Last Week In Innovative Mobility
April 2 - 8, 2018

RIDESOURCING/TNCs
Didi Chuxing announces plans to launch in Mexico. The company will first launch in Toluca, the capital of Mexico’s central state. Although the time of the launch is not specific, Didi expects the service will be available to users in April 2018. Until then, Didi is recruiting drivers and will waive driver commission fees through mid-June 2018.

MICROTRANSIT
Via and Mercedes-Benz launch ViaVan in London. ViaVan’s service allows users to request a ride on-demand, then matches passengers with similar travel times and destinations to the same vehicle. ViaVan’s app directs users to certain pickup locations for its pooled rides. The service received its first license to operate in the United Kingdom, from Transport for London.

RIDESOURCING/TNCs
Lyft expands its subscription services to 30 U.S. markets. The ridesourcing company/TNC is testing a variety of monthly subscription packages. Lyft also stated that it aims to further grow its subscription services in the future.

BIKESHARING
Meituan Dianping, a Chinese Internet company backed by Tencent Holdings, acquires Mobike for $2.7 billion. Mobike will remain under its current management. The deal will result in shared technology, operations, and marketing and customer service resources. Mobike claims to have about 200 million users globally, at present.

SCOOTER SHARING
Bird launches its electric scooter service in Austin. Since the scooters are operating without a permit, Austin Transportation Department officials stated that the scooters will be removed, if they remain in the public rights-of-way for over 48 hours. The scooters may be included in an upcoming dockless bikesharing pilot program in Austin, nevertheless.