

AGTA News from the Airport Curb - 6/09/22.



## AGTA News from the Airport Curb



### **Job Opportunity:**

*Airport Landside Operations Manager - Seattle Tacoma International Airport*

**Organization:** Landside Operations

**Employee Status:** Regular

**Schedule:** Full-time

**Posting Expires:** Jun 20, 2022, 2:59:00 AM

**Minimum Salary:** 106,621.00

**Midpoint Salary:** 133,286.00

[Click Here](#) to for further information and to apply!

## GROUND TRANSPORTATION NEWS

[Air-One: World's first airport for flying taxis opens in UK](#)

Globetrender.com - June 9, 2022

Air-One – the world’s first fully operation hub for future electric vertical take-off and landing (eVTOL) vehicles and autonomous drones – has officially opened in the UK.

Air-One was created by Urban-Air Port a company that designs, manufactures and operates ground, air and digital infrastructure, including new forms of sustainable air transport. The launch of their first Air-One hub in Coventry, UK, will act as a blueprint for improving urban air mobility globally.

Following its debut in the UK, Air-One will be deployed in new locations and environments across the world – with more than 200 sites planned worldwide over the next five years.

Designed for rapid assembly and disassembly, Air-One is a 1,700 sqm pre-fabricated vertiport. A central 17-metre diameter aircraft carrier sits at the centre of the structure to support the take-off and landing of eVTOL vehicles.

Air-Port’s interior allows the public to enter and explore its passenger and operational zones, including its passenger lounge; food, beverage and retail offerings; aircraft command and control centre; charging, refuelling and maintenance hangar; its dedicated cargo logistics hub; and its passenger processing and boarding zones.

There is also a full-sized model of Supernal’s concept vehicle S-AL on display, alongside other electric vehicles, and drone demonstrations will be carried out throughout Air-One’s time in Coventry. Backed by the UK Government and supported by Supernal – Urban-Air Port will operate Air-One in the heart of Coventry for at least one month.

Urban-Air Port has other vertiports already planned in the UK in the West Midlands and London, and internationally in the US (Los Angeles), Australia, South Korea, France, Germany, Scandinavia and South East Asia.

In other news, Deloitte’s “Advanced Air Mobility, Disrupting the Future of Mobility” report has revealed that in ten years’ time, electric air-taxi flights could be as cheap as ground taxis, and without the carbon output.

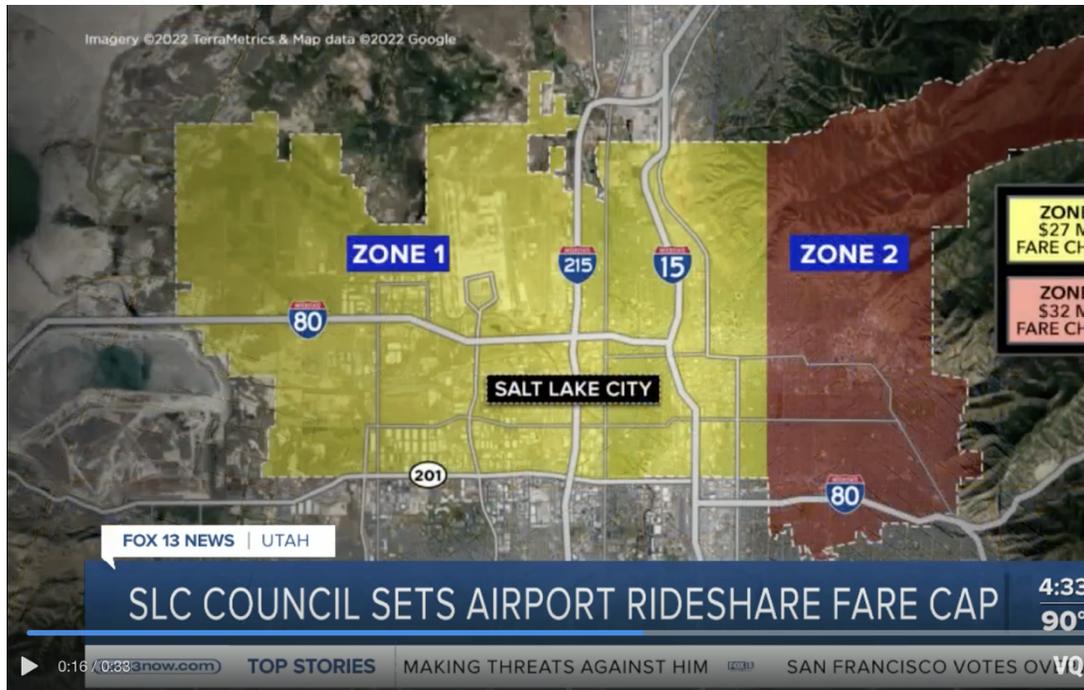
“Our study showed that the speed improvement of these air taxis could be three to five times faster than driving options today,” John Coykendall, principal of Deloitte’s Global and US Aerospace and Defense leader division, told *Robb Report*. “We believe AAM will integrate with the transportation methods we have today – it’ll be a case of ‘and’ with this type of transport rather than ‘or’ with existing modes.”

[Video: Caps placed on ride share fares from Salt Lake City International Airport](#)

*Yahoo News - June 8, 2022*

**Editor’s Correction:**

An April Fool’s joke came a little late this year to SLC. The local TV station, referenced in this week’s AGTA Curbs, reported breaking news that TNC fares from SLC had been capped from the airport. The broadcast even had maximum rates for zone fares from the airport. AGTA Executive Director, Ray Mundy, thought this was unusual so a check with SLC Ground Transportation Manager, Kristian Wade, found that there was only one mistake in their broadcast. The report’s only mistake was that they were reporting on the **capped taxicab rates** from the airport – not TNC rates. There has been no capping of TNC rates from SLC! We assume this was somewhat of a shock to TNCs serving SLC.



[Walt Disney World Update: Big Blue World, Minnie Vans & Epcot's Moana Micechat](#) - June 8, 2022

Disney's adorable **Minnie Van Ride Share Service**, connected by Lyft, returns this summer to make getting around WDW a little easier. The popular WDW resort ride service was shuttered back in 2020 alongside the park closures and did not return with the opening of the parks.

While rideshare services like Lyft and Uber are always available, the Minnie Vans are a good option for families staying at WDW (they seat 6 and have plenty of room for strollers, bags, etc). If you need car seats for young kids or are traveling between resorts (i.e. split stays at different resorts or resort dining), Minnie Vans may be a good option for you. Plus, Minnie Van drivers are knowledgeable Disney Cast Members, so you can generally count on good service and helpful conversation!

To book a Minnie Van, open the Lyft app while on WDW property and select a Minnie Van. All Minnie Vans include two complimentary car seats. Accessible Minnie Vans are also available. Minnie Vans will only offer rides around the Walt Disney World resort; charges are based on distance traveled. Just keep in mind that at this time, there will be no service to the Orlando International Airport.

[EVTOL aircraft could become common in cities in the 2030s: Deloitte Smartcitiesdive.com](#) - June 7, 2022

- Electric vertical takeoff or landing aircraft will fly commercially by 2024 and could become mainstream in the 2030s, acting as a ride-hailing and ride-sharing service within and between cities, according to a [Deloitte report released today](#).
- The consulting firm sees EVTOL as a way to address road congestion, improve productivity and increase accessibility for rural and disadvantaged communities.
- But a lack of first and last-mile connectivity and potential negative community response to the growing presence of advanced air mobility operations could slow adoption, said John

Coykendall, principal for global and U.S. aerospace and defense leader at Deloitte and one of the report authors.

Taxis and ride-sharing services such as Uber and Lyft are in the crosshairs of the nascent EVTOL industry, according to the report. "Our analysis shows advanced air mobility would be three to five times faster" at a comparable cost and with fewer carbon emissions, Coykendall said.

The report highlighted a 20-mile trip between John F. Kennedy International Airport and New York City that would take just 15 minutes in an EVTOL aircraft versus an estimated 44 minutes by taxi or ride-hailing vehicle.

Initially, Coykendall expects EVTOL operators to use existing airports and heliports. That means connections with ground transportation will be "key to success," he said, adding that as EVTOLs become commonplace, airfares could come down, making them more accessible to everyday users. However, he also acknowledged concerns about noise and the visual clutter of EVTOLs in city skies.

Four to six-seater aircraft will be used for intracity trips, according to the report, which states that the industry's "ultimate objective is to become a transportation system for mass transit, operating between urban, suburban, and rural areas."

### [Up to 11 catalytic converter thefts reported at Austin airport parking following busy Memorial Day weekend](#)

[kvue.com](#) - June 7, 2022

Up to 11 catalytic converters were stolen from Austin-Bergstrom International Airport (AUS) parking lots during the busy Memorial Day travel period.

Security footage shows a blue sedan entering a garage and a man in a white shirt exiting the car. The man took a catalytic converter from a truck parked beside him, placed it in his sedan's trunk and drove off. Police are searching for the suspect.

Martz said her husband looked under their car and saw the catalytic converter was ripped from her pickup truck.

"Somebody had literally sawed off our catalytic converter, just two cuts and pulled it off," said Martz.

The theft happened as her truck sat in the Blue Garage at the airport that requires payment to park.

"There's cameras and there's lights everywhere," said Martz. "So I was shocked. I couldn't believe that somebody had the ability to do this in an airport parking garage."

An airport spokesperson said thieves targeted at least three other cars in economy lots over the weekend, which included:

- An email at 7:07 p.m. on Monday night regarding a theft in an economy lot (not in a garage)
- A phone call on Tuesday morning around 9 a.m. for Lot D
- Another phone call on Tuesday afternoon for a catalytic converter threat out of Lot F.

Det. Jeff Sarrels of the Austin Police Department's Commercial Burglary Unit said vehicle alarms or converters with high temperature paint or identifying information etched on can help prevent such crimes from occurring.

AUS said ABIA Parking representatives patrol all lots and garages to respond to customers needing assistance and will alert the police if they witness a crime, such as a vehicle theft, in progress.

Customers can call APD or Airport Communications at 512-530-2242 if they notice suspicious behavior at the airport.

The airport said all parking lots and garages are equipped with CCTV cameras that monitor the operations 24/7.

### [Seattle-area demand for Uber, Lyft still not back up to speed, an outlier in the U.S.](#)

**The Seattle Times** - June 6, 2022

If it feels to Gahayr and his fellow Seattle-area drivers like the passengers haven't returned, it's because they haven't. In the first quarter of 2022, drivers for Uber and Lyft provided around 3.3 million rides in King County, according to data provided by the Seattle Department of Finance and Administrative Services through a public records request. That's just 36% of the companies' combined 2019 peak of 9.3 million rides.

Trips have rebounded some from the depths of the pandemic, when the region saw only 1.3 million rides in the second quarter of 2020. But for most of 2021 and into 2022, trips have plateaued.

The anemic numbers tell a story about the halting return to normalcy for a metropolitan area defined in large part by the tech industry. The companies also contend that new minimum wage requirements in Seattle are depressing ridership, a claim disputed by others.

Many drivers in King County and elsewhere in Washington appear to have stopped working for Uber and Lyft altogether, a nationwide issue for the companies that threatens to fray their coverage. In 2021, King County issued 12,285 ride-hailing permits to drivers, according to the King County Records and Licensing Services Division. In 2019, that number was roughly 80,000; in 2018, it was nearly 90,000.

At the same time, the number of active taxicabs in King County was down to 351 at the end of 2021 from 1,108 in 2018 — a 68% drop that began in 2019, before the pandemic, and has accelerated since the first shutdowns of 2020, according to King County's Records and Licensing Services Division.

At the same time, gas prices have cut into driver margins. The companies have added a surcharge, increasing the cost of trips, which are as high as they've ever been.

"I wonder how many people are still either avoiding Uber and Lyft because it's a shared vehicle space, or simply they're avoiding the places that they would commonly go when using Uber and Lyft," he said.

Wolfe, of Drive Forward, echoed the argument from the companies, that Seattle's new minimum wage for drivers has further depressed ridership.

"If the rest of the county is closer to 70% [of pre-pandemic ridership] but Seattle's at 45, the only difference is Fare Share," the name of the Seattle minimum wage law, he said.

MacKenzie said that's a possible explanation but couldn't say definitively Fare Share was to blame. Ridership on King County Metro buses correlates closely to the number of trips with Uber and Lyft; boardings in April 2022 were around 50% of boardings in April 2019.

### [Via to power new flexible, public ride service with CATS](#)

**Mass Transit Magazine** - June 6, 2022

The Capital Area Transit System (CATS) and the city of Baker, La., have launched LYNX by CATS, a new, on-demand, shared public transportation service.

LYNX by CATS officially launches on June 7, and will provide rides to and from key locations around Baker for \$1.75 or less.

LYNX by CATS is a first-of-its-kind service in the East Baton Rouge Metro area and will allow Baker residents and visitors to easily book on-demand rides to a variety of locations within the city and to the CATS fixed route system through the Scotlandville transfer station. Riders can also request service to important destinations near Baker, such as Southern University and the Baton Rouge Metropolitan Airport (BTR).

To book a ride, Baker riders can use the LYNX by CATS mobile app (available on the App Store and Google Play) or call. Once a ride is entered with pickup and drop-off locations, the system will provide ride options. Once a destination is selected, riders are directed to a nearby virtual bus stop within a short walking distance, and a driver is dispatched to meet them at that location.

LYNX by CATS operates Monday-Friday from 5:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and Saturdays from 6:00 a.m. to 8:30 p.m.. A single ride costs \$1.75, and riders can add additional passengers for \$0.35. Seniors (65+) ride for \$0.35 per trip. High school and College students ride free with a valid school ID. All LYNX by CATS vehicles are wheelchair accessible.

LYNX by CATS will be powered by Via. Via's advanced algorithms create quick, efficient shared trips that provide more flexibility for riders than traditional public transportation options with fixed routes and schedules.

### **[Martin Lewis shares airport parking hack that could save travellers £270](#)**

**Glasgowlive.co.uk** - June 4, 2022

Financial journalist Martin Lewis has shared a smart airport hack that could save travellers hundreds of pounds this summer.

And as many Brits are preparing to jet off on their summer holiday, Martin explained that they could save up to £270 by booking a parking space in advance.

As the Mirror reports, the financial guru referred to Manchester Airport as an example where customers are paying too much for parking. This comes as airport chaos has been reported from Manchester Airport which saw many miss their flights due to long queues at security.

He said drivers are forking out a staggering £400 a week to park their car there.

But if drivers were to book in advance, they only would have to pay £130 for the same length of holiday, saving £270 for the week.

For Glasgow Airport, if you book in advance, it costs £49.99 for a week's stay in their long stay car park which is a five minute bus ride from the terminal. Glasgow Airport say that by booking in advance customers save up to 60 per cent.

### **[Uh-oh: American's new bus service will be missing a key feature at launch](#)**

**The Points Guy** - June 2, 2022

When first announced back in April, American shared that its ground transportation provider, [Landline](#), would work with the TSA to allow travelers originating in either Lehigh Valley International Airport

(ABE) or Atlantic City International Airport (ACY) to clear security at the outstation before proceeding directly on the bus.

Upon arrival at the airline's Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) hub, the bus would pull directly up to a gate in the regional terminal (F). Then, travelers would be able to directly enter the airside area.

Once inside the airport, travelers would be able to head straight to the gate for their flight, without needing to reclear security.

However, American and Landline haven't received the necessary permissions to offer travelers the ability to board coaches on the ramp just as they would any other flight. The companies "continue to work with the TSA" on enabling this service, but until then, travelers will need to clear security in Philadelphia, according to a spokesperson for American.

In a statement, American shared:

As Landline works through approvals, customers will check in, check bags and board the coach pre-security at ABE and ACY. Coaches will arrive at PHL at Terminal F where customers will de-board and proceed directly through security while our team transfers checked bags. Agents will meet every arrival to assist customers. Departures from PHL will board post-security at Terminal F before heading to ABE and ACY.

In fact, this revised travel process matches the one that Landline uses with its other airline partners, United Airlines and Sun Country. The bus provider was poised to debut airside connections with its American partnership, but that aspect of the experience will, unfortunately, need to wait.

#### **[Q & A: Tony Glibkowski shares the story of Orlando's new airport transportation service, the Sunshine Flyer](#)**

**Attractions Magazine - June 1, 2022**

When Walt Disney World's Magical Express airport pick-up and drop-off service ended on January 1, 2022, it left an opening for new ventures to step in. That's when Tony Glibkowski and the team at Sunshine Flyer had the bright idea of making the transfer from the airport to the "Most Magical Place on Earth" feel like a themed adventure before guests' main vacations even starts.

We are a themed transportation experience to go from the airport [Orlando International Airport] to the Walt Disney World resorts.

The general story was, the parent company, TMS (Transportation Management Services), its focus is moving large amounts of people for large events. I think we moved 100,000 people at the Kentucky Derby and we have about 400 people in Qatar — we're working with FIFA on the World Cup over there — so we're very familiar with what it takes to move mass amounts of people, and when we saw that Disney was sunsetting the Magical Express we looked at the idea and said, "Hey, this mirrors a large event, but it just happens every single day. That got us thinking, and then we got more serious about it.

We knew we wanted to do it, but we also knew we wanted to do it as more than just a standard ride on a white bus. Families, and specifically kids, they're about to start their Walt Disney World vacation. When your flight lands in Orlando, for some reason the kids think Walt Disney World is right outside the door. They want something fun right away, so hopefully we can provide that stopgap of fun until they arrive at their resort. [The buses are] wrapped as trains, and each one is different. They're wrapped as either old 1920s train engines or passenger cars. We've even got one small, nice Sprinter van dressed as a caboose.

We service flights that land and depart at 7 a.m. to 10 p.m., so if you have a 7 a.m. flight there's a chance you might need to get picked up at 4:30 a.m. The plan is to get all guests to the airport two hours before domestic flights and three hours before international flights.

We're learning from our first three or four months of service what is working and what is not. It's going to have a large focus on helping out the travel agents and the resellers. We can have a built-in platform or portal for the reseller so they can log in and manage their clients' bookings.

### [Photos: American's new bus service gears up for its big launch](#)

**The Points Guy** - June 1, 2022

Your next American Airlines flight to or from Philadelphia may not be operated by a plane.

Instead, the carrier is teaming up with ground transportation provider Landline to offer bus connections between its hub at Philadelphia International Airport (PHL) and three regional airports:

- Lehigh Valley International Airport (ABE), in Allentown, Pennsylvania.
- Atlantic City International Airport (ACY) in New Jersey.
- Lancaster Airport (LNS) in Lancaster, Pennsylvania.

Travelers headed to or from these three cities can book connecting itineraries through American which will include a segment operated by a Landline bus. Service to Allentown and Atlantic City begins on June 3, followed nearly two months later with rides to and from Lancaster commencing on Aug. 16.

TPG received several photos of the new bus — and it looks quite stylish with the blue wrap and American logo painted from top to bottom.

Once inside, the 35 seats are arranged in a 1-2 configuration — just like the Landline bus that operates for United in Denver — and there is complimentary Wi-Fi, streaming entertainment and power at each seat.

There's even a lavatory at the rear of the bus, located next to what appears to be a mini-fridge and bar area.

If you're beginning your journey at one of the connecting airports served by Landline, you'll check in with American upon arrival. Your checked bags will be tagged and collected, and you'll clear security there (a new feature that Landline is debuting with its American partnership).

But, instead of walking down the jet bridge to board a flight, there'll be a Landline bus, waiting to whisk you off to Philadelphia.

Meanwhile, if your journey ends in Allentown, Atlantic City or Lancaster, you'll land in Philadelphia, and then follow signs for a dedicated bus gate from which the Landline vehicle will depart. Once again, your checked bags will be automatically transferred.

Itineraries that include bus segments operated by Landline are eligible for AAdvantage mileage and Loyalty Points accrual.

### [Car-sharing startup Turo expands to New York and France](#)

**Techcrunch.com** - June 1, 2022

Peer-to-peer car-sharing company Turo is expanding to New York State and France in June, the company said on Wednesday. The expansion comes at a time when post/mid-COVID tourism is

beginning to heat up, but renting a car will be difficult and expensive due to ongoing semiconductor shortages and supply chain issues.

Turo's launch in New York follows the state legislature's passing of SB 6715 in December 2021, a law that provides a regulatory framework for peer-to-peer car-sharing operations in the state. New York was the only state in the country where such a service was unavailable, so the signing of the bill means Turo is now in all 50 states.

Prospective hosts can start pre-listing cars on Wednesday, and guests who want to book on Turo can start June 27, the company said.

Meanwhile in France, Turo has acquired French competitor OuiCar, effectively opening up the French market and supporting broader expansion plans in Europe, the company says. Turo did not share the terms of the deal, but it's an acqui-hire that will involve initially maintaining the OuiCar brand before assimilating OuiCar under the Turo umbrella in the future.

Aside from the U.S., and now France, Turo's service is available in the U.K. and Canada. The company says it spans 8,000 cities with more than 2 million active guests and 217,000 active vehicles on the platform as of March 31.

Turo filed to go public earlier this year under somewhat mysterious terms. Turo, then and now, has not shared information on the number of shares to be offered in the IPO or the price range. The company also wouldn't share any updates on its IPO process, but a spokesperson for the company told TechCrunch Turo was monitoring stock market conditions to ensure a successful public debut.

#### **[First all-female rideshare business in Mississippi launched](#)** **The Dispatch - June 1, 2022**

Troublesome incidents involving women rideshare passengers and drivers have increased enough to prompt an entrepreneur in Mississippi's capital to come up with a new business.

It's a ride share service literally just for ladies that she hopes will mean safer transportation for women and she said it's the first of its kind in the Magnolia State.

Leigh Sullivan has been a rideshare driver in Jackson's metro area for more than six years now. She did the same thing in her native New Orleans before coming to Mississippi.

Sullivan said she had tossed around the idea of an all-female wing of her transportation business for a while because of the feedback she was getting from her passengers.

For now, you will have to call to schedule a ride with Literally Just Ladies. Sullivan said an app for the company is being developed. You also have to be 18 years or older to request a ride and, unlike other rideshare services, riders can request a particular driver if that driver is available.

"We also have a service that does do co-ed rides. I have males and females who work that side. It's up to them. So it's just this is a division of our company," she said.

Sullivan said she would like to expand her unique service from the Jackson area to college towns like Oxford and Starkville.

#### **[Tampa Off Airport Parking: Does It Really Save Money?](#)** **MyQ105.com - May 31, 2022**

If I'm doing a long trip, I prefer to just take Uber. BUT the problem with Uber is, when you get back, you're subject to whatever price hikes Uber might have in place. If it's raining or your flight gets back

to Tampa late at night, rates can skyrocket for Uber. So if I'm just heading out of town for a few days, I just prefer to drive.

It's not terribly expensive to park at the airport, but rates have gone up from \$10 to \$12 a day for Economy Parking recently. The new shuttle gets you to the main building in a few minutes and there are always spaces. Plus you can just drive in and out and pay with SunPass. But can you save much money by parking at one of the off-airport lots? I've used a few – for my Memorial Day weekend trip, I tried **Memorial Airport Parking**. Did I save money? Sure. Was it worth it? Ehhhhh.

After a Google search, based on reviews I decided to give Memorial Airport Parking a try. It was a bit tricky to find so definitely rely on your GPS. The lots are located about 5-10 minutes from TPA but there are a lot of one-way roads in the area plus you want to avoid the Veterans tolls. The goal if you're using off-airport parking is to save money right? When I arrived, you show your online reservation and you follow the shuttle to your parking spot. They got me to the terminal in about 15 minutes from the time I drove in.

When I got back to Tampa last night, the process was a lot slower. It was in the middle of a typical Florida downpour and lightning strikes were not far away. You don't get picked up near baggage claim. You have to take the train to the bus stop area near the auto rental counters. I texted them that I have arrived around 8pm. No response. Texted again about 5 minutes later and got word they were dropping a customer off and would be by soon. The wait was about 20-30 minutes. Once in the shuttle van, I was in my car and heading home in about 10 minutes.

After \$2 tips to the drivers, who deserved to be tipped – they were friendly and helpful, my cost was just under \$50. Parking at the Economy Lot at TPA would have cost me \$60. So yeah, I saved \$10. Was it worth it? Honestly next time I'd probably just park at the airport. When you get out of baggage claim, you just want to get home. So my review of Memorial Airport Parking would probably be 3.5 out of 5 stars, which I think is what their rating on Google was. Not bad. But probably not worth the little money you save if your trip isn't that long.

#### [Uber partners with the largest taxi service in Italy](#) **FleetEurope.com** - May 31, 2022

Uber has partnered with the largest taxi service in Italy, IT Taxi, to accelerate the recovery efforts caused by the pandemic. Collaboration with IT Taxi will enable more than 12,000 IT Taxi drivers to use Uber across Italy.

Uber has benefited from the ambitious expansion strategy by collaborating with taxi services, generating \$6.9 billion in revenue in the first quarter of 2022. The ride-hailing and delivery service company has reported a loss of \$5.6 billion in the pandemic period, now eager to cover this loss with profits.

Uber has also made similar deals in Spain, Germany, South Korea and Turkey, Hong Kong, New York and San Francisco. The strategy helped Uber boost its revenue by 136% year-on-year basis, also increasing the usage of its platform by 17%, reaching 115 million users per month.

The deal with IT Taxi will come into effect in June, enabling Uber to provide ride-hailing services to more than 80 cities in Italy, including Rome, Milan, Turin and Bologna.

#### [This company wants to make pod-cars public transport — for free](#) **TheNextWeb.com** - May 31, 2022

Silicon Valley company Glydways wants to turn conventional mass public transport on its head, by introducing small, electric automated vehicles or "pod cars" that can carry four people and operate on a network of specially built guideways. They run on-demand (instead of on a timetable) and travel point-to-point with no stops in between. In the future, they might even pick you up at your house.

Seeger shared his vision for light electric vehicles that get exclusive right of way instead of dealing with road infrastructure like intersections and pedestrian crossings. The cars run on narrow and lightweight guideways that can be elevated, ground level, or under a tunnel to alleviate congestion.

Toulouse, France's 9.3 mile Metro Line B was built entirely underground at about \$176 million per mile, while Houston Metro's 3.2 mile Green Line is ground level and cost \$223 million per mile. By comparison, Glydways estimates that it costs just \$20 million per mile or 25 cents per passenger per mile.

The company has been working on numerous pilot and feasibility studies to augment or extend existing public transport, such as in cities like Pittsburgh and Fort Lauderdale.

In San Jose the company has bid on a project to get people from downtown to Mineta San Jose International Airport.

The biggest challenge for Glydways is getting US local government buy-in. Someone offering an effectively free public transport system may sound awfully appealing. However, Seegler admits:

"A lot of cities have said to us, "We love it. It's free, and we want it. Why would we say no? But well, it's unproven. And we don't want to be first."

But let's forget Glydways' disaggregation. Those little pods make a lot of sense compared to a mass people carrying vehicle, and this is the sweet spot for creating an incredibly exciting new mode of transport. I will be following its progress closely.

#### [Uber driver fuming at Leeds Bradford Airport £39 'scam' fee for dropping off passengers](#)

*The Mirror - May 27, 2022*

A frustrated Uber driver has lambasted Leeds Bradford Airport (LBA) after being slapped with a £39 charge for dropping passengers off and returning less than an hour later.

The hefty penalty was forced on Faraz Khan, 36, on May 20 following three trips he made to the airport, leaving him well out of pocket.

He was hit by a recirculation charge, which means drivers cannot return to the airport within an hour of leaving, and father-of-two Faraz has accused LBA of running a scam operation, reports Leeds Live.

Faraz, who lives in Armley, had to pay the hefty bill after dropping off his last passenger which was only an £8.39 fair. He has since spoken to Uber who told him the only option would be to cancel trips to the airport in future, if he thinks he'll be in risk of breaching the airport rules again.

A spokesperson for Leeds Bradford Airport, said: "Due to continued misuse of the One Hour Free Zone, a recirculation charge was introduced in 2019 to prevent it becoming a prolonged holding area for vehicles.

#### [US infrastructure is nowhere near ready for Biden's electric vehicle timeline](#)

*The Hill - May 26, 2022*

President Biden recently announced an objective of increasing U.S. EV production to 50 percent of the U.S. fleet by 2030. It's a very aggressive goal.

Current production sits at just 3-4 percent. Even to reach a more realistic 10 percent, the industry must undergo a massive transformation. We'll need hundreds of thousands of new charging stations. We'll

need more electricity and better ways to store it. And though Biden is providing \$3.1 billion in grants to seed the process, the private sector will need to step up in a major way.

Due to its aggressive credits and tax structure, EVs now constitute 75 percent of Norway's auto sales. To serve that many drivers, the country installed 313 charging stations for every 100,000 people. The U.S., by comparison, has just 30. To reach Norway's availability, we'll need over 1 million more.

To serve EVs, the gas station model requires reinvention. Drivers will need somewhere to wait. Some even envision adding mini-business centers to keep motorists occupied.

Then comes the problem with electricity itself. Or more accurately, the industry's glaring inefficiency.

Take renewable energy. It now constitutes 20 percent of U.S. production, but only 12.6 percent of that is actually consumed. The U.S. must get better at the storage of renewable energy. If expanded generating capacity arrives only with a comparable expansion of energy waste, then the entire purpose of the green car is defeated.

The tipping point won't likely arrive until the early 2030s, when wholesale change will begin to appear.

The federal government has agreed to spend \$73 billion on power grid upgrades. Though studies suggest \$125 billion is required, EVs' surge will nonetheless mean added volume for electric utilities. An equal boon awaits suppliers in battery and battery management software who develop ways to charge at faster rates.

Yet think of public money as just a stimulant. The true driver in all this is the consumer. In 2021, EV and hybrid sales nearly doubled. As younger, more green-conscious buyers arrive in the market, that's only bound to accelerate.

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## AIRPORT NEWS

[IAH makes improvements at Terminal E to help with traffic flow](#)

**Click2Houston.com** - *June 8, 2022*

A \$1.3 billion construction project is underway at Bush Intercontinental Airport, and KPRC2 spoke to travelers who are enduring the changes.

"Hectic! Very, very hectic," traveler Ali Haggaz said.

Terminal E is under construction, and since Tuesday, a fourth lane has been added to the arrival zone, which helps ease traffic and provides more spaces for ride share companies.

"It's not 100% better, but it's an improvement. It wasn't congested and it was easier to get to the airport," Deanna Freeman said.

Inside Terminal E, the elevators are back in operation and the portable restrooms are ready for use.

The airport is making progress, but some travelers say they're frustrated.

[Northwest Arkansas National Airport board looking to increase airport parking rates due to inflation](#)

**Northwest Arkansas Democrat Gazette** - *June 2, 2022*

The airport authority board Wednesday asked staff to analyze parking rates and recommend adjustments for inflation.

"Inflation has hit everything. It's hit our costs; it's hit everybody's costs," said Aaron Burkes, chief executive officer of Northwest Arkansas National Airport. "This would be very significant to us from a revenue standpoint. Bumping up the parking fees by even a buck or two could add \$1 million to our bottom line."

Parking rates, traditionally one of the biggest revenue sources for the airport, haven't increased in years. Now inflation is taking a bigger bite, making it more costly to operate, according to Burkes. Parking generated \$6.9 million in revenue in 2019, up from \$5.4 million in 2018. Parking revenue fell during the pandemic, when fewer people were flying. Parking generated \$5.2 million last year and is expected to generate slightly more this year.

A cursory look by staff indicates adjusting for inflation would increase the cost of per-day parking about 20%.

The airport is quickly approaching prepandemic passenger numbers based on Transportation Safety Administration data. In May, passengers were down 2.1% from 2019 numbers, according to preliminary counts.

**[CNX, Pittsburgh Airport to Showcase Natural Gas Aviation Potential with Utica Project](#)**  
**NaturalGasIntel.com - May 27, 2022**

Pittsburgh International Airport, known to fliers by the three-digit code PIT, is stepping up its natural gas development partnership with Appalachian Basin-focused independent CNX Resources Corp.

PIT and CNX earlier this month launched another phase of their public-private partnership. It currently includes a revenue-sharing deal for CNX-operated Marcellus Shale wells on airport property and a 20-MW natural gas-solar microgrid that supplies all of the airport's electricity.

Under the latest deal, CNX plans to develop Utica Shale wells on airport property. It would deploy proprietary autonomous separation technology to convert dry gas produced onsite into liquefied natural gas (LNG), compressed natural gas (CNG) and electricity. Electricity also could be used to produce hydrogen, among other uses.

Akinkugbe said CNX's technology deployment at PIT could highlight the potential role for natural gas in helping the aviation industry to decarbonize.

"LNG is improving as a potential aviation fuel going forward," Akinkugbe said. "The key is getting the industry to embrace LNG as a sustainable aviation fuel. We're saying this is an alternative that has a low cost, a much lower emissions signature, and also benefits the region."

Besides LNG, CNG could be used for airport ground transportation and hydrogen could ultimately be used to fuel planes as well as ground vehicles, Akinkugbe said.

CNX and PIT, whose partnership began nine years ago with the airport authority signing a deal with then-Consol Energy Inc., also envision creating a "sustainable fuel hub at PIT" with LNG and CNG fueling depots for airlines, transit, cargo, fleet, military, and other purposes.

Akinkugbe told NGI the technology is currently being "fine-tuned" but could begin operations sometime in the 2023-2024 time frame.

*This message has been sent to you [The Airport Ground Transportation Association](#)*