Lyft offers electric vehicle options for riders, drivers
6 February 2019, by Cathy Bussewitz

Seattle also has more drivers of electric and hybrid cars than other markets, and Lyft has "tens of thousands" of drivers of electric and hybrid vehicles nationwide, McNeill said, declining to release more specific numbers. "It's a significant portion of our fleet, and we want to make it a very significant part over time," he added.

Asked whether there are enough green vehicle drivers for customers to reliably have the option, McNeill said that given the density of electric and hybrid vehicle drivers in Seattle, he is not concerned.

"It will be interesting to see from a consumer perspective, if you want to be picked up by an electric vehicle, what if the wait's 10 minutes longer? Because not everyone's going to be driving one of those," said Steven Polzin, program director for mobility policy research at the University of South Florida's Center for Urban Transportation Research.

Seattle has policies that encourage shared mobility and the city has worked hard to discourage ownership of single occupancy vehicles, said Sharon Feigon, executive director of the Shared Use Mobility Center. "I would think this helps encourage demand (for electric vehicles)," Feigon said.

The move comes as Lyft prepares to go public sometime this year.

Uber, which is also preparing for an IPO, launched a feature in June that lets passengers know if they are riding in an electric vehicle.

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