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| **Elevating the voice of Lyft and Uber drivers to shape policy** | |
| *Quote*  *- Colleague, Title* | |
| **THE NEED**  Seattle has a long history of innovative policy making to support workers across the economic spectrum—from pioneering the $15 minimum wage for all hourly employees, to secure scheduling  protections for retail and food service employees, and minimum wage protections for domestic workers. But because Uber and Lyft (referred to as Transportation Network Companies, or TNCs) classify drivers as independent contractors, these workers are not protected by Seattle’s labor standards or similar protections established by federal and state law.  Absent these basic protections, many TNC drivers experience poor working conditions such as low pay  rates, a lack of transparency, and constantly changing job requirements. The City of Seattle sought to establish a minimum pay standard for Uber and Lyft drivers in Seattle that ensures they make at least the equivalent of the Seattle large employer minimum wage plus reasonable expenses.  **OUR APPROACH**  Over four months, a City workgroup collaborated to connect with the driver community through a variety of methods including one-on-one driver intercept interviews, roundtable discussions, focus groups, a telephone town hall, and an online survey. To understand drivers’ perspectives on their values, motivations, needs, and challenges, an equitable approach was designed that optimized the opportunity to participate while still gaining deep insights. Outreach methods centered on how best to hear from drivers without impacting their working time, particularly during peak earning hours.  **THE RESULTS**  The following key themes emerged from the outreach:   1. Drivers need higher, fairer pay 2. Driver flexibility is valued, but is not without constraint 3. Driver pay is inconsistent and unpredictable 4. Drivers need a safety net   These learnings, as well as findings from a City-commissioned academic TNC-driver  wage study, helped to guide the City’s pay standard legislation as well as inform rule-making and implementation practices for other components of the Fare Share legislation related to worker  protections. On September 29th, 2020, City Council unanimously passed legislation making Seattle the second City in the country to guarantee a minimum compensation threshold to drivers.  **READ MORE**  TNC Driver Outreach and Engagement Final Report, City of Seattle, August 2020: <https://durkan.seattle.gov/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2020/08/Final-Outreach-Report.pdf>  Bloomberg Cities: <https://bloombergcities.medium.com/informing-a-wage-policy-for-uber-and-lyft-drivers-with-research-on-their-lived-experiences-cb4e0eaeb210> | **DEPARTMENT PARTNERS**  Dept. of Neighborhoods  Finance & Administrative Services  Office of Immigrant & Refugee Affairs  Office of Labor Standards  **PROJECT**  **DURATION**  December 2019 – March 2020  **IMPACT**  Increased access to programs that reduce cost of living  **KEY DEPARTMENT**  **CONTACTS**   * Kerem Levitas (OLS) * Samantha Stork (DON) * Stanley Tsao (DON) * Joaquin Uy (OIRA)     **FOR MORE**  **INFORMATION**  **CONTACT**   * Rachael Cicero (IP) |