



## COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM 7c

METROPOLITAN  
TRANSPORTATION  
COMMISSION

**Agenda Item 3c**  
Bay Area Metro Center  
375 Beale Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105  
TEL 415.778.6700  
WEB [www.mtc.ca.gov](http://www.mtc.ca.gov)

### *Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee

DATE: July 6, 2018

FR: Executive Director

RE: SB 1376 (Hill): Transportation Network Companies: Accessibility – Support

#### **Background**

Senate Bill 1376 (Hill) would direct the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to adopt regulations by January 1, 2020 requiring that transportation network company (TNC) services be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users, and that TNCs unable to meet this accessibility standard be subject to a fee assessed by the CPUC. Fee revenues would be administered by CPUC on a competitive basis to fund on-demand accessible transportation programs or partnerships to serve persons with disabilities, including users who need a wheelchair accessible vehicle (WAV). Revenues would be required to be used in the counties in which the fees were generated. The bill would also require that CPUC conduct workshops and consult with stakeholders, including disability rights organizations, TNCs, local governments and transportation providers in developing the regulations.

TNCs have provided new mobility options for Californians with a range of disabilities, including persons who are deaf, blind, hard-of-hearing or low-vision individuals. However, according to Disability Rights California other persons with disabilities, especially those who rely on WAVs, have largely been excluded from the benefits of TNCs.

Existing state law and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) provide that individuals with disabilities are entitled to full and equal access to transportation services, whether public, private or otherwise provided. CPUC verifies ADA compliance for most commission-regulated transportation services during the licensing process. However, accessibility requirements for TNCs – which are still a relatively new industry under CPUC's jurisdiction – are unclear. Since 2013, disability access has been on a list of issues for CPUC to consider through their multi-phase proceeding on TNCs but it has not been addressed thus far. In the meantime, TNCs continue to provide transportation services in California in a manner that may be inaccessible for certain individuals with disabilities.

**Recommendation:** Support

#### **Discussion**

Over the last decade, TNCs have improved mobility for a wide range of Bay Area residents. However, it is widely recognized that TNCs today are largely inaccessible for individuals who require a WAV. SB 1376 would elevate this issue by setting a deadline for CPUC to adopt regulations requiring that TNC services be accessible to persons with disabilities, including

wheelchair users. We are encouraged by this sense of urgency, given reports from San Francisco and around the country of recent declines in wheelchair accessible ramp taxi services – an important mobility option for wheelchair users – as taxi companies struggle to compete with TNCs.

We also support the bill's balanced approach of directing the CPUC to give TNCs the option to either provide accessible service directly or pay a fee that would fund alternative on-demand wheelchair accessible services. Though it may be challenging to ensure that WAVs are accessible through a TNC platform (since TNC rides are provided by drivers using their own personal vehicles), the fee option would support accessible on-demand programs and partnerships, with the end result of equal access.

For the reasons listed above, staff recommends a support position on SB 1376.

### **Known Positions**

#### **Support**

Association of Regional Center Agencies  
Center for Independent Living  
California Transit Association  
City and County of San Francisco  
Disability Rights California  
Disability Rights Education & Defense Fund  
Independent Living Center of Southern California  
Independent Living Resource Center San Francisco  
Marin Transit  
Placer Independent Resources Services  
San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency  
San Francisco Mayor's Office of Disability  
San Francisco Paratransit Coordinating Council  
San Mateo County Transit District  
Senior and Disability Action  
The Arc California  
United Cerebral Palsy California Collaboration

#### **Opposition**

None on file



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Steve Heminger

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**Handout  
Agenda Item 3c**

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## *Memorandum*

TO: Legislation Committee  
FR: MTC Policy Advisory Council  
RE: Senate Bill 1376 (Hill): Transportation Network Companies: Accessibility

DATE: July 12, 2018  
W.I. 1114

On Wednesday, July 11, 2018, the MTC Policy Advisory Council adopted a support position on Senate Bill 1376 (Hill) and urges MTC to support the bill when it comes before the Commission in July.

### **Background**

Senate Bill 1376 (Hill) would direct the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to adopt regulations by January 1, 2020 requiring that transportation network company (TNC) services be fully accessible to persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users. The bill would also require the CPUC to conduct workshops with stakeholders in order to determine community demand, transportation provider supply, and educational outreach objectives and to develop programs for on-demand services, service alternatives, and partnerships.

While acknowledging that ongoing litigation may affect the final bill, the Council noted that SB 1376 is in accord with the Council's expectation that access to transit mobility be extended to all Bay Area residents. As such, the Policy Advisory Council voted to recommend that MTC's Legislation Committee approve a support position on SB 1376.