2017 Project Abstract

Project Title: Transit in the Era of Shared Mobility (Project G)

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ABSTRACT: The objective of this study is to analyze the changes in transit ridership in the United States with the introduction of on-demand ridesourcing options, also known as Transportation Network Companies (TNCs). The study will be undertaken in two phases by four different universities within the STRIDE consortium. The first phase is designed to have early analysis that can be easily published to show the value of STRIDE-funded research. The second phase will allow the researchers to investigate data and methods that could be used for further study about how TNCs and transit work together and against one another. The first phase will include five tasks, including a literature and news article review, a transit ridership analysis, two tasks related to assessments of partnerships between TNCs and transit agencies, and final reporting. The ridership analysis will assess change in average weekday unlinked boardings per month and take advantage of the gradual expansion of Uber and Lyft to provide a natural experiment in which cities where the service did not yet exist serve as a control for those where it had been. The first task of the deeper dive into TNC and transit relationships will focus on paratransit services. Traditional paratransit services are costly for operators to provide and users face costs above standard transit fares, lengthy travel times, and difficulties with real-time scheduling. This project will assess the structure of partnerships between shared mobility providers and the public sector to provide access to those with limited mobility. The second deeper dive into TNC and transit relationships will relate more to the structure of the partnerships and cooperative agreements related to all transit services, especially first mile / last mile service gaps. In the second phase, the study team will create a typology of TNC / transit interactions to assess future scenarios and assess potential data sources and methodology for additional work in future years. For the typology, the team will use data gathered in the first phase to understand the range in partnerships that can and do exist between TNCs and transit agencies, from complementary to competitive interactions and variation by type of trip, population subgroup, and geography. Finally, the research team will assess additional datasets and methodologies to develop a set of projects to further assess TNC and transit interaction in future STRIDE funding years.