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More Myth Than Math: Uber Deceives Drivers With Its Rosy Income Picture

ROCKVILLE, Md.— Uber made headlines this week with grossly misleading statements about how much their uberX drivers can make. The ‘Who’s Driving You?’ campaign breaks it down here:

- Uber claims the median income for an uberX driver in San Francisco is \$74,000. That assumes the driver works “at least” 40 hours a week (it’s probably 60 hours a week).
- A typical taxi driver puts 50,000 miles a year on the vehicle. Using the government rate of 56 cents per mile to reimburse for mileage, gas, maintenance, and wear and tear on a car, those 50,000 miles a year will cost an uberX driver \$28,000.
- In addition, there is insurance. If uberX drivers want to avoid losing their life savings in an accident, they need to get primary commercial automobile liability insurance coverage. It will cost around \$5,000 per year more than regular car insurance.
- Taxicab drivers also incur a variety of other costs such as tolls, parking, carwashes, etc., which account for another \$3,000 per year.

So now that income is actually not \$74,000, but \$38,000. At 60 hours per week for 50 weeks, that’s \$12.67 per hour – at 40 hours per week it’s \$19.00 per hour with no benefits at all.

After three years, that car, if new (which most aren’t) would now have 150,000 miles on it, rendering it practically worthless for resale or trade. That means the driver would have to buy a new car even before the old one is paid off.

“We know where this road ends,” said Dave Sutton, spokesperson for the ‘Who’s Driving You?’ campaign. “It ends with Uber getting rich without taking any responsibility, while its drivers wreck their cars and accept all the risk. Uber’s like a casino: The house always wins.”

ABOUT US:

‘Who’s Driving You?’ is a public safety campaign designed to educate the public about the dangers of unlicensed transportation companies. It is an initiative of the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association, an international non-profit trade association whose membership consists of 1,100 licensed transportation companies. For more information, visit www.WhosDrivingYou.org, follow us on Twitter (@WhosDrivingYou) and follow us on Facebook ([facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou](https://www.facebook.com/WhosDrivingYou))

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