



TNC Access for All Workshop (SB 1376, Hill)



February 15, 2019
Sacramento, CA





Housekeeping

- WebEx and Call-In for Remote Access Participants:
Send Questions/Comments to
transportationprograms@cpuc.ca.gov
- Questions for Presenters After Each Presentation
- Open Public Comment on TNC Access Issues
- Sign-in/E-mail to be Added to “Access for All” Contact List





TNC Access for All Act Overview

Public Utilities (PU) Code § 5440.

(c) It is the intent of the Legislature that the commission initiate regulation of charter-party carriers... to ensure that transportation network company services do not discriminate against persons with disabilities, including those who use nonfolding mobility devices.

(f) There exists a lack of wheelchair accessible vehicles (WAVs) available via TNC online-enabled applications or platforms throughout California. In comparison to standard vehicles available via TNC technology applications, WAVs have higher purchase prices, higher operating and maintenance costs, higher fuel costs, and higher liability insurance, and require additional time to serve riders who use nonfolding motorized wheelchairs.





TNC Access for All Fund

- Funded by customer surcharges (equivalent to 5 cents per trip) on TNC trips originating in “geographic areas” based on WAV demand and through CPUC workshops (*PU Code § 5440.5(B)-(C)*)
- Remittances by TNCs to Access Fund may be offset by the amount spent by TNCs on improving WAV service in each geographic area – must demonstrate improved level of service due to those investments. (*PU Code § 5440.5(C)*)
- TNCs may be exempted from Access Fund remittances by continually achieving designated levels of WAV service determined by CPUC in each “geographic area.” (*PU Code § 5440.5(G)*)
- TNCs can qualify for offsets or exemptions by “*directly providing WAV service with vehicles [they] own or by a contract to provide WAV service with a transportation provider, or by a combination of these methods.*” (*PU Code § 5440.5(H)*)





Access Fund Expenditure Criteria

- Funds are competitively distributed by CPUC to “access providers” who establish on-demand transportation programs or partnerships to meet the needs of persons with disabilities, including wheelchair users who need a WAV, in geographic areas determined by CPUC. ((*PU Code § 5440.5(C)*)
- “Access provider” means an organization or entity that directly provides, or contracts with a separate organization or entity to provide, on-demand transportation to meet the needs of persons with disabilities. (*PU Code § 5431.5(a)*)
- CPUC will request access providers to submit applications to receive funds by April 1, 2020 and select access providers to receive funding by July 1, 2020 based on criteria for expenditures adopted by CPUC in consultation with cities and counties, disability rights organizations, persons with disabilities, transportation and transit agencies, social service transportation providers, paratransit coordinating councils, and TNCs. (*PU Code § 5440.5(E)*)
- Applicants must demonstrate at a minimum how they will improve response times for WAV service, availability of WAVs in a geographic area, and efforts to promote available WAV services to disability communities. (*PU Code § 5440.5(E)*)





Geographic Areas

The commission shall select geographic areas, which shall be based on the demand for WAVs within the area and selected according to outcomes of workshops... for inclusion in the on-demand transportation programs or partnerships... funded [by the Access Fund]. The commission shall allocate moneys in the Access Fund for use in each geographic area in a manner that is proportional to the percent of the Access Fund fees originating in that geographic area. *(PU Code § 5440.5(D))*





Access for All Workshops

By January 1, 2019, the commission shall begin **conducting workshops with stakeholders**, including California cities and counties, disability rights organizations, persons with disabilities, transportation and transit agencies, social service transportation providers, paratransit coordinating councils, and transportation network companies, in order **to determine community WAV demand and WAV supply and to develop and provide recommendations regarding the establishment of geographic areas, criteria for Access Fund expenditures**, and educational outreach objectives for programs for on-demand services and partnerships consistent with the requirements of this section. Workshops may also examine topics including, but not limited to, vehicle specifications, subsidies for wheelchair pickups, maintenance and fuel costs, designated pickup locations for drivers in locations where door-to-door service is not feasible, standards for trip requests, response times, and rider initiated cancellation, limiting of stranded users, integration of service into city and county transportation plans, or any necessary training or additional incentives for WAV drivers that results in a measurable impact on service availability, efficiency, and efficacy. The commission shall conduct a minimum of five workshops throughout the state. *(PU Code § 5440.5(A))*





SB 1376 Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR)

- Scheduled to be taken up at 2/21 CPUC Voting Meeting
- Opening Comments Due 30 Days from Issuance of OIR
- Provide Us Your Contact Information to Stay Informed!





Intervenor Compensation and Working Group

- The commission shall authorize no more than 2 percent of existing funds collected from TNCs... to be distributed to accessibility advocates who provide a substantial contribution to the proceeding... and only for the duration of the commission proceeding... These funds may only be distributed to **advocates for accessible transportation or representatives of a group whose membership uses accessible transportation.** (PU Code § 5440.5(K))
- [The commission] shall **create a working group** with [cities and counties, disability rights organizations, persons with disabilities, transportation and transit agencies, social service transportation providers, paratransit coordinating councils, and transportation network companies]... to examine the variety of agencies, localities, and programs that provide transportation services for persons with disabilities... within the commission's jurisdiction... to **evaluate ways to partner** with those agencies **to provide services to disabled persons in a nonduplicative, nondiscriminatory, and more efficient manner.** (PU Code § 5440.5(3))





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