

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO**

PROCEEDING NO. 24R-0448TR

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IN THE MATTER OF PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE COMMISSION'S RULES REGULATING MAXIMUM RATES FOR LARGE-MARKET TAXICAB SERVICE, 4 CODE OF COLORADO REGULATIONS 723-6.

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**INTERIM DECISION ESTABLISHING DEADLINE FOR  
WRITTEN PUBLIC COMMENT**

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Issued Date: January 13, 2025

**I. STATEMENT, SUMMARY, AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY**

**A. Statement and Summary**

1. This Decision summarizes many public comments presented during the January 7, 2025 public comment hearing; establishes a January 28, 2025 deadline to file additional public comment; and explains how to submit public comment in this Proceeding.

**B. Procedural History<sup>1</sup>**

2. On October 22, 2024, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) initiated this matter by issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”) to amend Rule 6804 of the Commission’s Rules Regulating Transportation by Motor Vehicle, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (“CCR”) 723-6.<sup>2</sup> The proposed amendments reflect increases to the maximum rates that can be charged for taxicab service within the ten most populous counties in Colorado.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Only the procedural history necessary to understand this Decision is included.

<sup>2</sup> Decision No. C24-0753 (issued October 22, 2024) (“NOPR”).

<sup>3</sup> *Id.*

3. The NOPR includes the proposed Rules as Attachments A and B thereto; schedules a remote public comment hearing for January 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m.; identifies specific items for public comment; establishes a December 6, 2024 deadline for initial comment on such items and a December 27, 2024 deadline for comments responding to the same; and refers the matter to an Administrative Law Judge (“ALJ”) for disposition.<sup>4</sup>

4. On December 4, 2024, the ALJ provided additional information relating to the scheduled public comment hearing and other avenues to provide public comment in this Proceeding.<sup>5</sup>

5. The ALJ held the remote public comment hearing as noticed on January 7, 2025 at 11:00 a.m. Members of the public appeared and provided comments during the hearing. This Decision discusses the public comments submitted during the hearing and memorializes the ALJ’s ruling during the hearing to extend the deadline for written public comment to January 28, 2025.

## **II. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **A. Comments Submitted During January 7, 2025 Public Comment Hearing and January 28, 2025 Deadline to Submit Additional Comments**

6. During the January 7, 2025 public comment hearing, representatives for All Cities Taxi and Union Taxi commented that they strongly object to the proposed Rule changes. They generally noted that increasing maximum rates will negatively impact their companies’ ability to compete with non-taxicab transportation providers. Mr. Mickias Alamirew (with All Cities Taxi) indicated that the remaining taxicab companies work together to discuss how to best serve the metro area, and that many other taxicab companies also oppose the proposed increases. He also said that many of the other taxicab companies that he spoke with about the proposed Rules did not

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<sup>4</sup> *Id.* at 4-6.

<sup>5</sup> Decision No. R24-0889-I (issued December 4, 2024).

join the hearing because they did not have the information needed to join it and that he believed more would participate if given more time to submit comments.

7. Mr. Mohammed Warid with Union Taxi agreed with Mr. Alamirew's comments. He added that customers already complain that the current maximum per mile rate (\$2.80) is too high, and that pushing it up to \$3.52 as proposed will create even more problems with Union Taxi's ability to compete. He noted that Union Taxi is the largest taxi company in Denver at this time, and that raising the per mile rate as proposed will "kill" the taxi business, which has already shrunk dramatically from year to year. Mr. Warid indicated that by the time he heard about the proposed Rules, the deadlines to file written comments had already passed.

8. Both Mr. Warid and Mr. Alamirew expressed interest in submitting written public comments if given more time to do so. They also were both perplexed as to why the Commission initiated this Rulemaking, noting that neither they nor other taxi companies they have spoken with requested the changes, and that if the Commission is interested in helping the taxi business, changes to the Commission's insurance requirements would be most helpful given that the Commission-required insurance is very expensive.<sup>6</sup>

9. Based on the comments received during the hearing, the lack of written comments filed in this Proceeding, and because prior public comment deadlines fell near the December 2024 holiday season, the ALJ announced that she would hold the public comment period open until at least January 28, 2025. Anyone who wants to submit public comments for the ALJ to consider before issuing a recommended decision should file those on or by the close of business on January 28, 2025.

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<sup>6</sup> The ALJ noted that because the subject of this rulemaking Proceeding narrowly seeks to modify a single rule (Rule 6804) unrelated to insurance requirements, it is unlikely that this Proceeding can be expanded to modify Commission Rules relating to taxicab insurance requirements. As a result, the ALJ explained that it is likely a new rulemaking proceeding would have to be initiated to address insurance-related issues.

10. During the hearing, the ALJ outlined the various methods to provide public comment, consistent with the information in this Decision (below).

11. Interested persons are strongly encouraged to submit written public comments by the established deadline.

12. The ALJ may set an additional public comment hearing after the deadline to file public comments pass, but did not schedule one during the January 7, 2025 public comment hearing.

### **B. Methods to Submit Public Comment**

13. Interested persons may submit written comments by (a) mailing comments to the Commission at 1560 Broadway, Suite 250, Denver, Colorado 80202; (b) electronically filing comments through the Commission's Electronic Filing System at <https://www.dora.state.co.us/pls/efi/EFI.homepage> in this Proceeding; (c) using the "FILE A COMMENT OR COMPLAINT" option on Commission's website at <https://puc.colorado.gov/>; and (d) emailing the Commission at [dora\\_puc\\_website@state.co.us](mailto:dora_puc_website@state.co.us). All comments must include a reference to Proceeding No. 24R-0448TR (this Proceeding number).<sup>7</sup> Failure to do so may result in the written comments not being placed in the record in this Proceeding.

14. Interested persons may also submit verbal comments via a voice mail message at (303) 869-3490 or during the scheduled public comment hearing. Those leaving voice mail public comments must state and spell their name and include Proceeding No. 24R-0448TR (this Proceeding number) in their message. Voice mail messages will be transcribed and placed in the

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<sup>7</sup> The Commission's mailing and email addresses are on the Commission's website (at the link provided above).

record of this Proceeding. Failure to include the Proceeding number in voice mail public comments may result in those comments not being placed in the record in this Proceeding.

15. Although the Commission prefers written comments over verbal comments, it equally considers public comments, regardless of the format in which they are submitted.

**III. ORDER**

**A. It Is Ordered That:**

1. Anyone wishing to submit public comment must do so on or by the close of business on January 28, 2025.

2. This Decision is effective immediately.

(S E A L)



THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

MELODY MIRBABA

Administrative Law Judge

ATTEST: A TRUE COPY

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Rebecca E. White'.

Rebecca E. White,  
Director