



Impacts of ridesharing in cities

Number 31, 2020

Part of the [Tranzinfo Hot Topics](#) series, this issue offers a selection of material on the impacts of ridesharing services such as Uber and Lyft in cities around the world. Since the launch of Uber in 2010, ridesharing services have experienced rapid growth; their impacts, however, have not always been positive. This hot topic focuses on their effect on traffic congestion, road safety, public transport services, and the environment.

Contents:

[Traffic congestion](#)

[Public transport](#)

[Road Safety](#)

[The environment](#)

Traffic congestion

[How London got rid of private cars - and grew more congested than ever](#)

The Guardian, 11 February 2020

London traffic congestion is worse than ever despite a fall in the number of private cars entering the city, with experts citing delivery vans and Uber among the reasons.

[L.A. Metro to launch ride-hailing for short trips](#)

Los Angeles Daily News, 27 February 2020

The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority has launched a three-year project for ride-hailing services for short trips to six designated service zones in a bid to reduce congestion and get cars off the road.

[Taxing Uber and Lyft rides is L.A. County's latest idea to free up congested roads](#)

Los Angeles Times, 26 February 2019

Los Angeles County is considering a tax on Uber and Lyft rides, claiming the companies don't pay their fair share to maintain roads and are contributing to congestion and falling public transport ridership.

[City's ride-hailing report quantifies the damage Uber and Lyft are doing to Chicago](#)

Streets Blog Chicago, 25 October 2019

A new [report](#) quantifies the impact of ride-hailing services on traffic congestion in the City of Chicago.

[Turns out Uber and Lyft might not be ruining the American city](#)

Wired, United States, 31 January 2018

The TRB's Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) has released a [report](#) on the effect of app-based ridesharing services on public transport usage, single-occupancy vehicle trips, and traffic congestion in several US cities.

[Taxi-sharing could end traffic jams, suggests MIT study](#)

BBC News, United Kingdom, 3 January 2017

A fleet of 3,000 four-passenger ride-sharing vehicles could do the same job as 13,000 taxis in New York City, according to a [study](#) by MIT researchers.

[Uber and Lyft usage leads to more trips and travel in major cities, says study](#)

Curbed, United States, 11 October 2017

Ride-hailing services are contributing to growth in vehicle miles travelled (VMT) in major cities, according to a [study](#) by researchers at the University of California Davis that focused on seven US cities.

[Average traffic speeds fall to below 10mph in UK's busiest cities as road congestion rises](#)

Greener Journeys, United Kingdom, 2 June 2016

Online shopping deliveries and the rise of Uber are contributing to increasing congestion levels in the UK, according to a [report](#) on the impact of congestion on bus services.

[Back to top](#)

Public transport

[Analysis of recent public transit ridership trends](#)

Transportation Research Board, TCRP research report 209, 2019

The latest analysis of public transport usage in the US. The influence of ridesharing services, for better or worse, is mentioned throughout.

[Uber and Lyft caused U.S. transit decline](#)

Streetsblog USA, 22 January 2019

App-based ridesharing services like Uber and Lyft are causing a decline in public transport services in US cities, and the effect is cumulative, according to a new study by US researchers.

[Taxing Uber and Lyft rides is L.A. County's latest idea to free up congested roads](#)

Los Angeles Times, 26 February 2019

Los Angeles County is considering a tax on Uber and Lyft rides, claiming the companies don't pay their fair share to maintain roads and are contributing to congestion and falling public transport ridership.

[Integrating ridesourcing services with public transit: an evaluation of traveler responses combining revealed and stated preference data](#)

Yan, X, Levine, J & Zhao, X, Transportation Research Part C: Emerging Technologies, vol. 105, 2019, pp. 683-96.

The authors find that replacing low-ridership bus lines with ridesourcing services could slightly increase transit ridership while reducing operations costs. The service improvements offered by ridesourcing mainly come from reductions in wait time. Though relatively small in the authors' study, another source of improvement is the decrease of in-vehicle travel time. Moreover, the authors find that when used to provide convenient last-mile connections, ridesourcing could provide a significant boost to transit. This finding verifies a popular notion among transit professionals that ridesourcing services can serve as a complement to public transit by enhancing last-mile transit access.

[Does the future of mobility depend on public transportation?](#)

Watkins, K, Journal of Public Transportation, vol. 21, no. 1, 2018, pp. 53-9.

We are entering the next great revolution in how people move about in cities. But does the future of transportation mean the end of transit?

[Turns out Uber and Lyft might not be ruining the American city](#)

Wired, 31 January 2018

The TRB's Transit Cooperative Research Program (TCRP) has released a [report](#) on the effect of app-based ridesharing services on public transport usage, single-occupancy vehicle trips, and traffic congestion in several US cities.

[Public transport is in decline in many wealthy cities](#)

The Economist, 21 June 2018

An article in The Economist argues that mass public transport is in decline in many wealthy cities due to factors including remote working and ride sharing.

[Uber and Lyft users more likely to use public transit frequently, own fewer cars and spend less on transportation](#)

American Public Transportation Association, 15 March 2016

A [study](#) commissioned by the American Public Transportation Association examines the relationship between public transport use and shared travel

modes such as bikesharing, carsharing, and ridesourcing services such as Uber and Lyft.

[Uber and Lyft want to replace public buses](#)

Bloomberg, 15 August 2016

Several public transport agencies in the US are experimenting with subsidised Uber and Lyft rides instead of bus lines.

[Back to top](#)

Road safety

[Uber linked to a reduction in serious road traffic injuries in the UK](#)

The University of Oxford, 18 February 2020

A collaborative [study](#) led by the University of Oxford examined the consequences of Uber's rollout in Great Britain for road accidents.

[Ridehailing services may be driving up traffic deaths](#)

The University of Chicago, 1 July 2019

[New research](#) from the University of Chicago associates the arrival of ride hailing services such as Uber and Lyft with an increase of approximately 3 percent in the number of motor vehicle fatalities and fatal accidents.

[Does Uber lead to less drunk driving? It's complicated](#)

The Verge, 4 October 2017

Researchers from the [Perelman School of Medicine](#) at the University of Pennsylvania analysed the effects of ride-hailing within specific cities, rather than averaging data across multiple cities. And they found that there is a correlation between Uber and a decline in drunk driving, but not everywhere. Different effects may be due to the characteristics of the cities themselves, according to the authors.

[Uber hasn't had an effect on drunken-driving deaths, study finds](#)

NPR.org, 29 July 2016

The introduction of ride-sharing services has not reduced the number of drink-driving fatalities in metropolitan United States, according to a [study](#) by researchers at the University of Southern California and Oxford University.

[Is Uber your Plan B?](#)

Transport for NSW Media Release, 2 December 2016

Transport for NSW has formed a partnership with Uber to promote the NSW Government's Plan B drink driving campaign.

[Back to top](#)

The environment

[Ride-hailing services are increasing carbon emissions](#)

Union of Concerned Scientists, 25 February 2020

The growth of ride-hailing services is increasing carbon emissions and exacerbating traffic congestion in urban areas, according to a new [report](#) by the Union of Concerned Scientists.

[Uber adding to air pollution in Europe: report](#)

Forbes, 20 November 2019

The surge in ride-hailing apps like Uber is contributing to air pollution and climate change, according to a new [report](#) by campaign group Transport & Environment.

[Substantial rebound effects in urban ridesharing: simulating travel decisions in Paris, France](#)

Transportation Research Part D: Transport and Environment, vol. 71, 2019, pp. 110-26.

This paper investigates how and to what extent changes in user behaviour may mitigate the environmental benefits of urban ridesharing, a phenomenon commonly referred to as “rebound effect”.

[Better rideshare systems could save Americans \\$5 billion a year](#)

Curbed, 18 July 2016

The Shared-Use Mobility Center in the US has released an interactive toolkit to help cities calculate the potential environmental and economic benefits to be derived from shared mobility systems, as well as a companion [report](#).

[Back to top](#)

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