

More legroom, less conversation for Uber riders who pay

July 9 2019, by Cathy Bussewitz



In this May 10, 2019, file photo a banner for Uber is draped on the front of the New York Stock Exchange before the world's largest ride-hailing service holds its initial public offering. Uber is letting passengers request a more comfortable ride if they're willing to pay. The ride-hailing giant launched "comfort" rides Tuesday, July 9. (AP Photo/Mark Lennihan, File)

Uber is letting passengers tell their driver in advance that they'd like a little less conversation, and more legroom, if they're willing to pay.

The ride-hailing giant launched "[comfort](#)" rides Tuesday. Riders are guaranteed a minimum amount of legroom in cars less than five years old and can use the app to tell drivers they don't want to talk. Comfort rides cost 20% to 40% more for time and distance than standard Uber rides.

Uber says it's responding to requests from [business travelers](#) and other riders.

The move could help Uber boost revenue, which could nudge the company closer to profitability.

Uber has yet to turn a profit and lost \$1 billion in the first quarter of 2019. Executives have said it could take years to turn a profit.

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Citation: More legroom, less conversation for Uber riders who pay (2019, July 9) retrieved 24 April 2024 from <https://phys.org/news/2019-07-legroom-conversation-uber-riders.html>

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