

Amy Johnson

From: Damon Talbot <damontalbot1976@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, April 17, 2017 11:29 AM
To: citycouncil
Subject: Uber - Public Comment

Categories: Follow-up

Honorable Mayor and Council,

I am a resident of Ward #5 since October. I was unable to locate an agenda for the April 24th meeting and expect this topic to be on the schedule. I would ask that this email is included in the record. Below I am including a blog article I wrote on March 14th, 2017 which addresses my thoughts on the shared transportation provider network plans for the city. I believe this perspective will be somewhat different than any others; for or against the measure.

Salem's Transportation Future

Over the past few months, there has been a debate over allowing transportation networks such as Uber into Salem. First, off we should be clear, this is not just about Uber but rather ride sharing and the future of transportation.

Many people within the debate are looking at how it will affect current taxi companies, or what the impact may be on jobs. Opponents, as well as Proponents, have opinions of what it will do with pricing for transit. Another issue being discussed is that of our cities transit system and what impacts ride sharing will have on it.

I, on the other hand, have a different take and view. See I watch a lot of technology shows and news. Ride sharing along with autonomous transportation are a key recurring topic. So rather than look at the short term let me present some long term thoughts,

In the future, most people will not drive. The combination of ride sharing and self-driving systems will reduce the need for individual automobile ownership significantly if not completely.

In some tech sectors, it is expected that even in the next 10 to 15 years the rate of automobile purchases could drop by 30 to 50% as more car sharing type of services emerge. This will have a very substantial impact in reducing traffic, parking, and other transportation issues. None of which do the current transportation models accurately have built into its modeling.

As far as autonomous vehicles it's expected that at least 50% of cars on the road will operate at least Level Three or Four Autonomy. This will create a major reduction in accidents and also be more efficient in getting from here to there.

So where does this put Salem? If you start to research the future of transportation it becomes clear. We cannot keep thinking of things as they are now. We need to get ahead of the ball and start planning now, not later.

In my opinion, we need to not just allow ride sharing networks but we need to take it even further. Salem is an ideal candidate for transportation research and development of future technologies and plans. We offer a four season climate, access to urban and rural areas, and multiple types of roads. we're not too distant from several larger cities and also fairly close to Silicon Valley where much of the technology side is being developed.

Also, it is not just the vehicles themselves that need to be tested and developed. There are entire infrastructure systems such as [vehicle-to-vehicle-to-infrastructure](#). This is the concept of cars talking to each other and the roadways. They will be able to adapt traffic patterns, configure signals and many more things.

If Salem can become a leader in the development of these systems it could mean thousands of new jobs, possible infrastructure funds, and grants to build out full testing networks citywide, and we could become a leader in the future of how people get from one place to another.

Thank You for your consideration,

Damon Talbot - Ward 5

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Damon Talbot