

Written Testimony - Agenda Item 412/375

Agenda Item	Name or Organization	Position	Comments	Attachment	Created
1 412	Uber Technologies	Oppose		Yes	05/21/24 3:59 PM

May 21, 2024

Portland City Council
1900 SW 4th Avenue
Suite 3100
Portland, Oregon 97201



Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Gonzalez, Rubio, Ryan, and Mapps:

We are writing to express our concerns about the proposed fees (an increase of the per ride fee from \$0.50 to \$0.65 and a new \$0.11 Accessible Service Fee) for Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) that the Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) presented to the City Council on May 15, 2024.

First, we are concerned that a fee increase of this size, as well as the introduction of a new fee, will impact ridership in a city that's rideshare market has been one of the slowest in the nation to recover from pre-pandemic levels. These new fees will increase fees remitted by 51% (an estimated additional \$1.5 million in fees).

We know that revitalizing downtown is a priority for the Council, and we want to partner in that effort. As such, we have worked collaboratively with PBOT to identify ways we can support increasing the use of TNCs for underserved communities where transit isn't accessible. We are working with Prosper Portland to identify and support events around the City with rideshare sponsorships both to reduce traffic congestion and intoxicated drivers and to encourage travel to downtown. We have also been and remain a partner with PBOT to support the growth and stability of accessible ride services in Portland.

However, from experience in the Portland market and nationally, we know that fee increases can lead to declining use of rideshare. This means less Portland riders will be able to afford rideshare to travel downtown and less earning opportunities for rideshare drivers.

In addition, Uber is already required to enable transportation via wheelchair-accessible vehicles (WAVs) in Portland 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. This offering has enabled many users to request WAV trips when needed, while costing Uber about \$330k annually to implement. We remain committed to growing the accessible ride services in Portland, but it is unclear how an additional fee will be effective in doing so.

Uber is committed to Portland. We want this city to thrive and for our service to create opportunities for earners and riders to experience safe, convenient, and affordable transportation options. We are concerned this fee increase will impede progress toward that goal and urge you to reconsider the added costs to consumers at this time. We

would appreciate the opportunity to discuss this further and to explore opportunities that might support PBOT's goals.

Thank you,

Allison Ford

Public Policy Manager, PNW
Uber Technologies

Portland City Council Meeting
Wednesday, May 15, 2024 - 9:30 a.m.
Verbal Testimony

	Agenda Item	Name
1	374/375	robert butler
2	374/375	Sarah Radcliffe
3	374/375	Darin Campbell