

Towing Task Force Meeting Agenda Items

March 9th, 2022

2:00pm – 4:00pm

1. Roll Call
2. Approval of minutes from 2/9/22 meeting
3. Discussion/Questions about open administrative items (email setup issues, etc)
4. Discuss timeline and plan for delivering recommendations on September 1st, 2022
5. Introduction of any “Action Items” from members
6. Open time for comments/questions from TTF members
7. Public Comment Time

Attachments:

- A. Meeting Minutes 2/9/2022
 - B. Letter to Legislators
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Notes:

It seems like a long time in the future, but we have only 6 monthly meetings before we submit our recommendations to the PUC on September 1st. Over the next few months/meetings, I would like for each member to submit for discussion between 1-4 “Action Items” related to towing and recovery regulations. These can be the identification of a problem used to solicit creative solutions from the group or can be very specific problems with very specific solutions. Two examples are below:

Example A:

Problem: Consumers are often frustrated if towing companies do not allow them to get their personal items out of their cars after a nonconsensual tow or if towing companies charge them a fee for this. This causes additional confrontation and hardship on the consumer that is unnecessary.

Possible Solution: Towing carriers should allow consumers to make a free trip (with a reasonable time limit) to their car to get personal items without any additional charge and regardless of the nature of the personal items being retrieved. Revise 6512(d) to require Towing Carriers to allow vehicle owners to retrieve personal items free of charge with a time limit of no less than 20 minutes.

Example B:

Problem: Towing Carriers are required to publish lists of abandoned and junk cars to be auctioned in a print newspaper publication prior to auction per CRS 42-4-2104. This law is many decades old and was written prior to the use of the internet by the general public.

Possible Solution: CRS 42-4-2104 is revised to allow towing carriers to publish lists of cars to be auctioned online prior to auction, which will be more accessible to the general public and less burdensome for the towing carrier.

Over the course of the next few meetings, members will introduce their “Action Items” and we can discuss as a group to come up with novel solutions, think through additional data needed to investigate, etc. We can keep a running list of these Action Items and before September 1st we will turn some of these Action Items into our official recommendations. Please spend the next few days thinking about ideas for Action Items and if you have some ready, please present on Wednesday. Thanks!

Towing Task Force Meeting Agenda Items March 9th, 2022 2:00pm - 4:00pm

Meeting opened at 2:00 pm.

1. Roll Call - Present members:

- Connolly, John (rep for a towing association with experience in consensual towing)
- Dittman, Leonard (appointed by Chief of Colorado State Patrol)
- Forbes, Trevor (rep for nonconsensual towing carriers)
- Hill, Robert (Troy) (rep for an association of motor carriers as consumers of towing services)
- Howes, James (rep for insurance companies that insure towing operations)
- Peirce, Michael (rep for mobile home owners)
- Prunsky, Gregory (rep for local law enforcement agencies)
- Rich, Charles (Brandon) (rep for consumers of tow services, private property owners)
- Riester, Jefferey (appointed by Attorney General, experience enforcing Consumer Protection Act)
- Riley, Nathan (rep for Public Utilities Commission)
- Ruscha, JoyAnn (rep for people with disabilities), joined meeting at 2:09 pm

New members:

- Roberts, John (from Attorney General's office)

Not present:

- Bailey, Nicole (rep for common interest communities)
- Lawless, Nichole (rep for communities disproportionately affected by nonconsensual tows)
- Chiriboga-Flor, Andrea (rep for communities disproportionately affected by nonconsensual tows)

Also present:

- Dean, Doug (PUC Director)
- Porras, Troy

2. Motion made to approve minutes from February 9th TTF meeting - Riley, seconded by Hill. No nays, minutes approved as presented.

New member John Roberts introduced himself, explained his role to the committee as legal counsel, and previous experience with DORA. Roberts will not vote on decision items.

3. Administrative item discussion:

- Five members have not set up their Colorado state board email accounts
(*Ruscha joined meeting at 2:09 pm*)
- TTF website is up and running
- Notice for meetings now include the link
- WCAG website accessibility is in process within DORA
- Sign up for TTF meetings asks if any accommodations are required

4. Timelines for TTF recommendations on September 1, 2022

- Forbes stated what the timeline and expectations for report due September 1 to be submitted to the PUC, who will then determine what recommendations to take action on, and will report to the Colorado State legislature on the report, as well as any actions taken. TTF duties include rates and complaint resolution. Other recommendations may be made by the TTF however they are outside the scope of the TTF duties.
- Discussion of letter to legislators through PUC, and whether it is equal to the decision voted on last month by members. Discussion of possible changes.
- Doug Dean introduced himself and explained the process for submitting a letter to legislators and asked that it be sent through DORA.
- Forbes asked Ruscha to modify the legislature letter, to be reviewed again prior to being submitted through DORA.
- Ruscha asked Roberts a question regarding open meeting laws.
- **Connolly made a motion to send no letter to the legislature. Seconded by Dittman.** Riley interjected, with recommendation to use the poll feature during meeting votes. Discussion regarding current legislation, the timeline of passing legislation, availability of seeing draft of the legislation being considered. **Vote for motion 11 yes, no nays, 3 absent. Motion passes.**
- Discussion of what TTF members will review and discuss during meetings.
- Ruscha suggested starting with a list of points for the task force to work through, to keep meetings focused.
- Rich suggested starting with the previous TTF final report. **Rich made a motion that the TTF constrain discussion items to rates, overcharges, related factors that impact towing rates, and additional PUC requests. Seconded by Ruscha, vote for motion 6 yes votes, 4 no votes. Motion passes.**

5. Action items from task force members

- Riley suggests task force group review Rule 6511, line by line, to understand the current breakdown of towing rates.
- Ruscha suggests creating the next meeting agenda before the end of the current meeting.
- Connolly suggested reviewing new towing rates, released last week next month.

6. TTF member questions/comments

7. Public comments

- Public comments were invited, declined by member of the public Porras.
- Connolly opened discussion of statutory notification discussion with background details given. Forbes offered to give specific business statistics (from his company) related to vehicle collection times.

Meeting adjourned 4:02pm with Forbes and Connolly offering to stay on and answer any questions for members.