

Meeting minutes: Governor's Committee on the Compensation, Wellbeing, and Fair Treatment of Transportation Network Company Drivers

Meeting date: **Sept. 7, 2023**

Minutes prepared by: Julie Klejewski

Location: Minnesota Room, Department of Labor and Industry (DLI), 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN

Attendance

Members present

1. Eid Ali
2. Marianna Brown
3. Dawit Kassa
4. John Budd
5. Samantha Diaz
6. Steven Huser
7. Dan Meyers
8. Freddi Goldstein
9. Saahil Karpe
10. Carin Mrotz
11. Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach (co-chair)
12. Commissioner Grace Arnold (co-chair)
13. Shenika Chambers – online

DLI and Commerce staff members present

- Brittany Wysokinski (DLI)
- Ryan P. Anderson (DLI)
- Hared Mah (DLI)
- Josiah Moore (DLI)
- Jessica Stimac (DLI) – online
- Laura Zajac (DLI) – online
- Gretchen Longbehn (DLI)
- Julie Klejewski (DLI)
- Sara Payne (Commerce) – online

Agenda items

1. Call to order and roll call

Co-chair Nicole Blissenbach called the meeting to order at 1:06 p.m. and a quorum was present.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

A motion was made by Commissioner Grace Arnold and seconded by Dan Meyers to approve the agenda as presented. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Aug. 15, 2023 meeting minutes

A motion was made by Samantha Diaz and seconded by Marianna Brown to approve the Aug. 15, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

4. Transportation network company presentations

Commissioner Blissenbach reminded members the meeting will be focused on presentations from the transportation network companies, Uber and Lyft. She stated the deactivation topic will not be discussed at this meeting; however, it will be discussed at a future meeting to ensure there will be adequate time for discussion and questions.

Committee members Freddi Goldstein and Saahil Karpe presented information about Uber and Lyft operations and platforms. Topics covered included the following.

- Process to become a driver
- Access to the app/platform information
- Requirements to be a driver
- Background checks
- Requirements for vehicles
- Insurance
- Transparency
- Earnings, taxes, fees
- Driving periods:
 - Period 1 or “P1” – time driver has app turned on
 - Period 2 or “P2” – time driver has accepted a fare and is enroute to pick up passenger
 - Period 3 or “P3” – time when passenger is in vehicle until time of drop off
- Compensation rates
- Safety features
- Statewide regulations versus city regulations
- Express pay (Lyft)

A copy of the Uber and Lyft presentations are online at dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/governors-committee-compensation-wellbeing-and-fair-treatment.

5. Committee discussion

Many members posed questions to Uber and Lyft about the issues below.

- Safety of drivers, specifically as it relates to passengers. For example, why drivers do not have access to certain passenger information, such as names and photos.
- Bad ratings or accusations from riders and how it affects drivers.
- Difference between different ratings – acceptance rate versus cancellation rates versus ratings from passengers.

- How many drivers live below the low-income thresholds?
- How many transportation network company (TNC) drivers have another job or are looking for other jobs?
- Statewide regulation framework recommendations by the committee and whether those are limited to driver compensation and safety issues or would it be for all TNC regulations.
- Protections or benefits for those drivers who drive more hours (TNC is their main job) versus those drivers who drive less, because this could be a supplemental job for them.
- Minimum earnings standard.
- Minimum wage of \$15 compared to median wage of \$23 as represented in the slides – request for further breakdown.
- The Department of Labor and Industry (DLI) is currently working on a study to get a clearer picture about aggregated data that will be coming from both TNCs.
- Number of TNC drivers in Minnesota.
- Are drivers offered different rates, when it is the same time of day and the same number of miles, but going in different directions?
- How have rates shifted for drivers in past 10 years?
- Pay transparency is different than pay predictability.

Next meeting

Date: **Tuesday, Sept. 26, 2023**

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

Location: Minnesota Room, Department of Labor and Industry, 443 Lafayette Road N., St. Paul, MN

Adjournment

A motion was made by Freddi Goldstein to adjourn the meeting and seconded by Carin Mrotz; a vote was taken and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:02 p.m.