

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

Date: July 25, 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 (online)
5. Shenika Chambers
6. Samantha Diaz
7. Steven Huser
8. Dan Meyers (online)
9. Freddi Goldstein
10. Saahil Karpe
11. Carin Mrotz
12. Rep. Jamie Long (online)
13. Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach (co-chair)
14. Commissioner Grace Arnold (co-chair)

DLI and Commerce staff members present

- Naheeda Hirji-Walji (DLI)
- Brittany Wysokinski (DLI)
- Ryan P. Anderson (DLI)
- Hared Mah (DLI)
- Carey Wagner (DLI) – online
- Jessica Stimac (DLI) – online
- Gretchen Longbehn (DLI)
- Julie Klejewski (DLI)
- Josiah Moore (DLI)
- Julia Dreier (Commerce) – online

Welcome and introductions

1. DLI Commissioner Nicole Blissenbach called the meeting to order at 1:22 p.m., a delay due to technical difficulties. A quorum was declared, with 14 of the 15 voting members present in person or via Teams. Blissenbach said this is a special meeting and will follow the Open Meeting Law and the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act. Members introduced themselves and shared what they hope to contribute to the committee, as well as what they hope to get from the committee.

Agenda

2. Overview of Executive Order 23-07

- Blissenbach highlighted the three main objectives to the executive order issued by Gov. Tim Walz.
 1. *DLI to oversee a study related to the working conditions of transportation network company (TNC) drivers:* Blissenbach indicated DLI is currently working with both Uber and Lyft to get data; and is working under a very shortened deadline of Jan. 1, 2024. She indicated higher hopes

to have pieces of the study earlier so it can help inform this committee in making decisions. DLI has also contacted the Metropolitan Airports Commission (MAC) for any data it can share.

2. *Establishment of committee:* The committee is to draft recommendations related to the compensation and fair treatment of TNC drivers that achieves a number of goals, including: ensuring TNC drivers are receiving fair compensation; ensuring TNCs have established procedures for the deactivation of drivers and provide due process to those drivers; limiting the impact on fares for riders, especially those in the disability and low-income communities who rely on the services; and ensuring continued operations of the TNCs in Minnesota.
3. *Committee recommendation:* The committee is to provide recommendations for state policy and legislative changes by Jan. 1, 2024.

3. Introduction to the Open Meeting Law and Minnesota Government Data Practices Act

- Brittany Wysokinski, DLI Office of General Counsel, gave an overview and presentation of the Minnesota Government Data Practices Act and Open Meeting Law. She reminded members that meetings will be open to the public and most committee data will be considered public data. A copy of the presentation is available at dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/governors-committee-compensation-wellbeing-and-fair-treatment.

4. Review of TNC-related statutes and ordinances in other states and municipalities

- Ryan P. Anderson, DLI Office of General Counsel, and Hared Mah, DLI Research and Statistics, gave a presentation about TNC-related statutes and ordinances in other states. Areas they have been mostly reviewing are New York City, Seattle and the state of Washington, because those three locations have previously passed TNC statutes or ordinances. A copy of the presentation is available at <https://www.dli.mn.gov/about-department/boards-and-councils/governors-committee-compensation-wellbeing-and-fair-treatment>.
- Committee members discussed a variety of topics, including insurance for drivers, rates, pay, deactivations, safety, workers' compensation and having experts brought in from those three locations to talk more in-depth so the committee can make comparisons.

5. Schedule future meetings

- Blissenbach referred to a list of potential future meeting dates, reminded committee members the executive order requires the committee to meet at least once a month and suggested meeting every three weeks given the Jan. 1, 2024 deadline.
- Committee members discussed topics for future meetings. Below are proposed topic areas for the agenda at future meetings (not in any particular order):
 1. Insurance;
 2. enforcement mechanisms, including current city enforcement;
 3. experience of drivers who are victim survivors, as well as riders;
 4. safety issues of drivers, including safety issues presented by riders;
 5. employee versus independent contractor;
 6. deactivation policy;
 7. Uber/Lyft providing what the companies do in terms of payments;
 8. transparency of Uber/Lyft companies, including sharing data and information; and
 9. affordability for riders and counties, including those riders who RISE serves.

- Blissenbach asked committee member Eid Ali if he could arrange for driver testimony to be heard at the next meeting.
- Blissenbach noted meeting procedures the committee will have to decide, such as the availability of open forums.

6. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 3:12 p.m.

Next meeting

Date: Tuesday, Aug. 15, 2023

Time: 1 to 3 p.m.

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

Schedule of Proposed Future Meetings

Proposed 2023 dates

- Aug. 15
- Sept. 5 (discussion of moving to Sept. 6 or 7)
- Sept. 26
- Oct. 17
- Nov. 7
- Nov. 28
- Dec. 19