



Citizens' Advisory Council
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July 8, 2022

SFMTA Board of Directors
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency
One South Van Ness Avenue, Seventh Floor
San Francisco, California 94103-5417

Re: SFMTA CAC Recommendation

Dear Directors:

In our Citizens' Advisory Council meeting on July 7, 2022, the Council considered the following recommendation:

CAC MOTION 220707.02

WHEREAS the San Francisco Planning Department has recently issued a report highlighting the socio-economic and environmental problems associated with transportation network companies (TNCs, e.g., Uber and Lyft), including the exacerbation of the global climate emergency and widening divisions between those who can afford ride hail services and those who cannot;

WHEREAS Uber is a financially failing company propped up by investments from various funds, including the Saudi Arabian Public Investment Fund, making Uber an extension of the fossil fuel industry;

WHEREAS 59% of San Franciscans who voted in the November 2020 election voted NO on Proposition 22 to convert Uber and Lyft drivers, among others, from employees with benefits ranging from minimum hourly pay and Workmen's Compensation to private contractors;

WHEREAS the San Francisco Charter requires the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) to ensure "roads that are not gridlocked with congestion;"

WHEREAS the San Francisco Charter requires the SFMTA to provide “A transportation sector that promotes environmental sustainability and does not contribute to global warming;”

WHEREAS the San Francisco Charter gives the SFMTA “exclusive authority over taxi-related functions and taxi-related fares, fees, charges, budgets, and personnel that it has over the Municipal Railway;”

WHEREAS the Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program requires the SFMTA to give up the power to regulate taxi meter fares for all cab rides booked through third-party dispatch systems and to transfer that power to the third-party dispatch companies;

WHEREAS Uber has stated that it has a goal of having all taxis globally on its platform by 2025, thereby converting all taxi drivers globally into Uber contract gig workers;

WHEREAS TNC participation is not an essential component of the Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program; therefore, be it;

RESOLVED that the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Citizens’ Advisory Council urges the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency Board of Directors to remove third-party (TNC) dispatch from the Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program.

It is the opinion of the SFMTA Citizens’ Advisory Council that the proposed recommendation would be of significant benefit to the citizenry of San Francisco and the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency.

Sincerely,



For

Michael Chen, Chair
SFMTA Citizens’ Advisory Council

cc: SFMTA Citizens’ Advisory Council