



# City of Milwaukee

200 E. Wells Street  
Milwaukee, Wisconsin  
53202

## Meeting Minutes PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION REVIEW BOARD

*ALD. ROBERT BAUMAN, CHAIR*

*BETH WEIRICK, VICE-CHAIR*

*John Doherty, David Jasenski, Sandra Kellner, Don Natzke,  
Abdulkadir Omar, Jeffrey Polenske, Terry Radtke and Mariano  
Schifalacqua*

*Staff Assistant: Joanna Polanco, 286-2366, Fax: 286-3456,  
jpolan@milwaukee.gov*

*Legislative Liaison: Richard Withers, 286-8532,  
rwith@milwaukee.gov*

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Friday, March 8, 2013

9:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

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**Meeting called to order at 9:04 A.M.**

*Mr. Omar was represented by Mr. Peter Tsounis*

**Present:** 8 - Omar, Weirick, jasenski, Polenske, Doherty, Schifalacqua, Radtke, Bauman

**Excused:** 2 - Natzke, Kellner

**1. Roll call and approval of previous meeting minutes.**

*Motion by Mrs. Weirick moved approval of minutes of the February 8, 2013, seconded by Mr. Polenske. There were no objections*

**2. Communication from Milwaukee Downtown Business Improvement District, Yellow Cab Co-Op, Shuttle Services, Milwaukee County Transit System, Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Public Works-Infrastructure, Transit Express, Legislative Reference Bureau and Clear Channel Outdoor related to Public Transportation.**

*Continuation of the discussion regarding Common Council File Number 111222 - A substitute ordinance relating to the issuance of new public passenger vehicle permits for taxicabs, the frequency of vehicle inspections, and vehicle standards and equipment requirements. A proposed revised ordinance was put together based on testimony at the last hearing. Revisions include:*

*An increase in taxi cab licenses immediately following the effective date of the ordinance by 50; in a period of 5 years, 10 additional licenses will be issued. Incrementing the number of licenses issued to 100 annually. Each year the council would receive a report on the impact of increasing licenses, how the industry is doing, and economic impact, both positive and negative as well as impact on the community, quality of service and at any time Council can make a decision to stop issuing new licenses or issue additional licenses. If there are more than 50 applicants in the first year, the license division will conduct a lottery. Ald. Bauman said that issuing 50 additional licenses may go a long way to alleviate the economic conflict that seems to exist in this industry between those that lease and own cabs.*

The inspection requirement will be once every 6 months, the license application fee was reduced to \$370 with a \$295 renewal. Anyone that can prove that their vehicle was registered in the City of Milwaukee, will receive a \$20 credit to off-set the vehicle registration fee. Due to retaliation received by cab drivers who lease their vehicles who also offered testimony at the prior meeting, a new provision has been adopted where it will be required that the license holder be the only person operating the cab or an employee of the license holder. Leasing or subleasing will be abolished. Proof of an employment will be reflected by showing W-2 forms.

Ald. Bauman urged the audience to focus their comments on the revisions offered at this time.

Individuals appearing:

16th District Milwaukee County Board, John Weishan Jr., presented the board with a resolution in support of raising the cap. He said the County uses about \$70,000 a month to transport people with disabilities. This resolution will help decrease this expense. The resolution is scheduled to be heard at the April 10th Transportation and Public Works meeting.

Hattham Hammad – 1721 W Aspen Milwaukee WI 53221  
Dan Fedor – Taxi Magic- 1212 Hedgerow Drive Grayslake IL 60030  
Emad Emran – EM&MB, Inc - 4989 S 26th St., Milwaukee WI 53221  
Murad Badwan – EM&MB, Inc- 7515 S Mantowic Oak Creek WI 53154  
Ayman Badwan – EM&MB – 2150 W Meyer Lane #2204 Oak Creek WI 53154  
Hashem Almashakibeh – Milwaukee Taxi - 2050 W Meyer Lane Oak Creek WI 53154  
Red Christiansen – Wisconsin Association of Taxi cab Owners (WATO) -646 S 2nd St., Milwaukee WI 53204  
Alex Freedman – 5300 S Howell Ave Milwaukee WI 53237  
Phil Vincent – 1329 N 31st St., Milwaukee WI 53208  
Olayinka Heorci – 6527 N 55th St., Milwaukee WI 53223  
Harpreet Singh – 3824 S 16th St., Milwaukee WI 53221  
Dharmender Singh – 10923 W Wildwood Lane #B102 West Allis WI 53227  
Hasninder Singh – 7201 Edgemon Dr., Milwaukee WI 53221  
Michael McKillip – 3826 W Mt. Vernon Ave., Milwaukee WI 53208  
Alexander Friedman – 4155 W Rivers Edge Circle #20., Brown Deer WI 53209  
Ghaleb Ibrahim – 5031 n 83rd St., Milwaukee WI 53218  
Saad J Malik – 1333 W Edgerton Ave Milwaukee WI 53221  
Jaswant Singh – Independent Driver – 903 W Riverside Dr., Oak Creek WI 53154  
Gary Rosenberg – 6925 W Glenbrook Rd Milwaukee WI 53223  
Jim Dixon – 6425 W Norwich Milwaukee WI 53220  
Bennie Lewis – 4548 N 85th St., Milwaukee WI 53225  
Carlton Rieckhoff Jr., 2045 N 27th St., Milwaukee WI 53208  
Mohamed Abdelrohim & Taj Mohamed – 5293 S 1st St., Milwaukee WI 53221  
Ali Mohamed – 19700 W Imperial Ct., New Berlin WI 53146  
Riyed Snebar – 721 W Grange Ave., #202 Milwaukee WI 53221  
Saad Alghataba – 4641 S Howell Ave., Milwaukee WI 53221  
Boniface Osunkwo – Independent driver – 524 Southtowne Drive South Milwaukee WI 53172  
Abdinaasir Mohamud Ali – driver – 1919 N Cambridge Ave., #205 Milwaukee WI 53202  
Hashem Almashakibeh – 2050 W Mayer Lane Oak Creek WI 53154  
Paul Knapp – consumer- 988 E Circle Dr., Whitefish Bay WI 53217

Mr. Schifalacqua although in support of the ordinance, would like for opportunity be given to new licenses applicants.

*Mr. Radtke as a consumer, supports the ordinance if cabs are not going to be responsive to dispatch calls.*

*Mr. Doherty made reference to the proposed ordinance under the seat specification section, he said that this specification cannot be complied with unless mini vans will be the required vehicle from which the front seats are pulled out; under violations language there needs to be specific language regarding inspections, otherwise, an operator will be out of service for at least 6 months; there has to be some operator incurred expense for inspection if the operator has a violation, but be able to get an inspection at some cost. Legal liability language needs to be clarified if vehicle is older than 10 years.*

*Mr. Polenske supports the changes made in reference to the number of inspections, two inspections instead of four. It seems to give DPW flexibility to accommodate the additional inspections. Mr. Polenske is a bit concerned with eliminating the police presence in the inspection process; He agrees that there should be some consideration for increasing the number of licenses issued.*

*Ms. Weirick said that in order to be competitive in this market, and have a successful business in America, you must remain relevant and figure ways to best respond to customers. She urged drivers to provide good services and good product. She supports lifting the cap.*

*Mr. Jasenski thanked Ald. Bauman for pursuing this ordinance. However, has a concern on the requirement that "no taxi cab may be operated except by permittee or bona fide employee, or a partner or officer of the permittee partner, corporation or legal liability company".*

*Mr. Tsounis suggested a study be done before making the final decision to lift or not the cap for taxi drivers. Ald. Bauman responded that is a delay tactic that he does not wish to pursue at this time.*

*Mr. Schifalacqua moved the discussed March 8 draft of Common Council File #111222 be referred to the Public Safety Committee for consideration by the Council. Mr. Tsounis did not agree with this motion. The remaining members supported Mr. Schifalacqua's motion.*

**Meeting adjourned at 11:48 A.M.**

**Joanna Polanco  
Staff Assistant**





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Friday, February 8, 2013

9:00 AM

Room 301-B, City Hall

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Meeting convened at 9:02a.m.

**Present:** 8 - Polenske, Omar, Doherty, jasenski, Radtke, Natzke, Kellner, Bauman

**Excused:** 2 - Schifalacqua, Weirick

**Also present:**

**Richard Withers - LRB**

**Rebecca Grill - Deputy City Clerk - License Division Manager**

**Srgt. Chad Raden - MPD License Investigation Unit**

**1. Roll call and approval of previous meeting minutes.**

*Mr. Polenske moved approval of minutes of the January 11, 2013, seconded by Mr. Doherty. There were no objections.*

**2. Discussion of Common Council File #111222 - An ordinance relating to the issuance of new public passenger vehicle permits for taxicabs, the frequency of vehicle inspections, and vehicle standards and equipment requirements.**

*Ald. Bauman said Common Council File Number 111222 - A substitute ordinance relating to the issuance of new public passenger vehicle permits for taxicabs, the frequency of vehicle inspections, and vehicle standards and equipment requirements was scheduled before the Board to give the public and the taxi drivers an opportunity to bring their concerns and testimony. The Board is not a standing committee of the Common Council and does not have the authority to formally recommend passage of this ordinance to the Common Council or take any other form of action with respect to the legislation. However, this body does have the ability to discuss general subjects in respect public transportation in the city of Milwaukee which includes taxi cabs, the bus system, and the share ride system.*

*This board meeting will be used as a forum to gain input on the general issue of whether the city of Milwaukee should impose a limit or cap on the number of public*

passenger licenses it grants. If we should have a limit, what it should be and if, we have no limits, what other requirements should be made part of the ordinance?

Ald. Bauman continued to say that there is a proposed draft available for the public's review. Board members introduced themselves to the audience.

Ald. Bauman gave a historical background before starting discussion, by saying that the City of Milwaukee passed an ordinance back in 1991 which set a cap to the number of taxi cab licenses that can be granted by the city. It was set to the number of those in existence as of July 1992. Since 1992 the numbers of licenses has declined.

Mr. Withers presented the proposed legislation that provides four things: it repeals the limitation on issuance of new public passenger vehicle permits to most applicants. The ordinance provides that new and renewal permits issued on or after November 1, 2014, may only be issued for vehicles that, in addition to meeting all other requirements, either meet requirements for handicapped-elderly vehicles or that provide passenger leg room of not less than 55 inches.

The ordinance also requires that inspections of permitted taxicabs be scheduled and conducted not less than 4 times in the course of a permit year. The department of public works is designated as the agency responsible for scheduling and conducting inspections of public passenger vehicles including taxicabs, or if the volume is too great, to approve and designate one or more additional parties, business or agencies to conduct inspections.

The one-year inspection permit fee is increased from \$175 to \$500; and the one-year renewal permit fee is increased from \$100 to \$425. This ordinance further provides a new mileage fee to be assessed to recover costs of infrastructure consumption. The new mileage fee shall be assessed following each taxicab re-inspection and is based upon miles driven under permit. No permit shall be issued until all assessed mileage fees are paid. The amount of a mileage fee assessment may be appealed to the administrative review appeals board under s.320-1 of the Milwaukee Code of Ordinances

Following list of individuals offering testimony:

Mr. Michael Harper, 3359 N 48th St.

Mr. Eugene Hawley

Mr. Red Christiansen, American United Taxi

Mr. Williams

Mr. Alexander Freedman

Mr. James Dixon

Mr. Abdinaasar Lai

Mr. Michael Denacola, 300 S 63rd St

Mr. Mohammad Leawa

Mr. Leon Brossorman

Mr. Gill

Mr. Lee McGrath - Executive Director, Institute for Justice Minnesota Chapter

Mr. Mahdi Halli

Mr. Saad J. Malk

Mr. Mohammad Zama

Mr. Donald Kraft - Cab owner

Mr. Hammad

Mr. Smobas

Mr. Ledif

Mr. Jahmir Singh

Mr. Bteep

Mr. Mhmoud

*Mr. Albert Williams  
Mr. Michael McKlep  
Mr. Chudhiy*

*After hearing all testimony from the public, there was a consensus that this topic be discussed at a future meeting with possible revisions. The next meeting is set for March 8, 2013.*

3. **Communication from Milwaukee Downtown Business Improvement District, Yellow Cab Co-Op, Shuttle Services, Milwaukee County Transit System, Milwaukee County Office for Persons with Disabilities, Department of Public Works-Infrastructure, Transit Express, Legislative Reference Bureau and Clear Channel Outdoor related to Public Transportation.**

*There were no topics discussed.*

**Meeting adjourned at 11:29 A.M.  
Joanna Polanco  
Staff Assistant**

*This meeting can be viewed in its entirety through the City's Legislative Research Center at <http://milwaukee.legistar.com/calendar>.*

