirs to ensure they receive the same information at the same time, along with LADOT.
- Commissioner Solorio commented on the Council office's goals to preserve the farmers market and physical spaces for the community, and asked staff if the Department has the ability in those negotiations to propose ways to achieve this.
- Mr. Husting reported that the owner of Larchmont Properties offered the surface level of Lot 732 as a potential space to hold the farmers market but in speaking with the Council office, there may be other areas of interest whether it's in public right of way or another location that still needs to be worked out.
- Ms. Howard shared that there have been past discussions about alternative locations for this farmers market.

Commissioner Liban moved, seconded by Commissioner Tohom to grant the request of CD 13 to continue this item. Unanimously APPROVED.

Commissioner Liban mentioned the dissolution of the Taxicab Commission and merging of taxicab items. He acknowledged Taxicab Administrator Jarvis Murray, present at the meeting and will attend moving forward. He apologized as he needs to leave the meeting and will let Commissioner Tohom take over the rest of the meeting.

Commissioner Tohom noted that Commissioner Liban is leaving and he will be taking over the meeting.

ITEM NO. 10 – Authority to Enter Into an Agreement with the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power to Lease Municipal Parking Lot No. 681

Sophia Fong, Transportation Engineer – Parking Facilities Division, addressed the Board to ask that the item be postponed until the next meeting at the request of LADWP as they are reassessing the staging area for the Palisades Fire recovery effort.

Questions and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Marquez reiterated that they are reassessing and so that means there is a possibility they may not consider the staging area.
- Ms. Fong reported that LADWP has not provided additional information, and until a couple of days ago, staff believed an agreement would be executed, which surprised them; do not have any further information at this time but will continue to work with LADWP to assist with the recovery effort.
- Commissioner Marquez asked if this item would fall off if it changes and it does not fall under a jurisdiction.
- Mr. Husting clarified that it is postponed to a potential future meeting, so it may or may not come back to the Board and may be dropped.
- Commissioner Tohom asked when staff was notified to postpone this item.
- Ms. Fong responded that they were notified a couple of days ago after the Board report was released.
- Commissioner Tohom stated that for Agenda Item No. 10, the Commission is not moving forward as LADWP wanted to postpone this item.

ITEM NO. 11 – Recommend Approval of Taxicab Meter Rate Adjustment

Public comments were taken.

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

Questions and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Tohom asked for the status of the previous action taken before the Taxicab Commission was dissolved.
- Mr. Murray stated that the previous action has been nullified and will need to start over at this Commission.
- DCA Nagle confirmed that Mr. Murray's statement is correct and discussed in detail why he would like this item back on the agenda next month and approved by Council prior to the end of the year.

- Commissioner Tohom asked when the rate change would become effective once the Council approves this item.
- Mr. Murray stated that after the Council approves, an ordinance is drafted.
- DCA Nagle stated that he would have to research when the change would take effect.
- With regards to the surcharges for major events, Commissioner Tohom asked how these two particular locations, the Hollywood Bowl and Dodger Stadium were chosen.
- Mr. Murray discussed how these two locations were chosen, starting small with the most difficult in terms of entry and exit for the taxi drivers, and if it works well, we will have the authority to make changes throughout the City if we feel it is needed in other venues.
- Commissioner Davidian asked the following questions: 1) how many cabs are operating in the City that is monitored; 2) only taxicabs, and not TNCs, are monitored; and 3) was there any public testimony at the previous meeting.
- Mr. Murray responded: 1) we have a little less than 2,000 vehicles right now and maybe 2,200 to 2,500 drivers; 2) that is correct, TNCs are regulated by the State's Public Utilities Commission, and we are pre-empted from regulating TNCs as well as autonomous vehicles; and 3) there was public testimony at the previous meeting, and one of the item we addressed was the \$25 surcharge with the airport.
- Commissioner Marquez commented on the enforcement of bandit taxicabs and asked about the situation with them in Los Angeles, questioning if it is Citywide, geographic, local, or confined to smaller areas.
- Mr. Murray responded that it is citywide and discussed why this rate structure is not collecting the bandit fee at this time.
- Commissioner Marquez asked staff to keep the Commission apprised of any significant changes regarding insurance issues.

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

ITEM NO. 12 – Recommendation to Permanently Revoke Taxicab Driver Morris Elijah Aaron's Driver Permit for Violating Taxicab Rule Book Section 800, Rule 825

Michael Suarez, Transportation Investigator, presented the report and shared four short videos supporting the information in the report. He added that at the last meeting of July 17th, Mr. Aaron was given 60 days to provide letters of endorsement or verbal endorsements from United and another company that expressed a willingness to hire Mr. Aaron, due to their statement that they have the letters.

Questions and answers were provided.

- Commissioner Regalado asked to confirm whether someone taking a picture of the driver initiated this interaction.

- Mr. Suarez stated that yes, there was some type of disagreement and described the incident that took place throughout the trip, but does not have the footage; the video shows when they arrived at the residence and the conversation ensued outside the vehicle.
- Commissioner Regalado asked if there is any regulation against taking a picture of a permit affixed to a vehicle.
- Mr. Suarez confirmed that a permit is public information and that drivers are required to wear a badge, a version similar to the ID, affixed to a dashboard.
- DCA Nagle asked if we have the video from the previous hearing.
- Mr. Suarez responded that he does not have the video and that it would have been an audio, not video.
- Commissioner Marquez asked if there had been previous complaints against Mr. Aaron.
- In terms of violation history, Mr. Suarez stated that their system has no complaints of that nature.
- Commissioner Tohom asked whether there is a probationary period if another incident occurs within 30 or 60 days, or if the permit revocation is based on a first-time offense or the nature of the offense.
- Mr. Suarez explained how the severity of the offense will determine the revocation of the permit.
- Commissioner Tohom asked for clarification on whether “permanently revoke” means the driver can no longer operate in the City of Los Angeles or if they could reapply in five to ten years.
- Mr. Suarez confirmed that the driver cannot operate a taxicab within the City of Los Angeles if permanently revoked; however, he is unclear when they can reapply for reinstatement.
- Mr. Murray added that there is no general rule related to revocation and described how reapplying would typically work: applicants could be rejected and would have the ability to appeal that rejection.
- Commissioner Davidian asked if the defense in this case had already occurred.
- Mr. Suarez confirmed that the defense presented his case on July 17th but the Taxicab Commission was dissolved thereafter.
- Robert Borowski, Legal Counsel, was present and addressed the Board on behalf of Mr. Aaron; reiterated the action taken by the prior Commission, who was willing to give him a second chance based on their statement that another company would consider hiring Mr. Aaron; and shared the actions taken by Mr. Aaron since the previous Commission and that Mr. Aaron was very remorseful.
- Commissioner Tohom asked staff what the previous Taxicab Commission recommended and voted on.
- Mr. Suarez stated that he does not recall what the previous Commission said verbatim, and shared that Mr. Aaron and Mr. Borowski was given 60 days to receive the letter of endorsement from another taxi company, as previously stated by Mr. Borowski.
- Commissioner Tohom asked staff if United submitted a letter of endorsement within the 60 day period.
- Mr. Suarez confirmed that they did not receive any documentation but the President of United, Yohannes Mersha, is present at the meeting to give his statement.

- Mr. Mersha, President of United Independent Taxi (UIT), addressed the Board, provided his testimony and concluded by stating that the United Independent Taxi already revoked his membership and withdrew their endorsement of Mr. Aaron's taxicab driving permit as well.
- Commissioner Tohom summarized Mr. Mersha's statement, as he understood it, was that no attempt was made to seek the UIT endorsement, and UIT Board has since revoked Mr. Aaron's membership and withdrew their endorsement of his taxicab driving permit.
- Commissioner Tohom asked if there were any comments on other taxicab companies' sponsorship or endorsement.
- Mr. Suarez reported that there were two other companies Mr. Aaron reached out to and they are not willing to endorse Mr. Aaron. He added that on August 22nd, he personally went to Mr. Aaron's residence to retrieve our decal that was still affixed in his vehicle.

Commissioner Tohom moved, seconded by Commissioner Marquez to permanently revoke Mr. Morris Elijah Aaron's taxicab driver permit for violating Section 800, Rule 825. Unanimously APPROVED.

Commissioner Solorio moved, seconded by Regalado to enter into Closed Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

Commissioner Tohom announced that Commissioner Davidian is leaving the meeting but there is still a quorum.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

ITEM NO. 13 – Appeal of Mauricio Gonzalez Vanegas Concerning the Department's August 20, 2025 Decision to Deny His Taxicab Driver Application, Pursuant to Taxicab Rule Book Section 600, Rule 608

Ron Haywood, Transportation Investigator, presented the report and informed the Board that Mr. Vanegas is not present, and made contact with the Department stating that he no longer wishes to drive and will not be at the hearing.

Joe Richards, Sr. Transportation Investigator, reported that he spoke with the appellant over the phone and shared that the appellant would like to leave it up to the Commission to make a decision whether he is present or not.

Questions and answers were provided.

Commissioner Tohom moved, seconded by Commissioner Regalado to deny the appeal of Mauricio Gonzalez Vanegas. Unanimously APPROVED.

Commissioner Regalado moved, seconded by Commissioner Marquez to exit Executive Session. Unanimously APPROVED.

DCA Nagle reported that at the Closed Session, the Board denied the appeal of Mauricio Gonzalez Vanegas.

ADJOURNMENT – PURSUANT TO GOVERNMENT CODE SECTION 54956.7

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

The meeting adjourned at 11:50 AM.

Approved: 11/13/2025
Board of Transportation Commissioners

Commission Executive Assistant