

*The Hong Kong Polytechnic University
Department of Logistics and Maritime Studies
Research Seminar*

**Measuring the Benefits of Ride-Hailing Services to Urban Travelers:
The Case of the San Francisco Bay Area**

by

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**Date: 8 October 2019 (Tuesday)
Time: 10:30am - 11:30am
Venue: M502, Li Ka Shing Tower
The Hong Kong Polytechnic University**

(Conducted in English)

Abstract:

We estimate the effects of ride-hailing services on the welfare of travelers in the San Francisco Bay Area. Our methodology accounts for travelers' choice sets including all available modes and constructs a plausible counterfactual of travelers' welfare with and without the availability of ride-share services. Finally, we measure the benefits from lower fares and improved service. As a conservative estimate, we find that the availability of ride-share services increases travelers' welfare by at least \$1 billion annually. Extrapolating our estimate to all U.S. cities where ride-share services are available suggests aggregate annual benefits are in the multi-billions of dollars.

Bio:

Clifford Winston, the Searle Freedom Trust Senior Fellow in the Brookings Institution's Economic Studies program, has been with Brookings since 1984. He is an applied microeconomist who specializes in the analysis of industrial organization, regulation, and transportation.

Winston has also been co-editor of the annual microeconomics edition of Brookings Papers on Economic Activity. Prior to his fellowship at Brookings, he was an Associate Professor in the Transportation Systems Division of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology's Department of Civil Engineering.

The author of numerous books and articles, Winston has published *First Thing We Do, Let's Deregulate All the Lawyers*, with Robert Crandall and Vikram Maheshri (Brookings, 2011); *Last Exit: Privatization and Deregulation of the U.S. Transportation System* (Brookings, 2010); *Government Failure versus Market Failure* (AEI-Brookings, 2006); *Deregulation of Network Industries: What's Next?*, with Sam Peltzman (AEI-Brookings, 2000); *Essays in Transportation Economics and Policy: A Handbook in Honor of John R. Meyer*, with Jose A. Gomez-Ibanez and William B. Tye (1999); *Alternate Route: Toward Efficient Urban Transportation*, with Chad Shirley (1998); *The Evolution of the Airline Industry*, with Steven A. Morrison (1995); *The Economic Effects of Surface Freight Deregulation*, with Thomas M. Corsi, Curtis M. Grimm, and Carol A. Evans (1990); *Road Work: A New Highway Pricing and Investment Policy*, with Kenneth A. Small and Carol Evans (1989); *Liability: Perspectives and Policy*, with Robert E. Litan (1988); *Blind Intersection? Policy and the Automobile Industry*, co-author (1987); and *The Economic Effects of Airline Deregulation*, with Steven Morrison (1986). His articles have appeared in such journals as the *American Economic Review*, *Econometrica*, *Review of Economics and Statistics*, *Journal of Economic Literature*, *Bell Journal of Economics*, and *the Rand Journal of Economics*.

Dr. Winston received his A.B. in economics from the University of California at Berkeley in 1974, his M.Sc. from the London School of Economics in 1975, and his Ph.D. in economics from U.C. Berkeley in 1979.

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All are welcome!