**David T Gray, Vice-chair Austin Commission on Seniors**
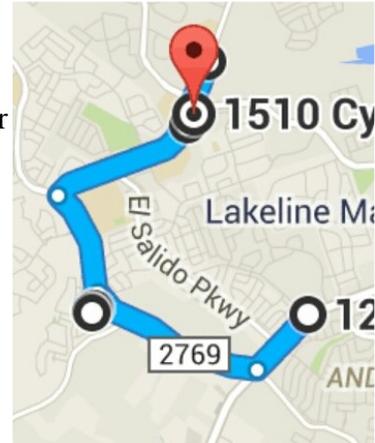davidTgray@austin.rr.com
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# MOBILITY

**DRAFT PROPOSAL** - please edit for our discussion at meetings - add your thoughts and comments.  We will need a SECOND to discuss it – it doesn't mean you support the proposal.

I pick up my phone and say, "take me to city hall", a van arrives, we zig-zag through traffic, a rider gets dropped off, a while later another rider is picked-up to fill the vacant seat and I arrive at my destination.  The van continues…
**OR**

I pick up the phone and say "take me home". A car arrives with a banner on top saying "Welcome David Gray"...

*If the van holds 4 passengers we cut the number of automobiles on the road by one-fourth*.  If its a driver-less van - even more (google car).

The logistics of this is fairly simple.  The cell phone knows where you are,  you provide your destination and this is relayed to computer.  The computer grabs the coordinates, then searches it's database for vans in the vicinity.   In the van on the display screen is a route map, this map is updated and the driver hears a mechanical voice saying turn left at the light…

Imagine a fleet of vans traveling via the web of vans, all computer controlled.  This is off-the-shelf technology

## THE FUNDING IS ALREADY HERE
Capital metro gets 350 million dollars from voters (1% of sale tax revenues.)   This is enough to put 5,000 cars on the road cutting traffic congestion in half and since it's already paid for, we all ride free.

20k per car + 50k for the driver and gas = 70k.  350 million / 70k = 5,000 cars. With 500,000 cars on the road per day or 50,000 per hour (assuming a 10 hour day) with each car carrying 5 people would be the equivalent of 25,000 cars, so half of the traffic could be absorbed.

## BUT, AUSTIN ALREADY HAS THIS

Take a look at the 311 application called "311 Austin" available free on cell phones at the Google Play Store.  Type in "pot hole across the street".  The cell phone knows your location.  The central computer relays the problem to nearby repair crew.  Instead type in "take me home"!

## PROPOSAL:
1. That Austin provide free personalized pick-up and drop-off transportation for Austinies;
2. That,  100 people coming into Austin each day but with bus ridership declining we scrap the 20th Century Bus system in favor of the 21st Century solution.