

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

Meeting date: **Nov. 9, 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. Dan Meyers
7. Freddi Goldstein
8. Saahil Karpe
9. Carin Mrotz
10. Majority Leader Rep. Jamie Long
11. Shenika Chambers
12. Steven Huser
13. Commissioner Grace Arnold (co-chair)
14. Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach (co-chair)

DLI and Commerce staff members present

- Brittany Wysokinski (DLI)
- Ryan P. Anderson (DLI)
- Hared Mah (DLI)
- Gretchen Longbehn (DLI)
- Julie Klejewski (DLI)
- Laura Zajac (DLI) – online
- Josiah Moore (DLI) – online
- Annie Welch (DLI) – online
- Nichole Sorenson (DLI) – online
- Jessica Stimac (DLI) – online
- Jenny O'Brien (DLI) – online
- Kyle Hart (DLI) – online
- Sara Payne (Department of Commerce) – online
- Julia Dreier (Department of Commerce) – online

Agenda items

1. Call to order and roll call

Co-chair Nicole Blissenbach called the meeting to order at 1:35 p.m. and a quorum was present.

2. Approval of meeting agenda

Co-chair Blissenbach asked for a motion to approve the meeting agenda as amended to include adding after item 4, a quick update about the New York state settlement, and after item 3, a discussion about moving the next meeting date. The motion was made by Jamie Long and seconded by Marianna Brown. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

3. Approval of Oct. 17, 2023, meeting minutes

Co-chair Blissenbach asked for a motion to approve the Oct. 17, 2023, meeting minutes as presented. The motion was made by Brown and seconded by Carin Mrotz. A vote was taken and the motion passed unanimously.

Added agenda item – next scheduled meeting date: It has been suggested to move the Nov. 28, 2023, committee meeting one week later to Dec. 5, 2023, to allow more time for members to work on proposals and items the committee will consider for its recommendations to the Legislature. After discussion, there was agreement by all members to move the next committee meeting to **Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023, 1-3 p.m.**

Co-chair Blissenbach made an announcement that there will be no public comment at this meeting. If members of the public want to give comments or provide information for the committee to consider, please provide it to the department and we will make sure to get that information to the committee members.

4. Presentation from city of Minneapolis about its current TNC regulations

Steven Huser and Amy Lingo gave a high-level overview of the city of Minneapolis TNC regulations.

Topics included:

- TNC licensing requirements;
- vehicle standards;
- driver requirements;
- data requirements;
- fares; and
- city consideration.

A copy of the city of Minneapolis presentation is available at dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/governors-committee-compensation-wellbeing-and-fair-treatment.

Added agenda item – brief update about the New York state settlement: Freddi Goldstein shared that, last week, both Uber and Lyft announced a settlement agreement with New York Attorney General Letitia James. The settlement had a monetary component having to do with sales taxes and fees. However, some pieces of the settlement most relevant to the work of this committee include:

- for the first time in New York, there will be a statewide wage floor for drivers – they will know how much they are guaranteed to make for utilized time, which is a minimum of \$26 an hour;
- the ability to accrue paid sick time;
- the ability to appeal deactivation decisions; and
- in-app driver support in a number of different languages.

Perhaps this information will be helpful or act as a model as this committee moves forward and works on its recommendations at the Dec. 5 meeting.

5. Overview of current state and local proposals

Samantha Diaz and Brian Elliott, the executive director of the SEIU Minnesota State Council, gave an overview of current state and local proposals. Topics included:

- laws and policy proposals;
- policy areas;
- employment status in policy;
- driver compensation;
- fare transparency;
- deactivation process rights;
- driver safety;
- accident insurance;
- enforcement; and
- review process.

A copy of the SEIU presentation is available at dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/governors-committee-compensation-wellbeing-and-fair-treatment.

- Co-chair Blissenbach reminded members of the committee objectives.
 - Provide a forum to engage, collect and analyze data and information related to the working conditions of TNC drivers.
 - Draft recommendations related to compensation and fair treatment of TNC drivers that achieve the following goals:
 - ensure TNC drivers receive fair compensation;
 - ensure TNCs have established procedures for the deactivation of TNC drivers that provide due process;
 - limit the impact on fares for riders, especially riders in the disability community and low-income communities who rely on these services; and
 - ensure continued operation of TNCs in the state of Minnesota.
 - By Jan. 1, 2024, provide recommendations for state policy and legislative changes; submit a written report to the governor that sets forth the committee's recommendations that relate to compensation and fair treatment of TNC drivers. Communicate recommendations with stakeholders.
 - Address recurring issues and topic areas:
 - minimum compensation standards;
 - deactivation procedures that provide due process;
 - driver support;
 - pay transparency; and
 - insurance.
 - Enforcement and safety should be included within the recurring issues and topic areas.

Next meeting

Date: **Tuesday, Dec. 5, 2023**

Time: **1 to 3 p.m.**

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

At this meeting, the committee will discuss and consider specific recommendations in each topic area.

Future meeting

Date: **Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2023**

Time: **1 to 3 p.m.**

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

This meeting will include a review of preliminary findings from data analysis and finalize recommendations.

Adjournment

A motion was made by Brown to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Dan Meyers. A vote was taken and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 3:36 p.m.