

From: [Jake Brockman](#)
To: [councilmeeting](#)
Subject: Uber - Submission for 2021.GL26.11 on November 9, 2021 City Council
Date: Monday, November 8, 2021 4:11:31 PM
Attachments: [11_08 Uber Fact Sheet - Toronto City Council - FINAL \(1\).pdf](#)

Hi there -

Please find attached a submission to be shared with Council ahead of tomorrow's meeting.
Thanks very much and let me know if you have any issues with the attachment.

Best,
Jake

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FACT SHEET

TO: Toronto City Council

SUBJECT: GL26.11: Back-to-School - Vehicle-for-Hire Driver Training

DATE: November 8, 2021

As City Council considers *GL26.11: Back-to-School - Vehicle-for-Hire Driver Training* on November 9, Uber would like to share some facts about road safety and the vehicle for hire industry:

1. Uber is ready to implement the Driver Training Accreditation Program and encourages the City of Toronto to move forward on this project

- Uber has been consistent that we are in favour of the timely rollout of the Driver Training Accreditation Program and we have invested in systems to ensure we are ready when it rolls out
- In a letter dated March 27, 2020¹, given the uncertainty around the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, we suggested a reasonable timeline for the rollout of the training that would have seen all drivers accredited by March 31, 2021
- In a letter dated May 26, 2021², our General Manager called on the Executive Director, ML&S to move forward with the approval of training providers and proposed a timeline that would have already seen training rolled out.
- We continue to believe that ML&S should provide a clear roadmap on the path forward as part of the November 30, 2021 meeting of the General Government and Licensing Committee.

2. The City of Toronto and Uber have a robust safety regime in place for vehicle-for-hire drivers that has been recognized by Toronto Crime Stoppers

- New PTC drivers who are licensed in the City of Toronto have to meet some of the most rigorous safety standards in the world.
- Every driver is adjudicated against the City's strict statutory screening criteria which examines a driver's Criminal Record and Judicial Matters Check.
- Uber has also implemented a range of new safety features since 2019 including the rollout of sexual assault and misconduct educational modules to all active Toronto drivers in partnership with RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) and other organizations. This mandatory initiative provides comprehensive sexual assault and misconduct information for drivers.

¹ See full March 27, 2020 letter here: <https://uber.app.box.com/s/h4odhex3o9yj1w1yyp8bnzm762dr02ep>

² See full May 26, 2021 letter here: <https://uber.app.box.com/s/h4odhex3o9yj1w1yyp8bnzm762dr02ep>

- As part of a global commitment of \$2.6M to combat the global crisis of gender based violence, Uber has donated over \$250,000 worth of rides to partners such as YWCA Canada and WomanACT who support ridesharing because of the important safety features of the platform

In recognition of these safety developments and our ongoing collaboration with law enforcement, Sean Sportun, Chair of Toronto Crime Stoppers wrote the following:

I would like to express our appreciation for Uber's continued partnership with Toronto Crime Stoppers, specifically in our collective efforts in maintaining driver and rider safety, while also working to enhance overall community safety through strategic partnerships and awareness campaigns [...] I strongly believe the partnership between our organizations has had a positive impact on the reduction of crime and has ultimately enhanced community safety for the citizens of Toronto.³

3. Pausing licensing will have negative consequences for the City of Toronto for an indeterminate period of time

- Research has shown that platform work is a critical financial safety net for people who lose their jobs or are transitioning from one career to another. This is particularly true for women, young people, and new immigrants. Pausing licensing would prevent these people from accessing a flexible earning opportunity through no fault of their own.
- Pausing licensing would likely lead to higher wait times and higher prices across the City of Toronto. In research by Public First, 81% of woman-identified riders say that safety is an important factor in their choice to use Uber. Half of woman-identified riders agreed that ridesharing with Uber is often the safest way for them to travel home. Pausing licensing would directly impact these Torontonians.
- According to research in the [Journal of American Medical Association \(JAMA\)](#), there is a direct link between the availability of Uber and the reduction of DUIs and serious injuries from motor vehicle crashes. After Uber entered Houston in 2014, motor vehicle collision traumas decreased by 23.8% on Friday and Saturday nights for all ages, and 38.9% for individuals under 30 years old.

For these reasons, Uber encourages Council to refer this item to Staff for a fulsome report-back as part of the November 30, 2021 meeting of the General Government and Licensing Committee where Staff will present an Update Report on the Vehicle-for-Hire Bylaw.

³ Full letter can be found here: <https://uber.app.box.com/v/TorontoCrimeStoppers-Oct2021>