Getaround partners with SUMC and CNT for $715,000 grant and launches on-demand service in Chicago

August 10, 2015—Leading carsharing company Getaround, today announced the launch of it’s on-demand carsharing service in Chicago and its participation in a federally funded study of peer-to-peer carsharing in the city through a partnership with the Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC) and the Center for Neighborhood Technology (CNT). The two-year study will be funded through a $715,000 Federal Highway Administration grant administered by the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Chicago Department of Transportation, with additional funding support from CNT.

“The City of Chicago has long been a leader in using innovative ideas to expand quality, safe transportation options – from our popular bike share system to ridesharing – and the fact that Chicago has been chosen for this important new study on carsharing underscores that leading role,” said Mayor Rahm Emanuel. “From the success of our bike sharing program to our many investments to build a 21st century mass transit system, Chicago will continue leading the way forward when it comes to identifying the best ideas for making neighborhoods safer, healthier, and more economically vibrant.”
The study will explore the impact of peer-to-peer carsharing in three specific Chicago-area communities:

- Low-density and suburban neighborhoods such as Evanston
- Low and moderate-income communities in Bridgeport, Bronzeville, Pilsen and Rogers Park
- Closed network communities in large residential developments

The project will rely on Getaround’s connected-car technology, the Getaround Connect™, to collect anonymized trip data to be analyzed and interpreted to help inform future policy and program decisions in the Chicago area and beyond.

“Carsharing and other forms of shared mobility have the potential to offer significant social and economic benefits, such as reducing greenhouse emissions, lowering transportation costs and improving public health,” said Project Director Sharon Feigon, who also serves as SUMC’s executive director and is the former CEO of Chicago’s IGO CarSharing, a company founded by CNT. “The goal of the pilot is to explore a number of new carsharing business models while helping to lessen congestion, improve air quality and create a rich network of options that make it possible to live well without owning a car.”

In addition to announcing its participation in the study, Getaround also announced the launch of its on-demand product in Chicago—eliminating the need for owners and renters to meet in person and hand-off keys. Getaround allows Chicagoland residents to rent cars nearby with the touch of their phone, and is the only carsharing company that empowers Chicago-area car owners to earn hundreds of dollars each month from an underutilized car.
“We’re honored to be a part of this important milestone in Chicago’s rich transportation history and are thrilled to be bringing our on-demand experience with us,” explains Jessica Scorpio, Founder of Getaround. “Getaround’s goal has always been to empower people to car share everywhere and studies like this are key to learning what that takes. We look forward to growing our community in Chicago while helping to shape and define the policies for the next generation of cities.”

Chicagoans can take advantage of Getaround’s arrival into the Chicago market by signing up at www.getaround.com, or downloading the company’s mobile apps. Getaround is guaranteeing Chicago owners will earn up to $5000 in their first year of sharing. Car owners can list their car at getaround.com/list

ABOUT GETAROUND
Getaround empowers people to safely share cars by the hour and day. Combining Getaround Connect™, our patented connected car technology, with auto insurance coverage backed by Assurant, Getaround creates a seamless and fun sharing experience. Getaround members can conveniently rent nearby cars and save money on auto payments, insurance and maintenance. Owners share cars ranging from a smartcar to a Tesla, earning thousands in extra income each year to offset the high cost of car ownership, while making a positive impact on the environment. For more information visit getaround.com.

ABOUT SHARED-USE MOBILITY CENTER
The Shared-Use Mobility Center (SUMC) is dedicated to achieving universal, affordable and sustainable mobility in urban and metropolitan regions of the U.S. through the efficient sharing of transportation assets among peers and through third-party operators. The center is focused on expanding U.S. mobility choices for people and communities by enriching and integrating shared-use mobility services through collaboration and innovation. For more information visit sharedusemobilitycenter.org.