

ISSUE: CAR SHARING – CITY CARSHARE / ZIPCAR (September 23, 2008)

Do you have or offer any type of car-sharing (City CarShare and Zipcar) programs for your customers? San Francisco City/County is looking at the business hours use to maximize car-sharing potentials, reduce overall car ownership, reduce congestion/emissions, increase parking spaces/revenues, etc etc.

City CarShare is a San Francisco Bay Area non-profit and Zipcar is an international for-profit company. Flexcar and a few others are outside of California. Car-share users pay a membership fee and for actual time and mileage costs. Peak demand for household members are typically non-business hours.

REQUESTOR: Tom Fung, Director – San Francisco City & County

COMMENTS

LOS ANGELES COUNTY, Rick Teebay

ZipCar & FlexCar merged within the past 12 months. UCLA and USC both have FlexCar programs. As I understand it, the UCLA FlexCar program is open to students living on campus who do not have cars and to UCLA staff who carpool. UCLA has a very large and very successful carpool-vanpool program.

I suggested the program to the CEO last year, but was unable to sell it. Contacts at UCLA are: Sherry Lewis or Tim Pfrimmer

SAN DIEGO COUNTY, John Clements

We talked to the "Flexcar" representatives a while back. While I felt the concept was good, we ended up with the following thoughts:

1. By their own admission Flexcar was focused on "general transportation" needs strictly in the downtown area. My non-law enforcement presence in our downtown area is really minimal. They did not seem receptive to placing cars into urban business areas which is understandable.
2. Although many have the attitude that employees are free, we felt there would be a significant loss of productive time in having employees walk or be dropped off at a Flexcar location. Then that process would be reversed after they used the car.
3. Flexcar's list of "extra" charges for such things as lost keys, unclean vehicles etc matched our driver's profile perfectly. I think this might be true for many fleet drivers. So we estimated the total cost for us would be higher than Flexcar's base fees.

UCLA TRANSPORTATION, Sherry Lewis, Associate Director

David Karwaski, UCLA Transportation Planner is the contact for the UCLA carshare programs.