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Department of Transportation

POLLY TROTTENBERG, Commissioner

June 14, 2014

Chairperson Gigi Li  
Manhattan Community Board 3  
59 East 4<sup>th</sup> Street  
New York, NY 10003

Dear Chairperson Li:

This is to notify you that the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) is reviewing an application from BQE Bus Service, Inc. to add additional vans to an existing commuter van service in Brooklyn and Manhattan. Your written comments in support or in opposition to this service will enable NYCDOT to determine the public convenience and necessity for the service. Please see the enclosure which fully explains the commuter van application process.

**Applicant:**

BQE Bus Service, Inc.  
8908 Roosevelt Avenue, 1F  
Jackson Heights, NY 11372

**Authorized Territory**

**Elmhurst/Jackson Heights/to Borough Park/Bensonhurst/BayRidge:**

From a residential area of Queens bounded on the north by Roosevelt Avenue from 76<sup>th</sup> Street to College Point Blvd. Continuing along College Point Blvd. From Roosevelt Avenue to Northern Blvd. and along Northern Blvd. From College Point Blvd. To Parsons Blvd., bounded on the east by Parsons Blvd. From Northern Blvd. to Cherry Avenue Continuing along the Southern Border continuing on 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue to Queens Blvd. Bounded on the west by Queens Blvd. from 57<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 76<sup>th</sup> Street along 76<sup>th</sup> Street to Roosevelt Avenue. From and to said territory to the Borough of Brooklyn bounded on the south by 8<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 66<sup>th</sup> to 80<sup>th</sup> Street, bounded on the north by Bay Parkway from 89<sup>th</sup> Street to 59<sup>th</sup> Street to 17<sup>th</sup> Avenue and along 7<sup>th</sup> Avenue from 59<sup>th</sup> Street to 40<sup>th</sup> Street to 3<sup>rd</sup> Avenue back to 66<sup>th</sup> Street.

**Brooklyn/Manhattan:**

From Borough of Brooklyn bounded on the north by Avenue P from Stillwell Avenue to Nostrand Avenue, on the east along Nostrand Avenue from Avenue P to Avenue Z, bounded on the south by Avenue Z from Nostrand Avenue to Ocean Parkway, along Ocean Parkway from Avenue Z to Avenue U, bounded on the west by Stillwell Avenue from Avenue U to Avenue P. From and to said territory to the Borough of Manhattan bounded on the north by Bayard Street from Mulberry Street to Bowery, bounded on the east by the Bowery from Bayard Street to Division Street, bounded on the south by Division Street from Bowery to Mulberry Street, bounded on the west by Mulberry Street from Division Street to Bayard Street.

|                                     |                |
|-------------------------------------|----------------|
| Currently Authorized Vans:          | 6              |
| Proposed Number of Vans to be used: | 20             |
| Proposed Days/Hours of Operation:   | 12 Hours/Daily |

There will be a public hearing held on Friday, July 18, 2014 at Manhattan Borough President's Office, One Centre Street, 19<sup>th</sup> Floor South New York, NY 10007 from 2:00pm-4:00pm, so that you may have an opportunity to voice your position on this application. In addition, written comments in support or in opposition to this application may be sent to Ms. Dorothy Szorc at the New York City Department of Transportation, Division of Traffic and Planning, 55 Water Street – 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, New York, NY 10041 no later than July 18, 2014. Any written comments received after this date may not be considered. Those opposing the application must clearly specify why the proposed expansion of vans will not meet present and/or future public convenience and necessity.

If you have any questions you may contact Dorothy Szorc at 212-839-7217.

Sincerely,



Tom Maguire  
Assistant Commissioner

c: C.Tormey, A.Meola, M.Taylor- TLC

## Local Van Law Review Process

This brief description explains the Local Van Law and why the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) is sending you a notice of a proposed van service for your review.

### Background

On September 28, 1994, the responsibility for authorizing and regulating commuter vans was transferred from New York State to New York City. A commuter van service is defined in the law as a “*a common carrier of passengers...that provides a transportation service through the use of one or more commuter vans on a prearranged basis over non-specified or irregular routes, between a zone in a residential neighborhood and a location which shall be a work related central location, a mass transit or mass transportation facility, a shopping center, recreational facility or airport.*” The vehicles used for commuter van service must have a seating capacity of at least nine but no more than twenty passengers.

People who wish to apply for a van service authority must fill out an application that is currently available through the Taxi and Limousine Commission’s (TLC) Van Licensing Division. Questions about obtaining an application can be directed to the Supervisor of the Business Unit Angelique Meola at (718) 391-5641. Both the TLC and NYCDOT are involved in the van service application review process.

### The TLC Review Process

The TLC is responsible for determining the fitness of a van service applicant. All applicants are fingerprinted and are required to meet insurance requirements, NYS 19A bus driver certification, NYS vehicle inspection requirements and all NYS Department of motor Vehicle requirements.

### The NYCDOT Review Process

NYCDOT reviews the application to determine if the proposed van service meets present and future public convenience and necessity. NYCDOT’s responsibility is only to review applications, and the agency does not take a position for or against an application.

To determine whether the proposed van service meets the present and future public convenience and necessity NYCDOT reviews public support statements submitted by the van operators as part of the application process. Potential van riders fill out the public support statements giving reasons why they feel they need the proposed service and why, in their opinion, existing mass transit does not meet their travel needs.

NYCDOT also solicits comments from affected community boards, members of the City Council, transportation providers, and the general public. These comments should address whether or not, in your opinion, the service is needed in the affected community. Each time NYCDOT receives an application for van service authority, NYCDOT will send you a notice requesting written comments. You will also be notified of a public hearing concerning the van service.

Since the process of reviewing commuter van service applications is quite lengthy (four to six months), we ask that you send your comments to us by the due date written in the notice. We may be unable to incorporate your comments into our review after this due date.

#### Additional Information

You are welcome to contact the individual applicants for additional information about their applications: contact information will appear in the notice.

If you need additional information concerning NYCDOT's public convenience and necessity assessment, please feel free to contact Ms. Dorothy Szorc at (212) 839-7217. For information related to TLC's fitness reviews, please contact the Director of Applicant Licensing, Mr. Christopher Tormey at (718) 391-5674.

We hope this brief description of the program has helped you better understand the van application review process.