

NEW IN TOWN AN EXAMINATION OF THE IMPACT OF UBER AND LYFT IN PHILADELPHIA

The emergence of ride-hail services such as UberX and Lyft has been disruptive to the existing order of urban transport in the U.S. Appealing to the market's needs for higher mobility at lower costs, ride-hail entered the market as a direct competitor to many of the existing transport services. Transit agencies are among the first to feel the presence of TNCs. Several transit agencies have seen declining ridership since the launch of ride-hail in their service areas. Due to the lack of data and research, however, they have been unable to draw a more meaningful conclusion about the relationship between transit ridership and the growth of ride-hail services.

The purpose of this research is to understand the impact of transportation network companies such as Uber and Lyft on public transit usage and travel behavior in the Philadelphia region. The study area encompasses a five-county region in southeastern Pennsylvania, including Bucks, Chester, Delaware, Montgomery, and Philadelphia Counties. As the poorest big city in the United States with an extensive public transit network, Philadelphia is the population and employment center of the region. However, there have been few studies examining the role of the increasingly popular ride-hail services, as well as their impact on the transportation system, in both the city and the region. This study aims to answer three interrelated questions:

1. Have UberX and Lyft increased or lowered transit ridership in the Philadelphia urbanized area? To what extent are they a complement to or substitute for transit?
2. Who uses UberX and Lyft in the Philadelphia urbanized area and why?
3. What factors contribute to the individual substitution between transit and ride-hail services in the Philadelphia urbanized area?

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New In Town: An examination of the impact of Uber and Lyft in Philadelphia (#CM2-51)

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Project Information Form:
<https://sites.utexas.edu/cm2/files/2019/12/Year-3-Erick-Guerra-Uber-and-Lyft-in-Philadelphia.pdf>

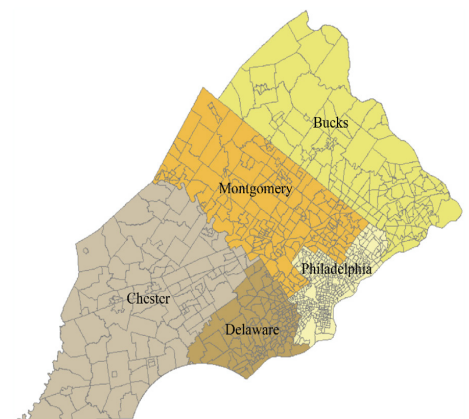


Figure 1: The five-county study area