



Environmental Protection and Growth Management Department  
**ENVIRONMENTAL AND CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION**  
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**DATE:** September 20, 2017  
**TO:** Broward County Board of County Commissioners  
**FROM:** Jeffery Halsey, Director *Jeffery D. Halsey*  
 Environmental and Consumer Protection Division (ECPD)  
**SUBJECT:** Taxi Stakeholder Workshop

Per the Board’s request during the February 21, 2017 Board Transportation Workshop, staff conducted a July 25, 2017 taxi stakeholder workshop to obtain stakeholder feedback and develop consensus on potential Chapter 22½ – Motor Vehicles code amendments (see attachment for attendees). This memo summarizes the outcomes, including zone fares and additional vehicle certificates tied to enhanced vehicle-for-hire standards. Note: the electronic meter was approved by the Board prior to the workshop and therefore not discussed at this meeting.

**Results**

Below is a chart listing the items discussed at the workshop and whether the group was in favor of presenting the item to the Board for consideration.

ITEM	YES	NO
1. Zone Fares		✓*
2. Implement Enhanced Standards for Vehicles Program		✓
3. Taxi Ride Sharing	✓	
4. Eliminate Certified Motor Carrier License	✓	
5. Automatic Lottery/Annual Board Memo	✓	
6. Prohibit Handheld Credit Card Devices		✓

\*If maximum allowable fares are increased.

**Next Steps**

Based on the feedback obtained during the workshop, the Division intends to bring a Motion to Direct the County Attorney before the Board to revise Chapter 22½ and Chapter 40 for the following items: increased maximum fare for taxicabs, ride-sharing, removal of Certified Motor Carrier License, and implementation of an automatic lottery.

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## Background

1. **Zones – Consensus Provided Approved Taxicab Meter Rate is Increased.** The key issue presented by the group was that recent changes to Chapter 22½ reduced County regulation of fares. These recent code amendments allow taxi companies wide latitude to implement zones and flat rates, as long as they do not exceed the approved taximeter rates. Contrarily, implementing mandatory zones would move the regulatory program back in the direction of greater fare regulation. Therefore, the group consensus was against the establishment of County-required zones, with a caveat. The caveat was to increase the maximum taximeter rates. Such an increase would allow taxi companies more flexibility in zone pricing.
2. **Begin Enhanced Standards for Vehicles – Consensus for No Enhanced Standards.** Strong consensus for no new program. The main feedback was to enforce existing regulations concerning driver performance.
3. **Ride Sharing – Consensus for Ride Sharing.** Consensus to allow ride sharing, based on one or more of the following three models: flat rate for all passengers to specific locations, private sector application for ride sharing (for example, [Bandwagon](#) in New York), or metered rates between locations.
4. **Eliminate the Certified Motor Carrier License - Consensus for Eliminating License.** This license was created on [October 13, 2015 \(Public Hearing Agenda Item 9\)](#) and was designed to allow taxicab companies to operate similar to TNCs (no longer regulated by Broward County due to state preemption). In the two years the Certified Motor Carrier License has been available, there have been no license applications. Further, no taxicab company at the workshop indicated any interest in acquiring the license.
5. **Automatic Lottery/Annual Board Memo – Consensus for Automatic Process.** There was consensus for future lotteries to occur automatically upon reaching the current regulatory population thresholds that necessitate the issuance of additional vehicle certificates (currently one taxicab certificate for every 2,000 inhabitants and one luxury sedan certificate for every 4,500 inhabitants). The purpose of this recommendation is to ensure that additional vehicles for hire are added to the available pool as expeditiously as possible to keep pace with the increased demand triggered by population growth. The current administrative overhead associated with approval of new certificates results in a delay of six to twelve months before the vehicles are put into service. (Currently, at least four Board items are required: (1) Motion to Adopt resolution for public hearing to determine need for new certificates, (2) Motion to Determine need for new certificates, (3) Motion to Adopt Resolution for a public hearing to issue new certificates, and (4) Motion to Hold a public hearing to issue the new certificates.) The Board would be kept abreast of developments via an annual memo on the status of certificates.
6. **Prohibit Handheld Credit Card Devices – Consensus to Allow Handheld Devices.** These devices are used throughout the industry, the drivers desire the option, and only one overcharge complaint has been received by ECPD.

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After reaching consensus on the potential code revisions above, the workshop was opened for discussion and the following items of concern noted:

- Seaport Access Enhancements. The Seaport supports an on-demand transportation program designed to ensure adequate transportation for guests on dates when there are three or more multi-day ships in Port. The on-demand program uses curbside coordinators employed by a private organization that direct guests to the program vehicles and to other transportation to help maintain traffic flow. Due to curbside space constraints, on average two program vehicles are staged at each terminal. The taxi staging areas are larger, holding an average 40 taxis and, while still visible to guests, are further away from the terminal. Attendees shared their perspective that this arrangement is disadvantageous to taxis as the curbside coordinators work solely for the participating companies and the taxi staging area is further away than the on-demand program vehicles.
- Transponders for TNCs – Attendees opined that TNCs should be required to obtain transponders to operate at the Airport.
- Increased Enforcement at Airport – Attendees opined that more enforcement is needed to respond to illegal ride solicitations at the airport.
- Improved Taxi Signage at Airport – Attendees opined that larger signage is needed to direct customers to taxicab pickup locations outside the terminals.

The Division has communicated these latter concerns to Port Everglades and the Airport.

cc: Bertha Henry, County Administrator  
Monica Cepero, Assistant County Administrator  
Steve Cernack, Port Everglades  
Mark Gale, Aviation  
Henry Sniezek, Director, EPGMD  
Leonard Vialpando, Deputy Director, EPGMD

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**ATTACHMENT**  
**Workshop Sign-in Sheet**

MEETING SIGN-IN SHEET		
<b>Project:</b> ECPD Taxi Workshop	<b>Meeting Date:</b> 7-25-17	
<b>Facilitator:</b> Jeffery Halsey	<b>Place/Room:</b> GCW 2 <sup>nd</sup> Floor Hearing Room	
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