



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Date: October 7, 2015

Agenda Item #: 4

Agenda Item: Staff briefing and discussion on ground transportation providers, including transportation network companies.

Vote:

On the fee equity and cost of service discussion, this motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.

On the public safety discussion, this motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.

Sponsors/Department: Austin Transportation Department

Summary of Discussion:

CM Kitchen made motions on the following issues: fee equity and cost of service, and public safety. The issue of data reporting requirements will be taken up at the next Mobility Committee meeting. Other issues may also be taken up at the next Mobility Committee meeting.

Fee equity and cost of service:

The City Manager is directed to initiate an amendment to City code Chapter 13-2 to establish a fee for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) with the following provisions and to bring back to the Mobility Committee for recommendation to Council no later than November 16, 2015:

Each TNC operating in the City of Austin shall pay an annual fee that is either of the following, at the option of the company:

(1) The total of the permit fee paid by taxicab companies times the number of persons driving for the TNC;
or

(2) One (1) percent of the TNC's annual local gross revenues.

In the alternative, TNCs with a total number of drivers that is less than the number of taxicab permits for the smallest taxicab company may elect to pay a fee according to a graduated per driver fee schedule determined by the Transportation Department that is less than the permit fee paid by taxicab companies.

This motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.

Committee Members also requested that the Austin Transportation Department analyze (1) The cost of service for ground transportation regulation; and (2) Method for calculating cost of road use similar to rough proportionality.

Public safety: Each point in this public safety motion was voted on individually.

The City Manager is directed to initiate an amendment to City code Chapter 13-2, to address public safety as it relates to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), that includes the following provisions, and to bring back to the Mobility Committee for recommendation to Council no later than November 16, 2015:

- Align the background check process for TNC drivers with the process for taxis so that the check is conducted nationwide for both types of drivers. Amend the taxi ordinance if necessary to allow for a nationwide process.

This motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.

- Align the driver eligibility standards for TNCs with that for taxis so that a history of certain offenses is treated the same with regard to eligibility to drive.

This motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.

- Add a fingerprinting requirement for TNC drivers that collect the same fingerprint information for TNCs as is collected for taxis and other ground transportation drivers.

This motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.

- Authorize the Austin Transportation Department to contract with a third party to manage the fingerprinting and background check process for ground transportation processes so that the process is completed quickly and does not create barriers for onboarding drivers.

This motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.

Public Comments: N/A

Direction: CM Kitchen has forwarded this item to the full City Council meeting on Oct. 15, 2015.

Recommendation: On the fee equity and cost of service discussion, this motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.

On the public safety discussion, this motion was approved on a 3-1 vote, with CMs Kitchen, Gallo and Garza moving to forward these recommendations to the full City Council, and CM Zimmerman opposed.