



COUNCIL COMMITTEE REPORT MOBILITY COMMITTEE

Date: November 16, 2015

Agenda Item #: 4

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

Vote: On a 3-1 vote, with Council Member Zimmerman opposed, the committee voted to forward the item to Council with a recommendation for approval and recommendations for transportation staff.

Sponsors/Department: Austin Transportation Department

Summary of Discussion: Gordon Derr, Assistant Director for the Austin Transportation Department, provided an overview of the following staff recommendations for proposed amendments to the current Transportation Network Company ordinance:

Vehicle Safety Inspections/ Background Checks

Proposed Amendment	Existing TNC Ordinance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ State motor vehicle inspection○ Ground Transportation Vehicle Safety Inspection (20 point safety inspection)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ State motor vehicle inspection○ TNC designated company performs

Operations

Proposed Amendment	Existing TNC Ordinance
Prohibit loading / unloading except at curb and not in active travel lane	Not addressed

Accessibility

Proposed Amendment	Existing TNC Ordinance
<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ TNC required to file an accessibility plan (may adapt existing accessibility plan from other jurisdiction if provides greater flexibility), obtain city approval, and implement within 6 mo.○ Reports include updates on progress meeting accessibility	<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ 10 cent per trip originating in Austin to help provide accessible rides○ TNC outreach to community organizations with ADA compliant vehicles to recruit ADA vehicles and drivers○ No refusal of disabled passenger or higher fee; must accommodate service animals○ Accessible service indicator on App within 3 months; must identify alternative transportation if no driver

Reporting Requirements

Proposed Amendment	Existing TNC Ordinance
Specific data to be recorded in four-hour blocks and reported monthly. Ex: trips serviced by zip codes, total vehicles logged in, driver hours logged, gross revenue	Quarterly reports re trips. Ex: pick-up/drop-off patterns, cost, length of trip, ADA service comparison, TNC impact on drunk driving, services to underserved communities

GeoFencing

Proposed Amendment	Existing TNC Ordinance
Cooperate with city during large special events to geo-fence pick-up and drop-off locations appropriate for event for safer, more mobile friendly event	Not addressed

Trade Dress (Distinctive emblem displayed on vehicle for identification)

Proposed Amendment	Existing TNC Ordinance
Vehicle trade dress	Does not address

Mr. Derr said these amendments will help level the playing field for all ground transportation providers and will provide better mobility and enhanced safety for everyone. The issue of insurance will be discussed at a later date, when Risk Management staff with the City of Austin is available.

Council Member Don Zimmerman expressed concerns about TNC companies providing data. Mr. Derr and Chair Kitchen said the request for information was comparable to what other private for-hire-vehicle companies report and that the information is simply to help transportation staff to do their job. Chair Kitchen also said any data reports would be subject to laws with regard to proprietary information.

Public Comments:

- Lyft representative Jed Bowie said the company would like a better idea of how the data would be used to better Austin's transportation network.
- Uber representative Adam Blinick said he would also like to work with City staff to develop data-sharing provisions.

Direction: This item to the full City Council meeting on Dec. 17, 2015.

Recommendation: Council Member Sherri Gallo moved that the committee forward the item to Council with a recommendation for approval and recommendations for transportation staff. Council Member Delia

Garza seconded the motion. On a 3-1 vote, with Council Member Zimmerman opposed, the committee voted to forward the item to Council for approval.