

From: [Evelyn Posamentier](#)
To: [Chan, Connie \(BOS\)](#); [Ronen, Hillary](#); [Stefani, Catherine \(BOS\)](#); [Preston, Dean \(BOS\)](#)
Cc: [Somera, Alisa \(BOS\)](#)
Subject: Resolution urging the SFMTA Board of Directors to remove Third Party Dispatch from its Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program.
Date: Thursday, October 19, 2023 9:28:36 AM

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Dear GAO Committee Supervisors Preston, Stefani, and Chan,

I have previously written to the committee in strong support of your Resolution urging the SFMTA Board of Directors to remove Third Party Dispatch from its Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program. I would like to incorporate the text of that email which is included in the Committee Agenda Packet for File No. 220886, October 19, 2023, and have copied and pasted the email of September 28, 2022, below.

I concur with all of the letters included in the Committee Packet (10/19/23) in support of the resolution.

There are two major points that I would like to emphasize here. The intrusion of Uber into this project represents great dangers to seniors with disabilities like myself. I am a Paratransit user. I heavily rely on the SF Paratransit taxi discounts, particularly because the section of the bus line I most heavily rely on to access vital services and grocery shopping has been eliminated.

The Uber/taxi rides do not accept San Francisco Paratransit discounts. Plus, a taxi that is accepting an Uber ride is one less taxi available. This is a major transportation barrier for me.

I am not an attorney; but if this Uber intrusion is not technically a violation of the ADA — it certainly violates the spirit of the law.

Evelyn Posamentier,
District 8

*September 28, 2022

Dear Members of the GAO Committee,

I'm writing to offer my strongest support of Supervisor Chan's resolution urging the San Francisco Municipal Transportation Agency (SFMTA) Board of Directors to remove Third Party Dispatch from its Taxi Upfront Fare Pilot Program. This resolution gives me great relief and I pray that it passes.

SFMTA gave an informational presentation on the implementation of the program set to launch in August. This meeting was held only one month earlier in July! The presentation made no mention of E-Hail rides not honoring Paratransit taxi discounts.

Kate Toran, Director of Taxis, Access & Mobility Services Division, states in her August 5 memo to San Francisco Taxi Industry Members and Interested Parties (through Jeffrey Tumlin, Director of Transportation) that, "Allowing the taxi industry to provide customers with an upfront fare is intended to eliminate the price uncertainty and "meter anxiety" that some riders may now experience, and to allow the taxi industry to evolve and offer services in line with current trends in the for-hire transportation industry".

"Meter anxiety"?

No. Make that Uber anxiety: E-Hail apps will not accept Paratransit taxi discounts. I am a senior and I live with a disability. In case of a medical emergency, I can only take a taxi as Paratransit rides must be booked at least one day in advance. The bus route I most relied on was never fully restored post-COVID -- so that is no longer an option.

I once had an Uber called for me by a friend. The quoted fare home was \$35. Given that anxiety, I called a taxi. The ride turned out to be half and the Uber quote. Also, Ms Toran states in her memo that, "All permitted San Francisco taxi drivers are required to have a fingerprint background check and no additional background check is required to serve Third- Party Pilot Trips. No additional background checks required? How terrifying.

Seniors are the fastest growing segment of our city's population. The "gray tsunami". And we are vulnerable. The protections afforded to disabled people are compromised. Once again, barriers placed before us. The new program rules are confusing. One can hail a taxi and then be surprised by the Uber fare!

There will be fewer regular taxis, as drivers hop to E-Hail rides. Paratransit riders with limited tipping options are avoided. This is dangerous. I most firmly urge you to support this resolution. Thank you for listening.

Evelyn Posamentier
District 8