

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF COLORADO

PROCEEDING NO. 24R-0448TR

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.

**INTERIM DECISION PROVIDING INFORMATION
RELATING TO PUBLIC COMMENT HEARING**

Issued Date: December 04, 2024

I. STATEMENT, SUMMARY, AND PROCEDURAL HISTORY

A. Statement and Summary

1. This Decision provides information relating to participating in the public comment hearing scheduled for January 7, 2025, and information as to other avenues to provide public comment in this Proceeding.

B. Procedural History¹

2. On October 22, 2024, the Colorado Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) initiated this matter by issuing a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (“NOPR”) to amend the Commission’s Rules Regulating Transportation by Motor Vehicle, 4 *Code of Colorado Regulations* (“CCR”) 723-6 (the “Rules”).² The proposed Rules are intended to address concerns related to the maximum rates that large-market taxicab service carriers may charge consumers for various categories of service.³ The proposed amendments reflect the Commission’s intent to

¹ Only the procedural history necessary to understand this Decision is included.

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

³ *Id.* at 1.

update the maximum rates that can be charged for taxicab service within the ten most populous counties in Colorado, including Adams, Arapahoe, Boulder, Broomfield, Denver, Douglas, El Paso, Jefferson, Larimer, and Weld.⁴

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.⁵ At the same time, the Commission notes that the ALJ will establish procedures for the public comment hearing and may set additional hearings.⁶

II. FINDINGS AND CONCLUSIONS

A. Participating in the Public Comment Hearing

4. As noted in the NOPR, the January 7, 2025 public comment hearing will be fully remote, using the web-hosted service, Zoom. Members of the public who wish to participate in the public comment hearing should not appear in person at the Commission’s offices but should appear remotely via Zoom. Those interested in providing public comment during the hearing may join the hearing using the Zoom information posted on the Commission’s calendar of events on its website at <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar>.

5. Interested persons are strongly encouraged to participate by videoconference, as this more closely mirrors an in-person public comment hearing. Nevertheless, interested persons have the option to participate by telephone.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at 4-6.

⁶ *Id.* at 6.

6. During the public comment hearing, the ALJ will take necessary action to facilitate a clear and understandable record, and to ensure the orderly progress of the hearing. For the same reasons, all participants are required to: (a) mute their microphone during the hearing until called upon by the ALJ; (b) ensure they are participating from a location with minimal or no background noise; (c) not connect to the hearing using multiple devices located in the same room (which causes audio feedback); and (d) input their full name into Zoom when prompted to do so. Participants are encouraged to use a headset to listen to the hearing to reduce background noise and feedback and to use a computer, smart phone, or tablet that is connected to the internet and has an operational microphone, speaker, and camera.

7. Those planning to participate in the hearing are strongly encouraged to prepare in advance and familiarize themselves with how to use the Zoom meeting platform. Attachment A to this Decision provides step-by-step technical instructions and requirements to participate by videoconference using a computer. This is intended to ensure that the remote hearing proceeds efficiently. Hence, it is important that participants carefully review and follow all requirements in this Decision and Attachment A.

8. The public comment hearing is scheduled to commence at 11:00 a.m. Consistent with Commission practice, the public comment hearing will conclude no later than 5:00 p.m., or when all public comments have been received, *whichever is earlier*. The hearing will not be held open for public comments after all those who have appeared have provided public comment, even if this means concluding the hearing well before 5:00 p.m. For example, if all those who appear at the hearing have provided public comment by 11:30 a.m. or sooner, the hearing will be concluded. This also means that anyone who chooses to join the public comment hearing after the 11:00 a.m. start time assumes the risk that the hearing will be concluded before they join.

9. The Commission strives to accommodate all members of the public at its hearings by providing services for foreign language users and persons with disabilities upon receipt of a reasonable accommodation request. Interested persons requesting an interpreter during the public comment hearing should complete the “Language Access Form” available at the “How to Make Comments” tab at: <https://puc.colorado.gov/how-to-participate> at least one week prior to the hearing. Requests for accommodation can also be made directly by contacting Holly Bise at (303) 894-2024 or holly.bise@state.co.us.

B. Observing the Public Comment Hearing

10. Consistent with Commission practice, the public comment hearing will be webcast live on the Commission’s website. Those wishing to observe the hearing (but not provide comments) may do so by observing the webcast of the hearing and need not join the hearing through Zoom. To observe the hearing, enter the following link in the web browser <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts> and select the audio or video option for the assigned hearing room. The assigned hearing room will be identified on the Commission’s public calendar for the date and time of the hearing, at the following link: <https://puc.colorado.gov/puccalendar>.

C. Methods to Submit Public Comment

11. Interested persons wishing to provide public comment need not participate in the public comment hearing to do so. 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. All comments must include

a reference to Proceeding No. 24R-0448TR (this Proceeding number).⁷ Failure to do so may result in the written comments not being placed in the record in this Proceeding.

12. 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 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.

13. 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. Members of the public who wish to participate in the January 7, 2024 11:00 a.m. remote public comment hearing must follow the requirements in this Decision and Attachment A hereto, which is incorporated into this Decision.

2. Those wishing to observe but not participate in the public comment hearing may do so by observing the Commission's hearing webcast at: <https://puc.colorado.gov/webcasts>.

3. Members of the public who wish to provide comments outside of the public comment hearing may do so by following the instructions in this Decision.

4. The Administrative Law Judge may schedule additional hearings if necessary.

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

5. 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