

# Current Boston Taxi Driver Association Campaigns for Boston Taxi Drivers



## Campaign to oppose the current Flat Rate fare proposals being considered by the Boston Police Hackney Division.

The BTDA objects to any “Flat Rate” proposals to transport business and tourist passengers from the airport to Downtown, Back Bay and the Seaport and Convention Center areas. Flat Rates do not take into consideration the costs in tolls, standing time or other costs factors involved in working the airport. A Flat Rate will put drivers at a disadvantage when doing business at the airport, and it creates an unfair advantage for limousine and shuttle drivers.

## Campaign to support meter rate increase.

Drivers have not had a meter rate increase since 1997. However, drivers’ costs have increased dramatically including: increases in tolls to Logan Airport, skyrocketing insurance rates, cost of gasoline and Hackney policies that mandate new vehicles, hybrid vehicle demands, and cosmetic upgrading of existing vehicles. Boston drivers should be making the same as surrounding cities and towns taxi meter rate of \$.40 per 1/8th of a mile. Boston is overdue for a meter increase.

## Campaign to improve the Masspike/Massport Transponders program.

There needs to be flexibility in using transponders when at the customer’s request, or driver’s needs. V-tolls have yet to be worked out. There should be a pay-as-you go system available to all drivers. Holding hundreds of dollars in escrow accounts is not acceptable. Fast Lane Administration of transponders and account violations need to be improved. Drivers should not be charged for errors made by Fast Lane employees.

## Campaign to end “kickback” demands from doormen.

This is just the beginning to take back our work. Every hotel will be put on notice that the practice of “kickbacks” will be a thing of the past. We will continue to take actions against Boston hotels that do not stop these extortionist practices.

## Campaign to license and regulate livery and limousine service in the City of Boston to comply with Hackney Standards.

Level the playing field and the right to fair business practices. Mandate that limousine and livery service drivers be licensed to do business as taxi drivers in accordance to the Hackney Unit of the Boston Police Department.

## Campaign for “Taxi Driver Bill of Rights.”

There is a movement to support the right of all taxi drivers doing business in Boston to be treated with dignity and respect. Taxi drivers have the right to higher wages and to make a decent living driving a cab. Drivers have a right to safe working conditions free from intimidation and harassment on the job. Ensure that any taxi passenger “bill of rights” is fair to taxi drivers. When posting of a “Passenger Bill of Rights” is mandated in the Boston Taxis, also post the “Taxi Driver Bill of Rights.”

## Campaign to change policy to turn in vehicles 6 years old without exception.

This policy needs to be reconsidered. Although it is meant to assure that all cabs are well maintained and are safe for passengers, it is too restrictive and can cause unnecessary financial hardship to single owner/operators. If a taxi is in pristine condition with low mileage and meets current standards, there should be an exception made.