



# NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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## INDUSTRY INFORMATION | INDUSTRY NOTICES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
 Industry Notice #02-09  
 April 01, 2002

### TLC LICENSED VEHICLES EXEMPT FROM SINGLE OCCUPANCY BAN AND PERMITTED TO USE HOV-3 LANE ON GOWANUS EXPRESSWAY

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) announces that TLC licensed vehicles (black livery cars and yellow medallion taxicabs) are **exempt** from the Single Occupancy Ban at the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, and may travel in the HOV-3 lane on the Gowanus Expressway **provided the car has at least one (1) passenger.**

This is pursuant to Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg and Governor George E. Pataki's announcement that the West Side Highway and the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel (BBT) are now open. Both the Tunnel and a portion of the West Side Highway (West Street between Chambers and Albany Streets) have been closed to traffic since September 11. In addition to the Tunnel and the West Side Highway, most side streets in this neighborhood have also been re-opened.

TLC-licensed vehicles are allowed in the HOV-3 lane on the Gowanus Expressway with at least one (1) passenger. This HOV lane, which will run from the Verrazano-Narrows Bridge to the BBT for Manhattan-bound traffic only, is for E-ZPass users only who are carrying a minimum of three (3) passengers. For-hire vehicles (FHV) and medallion taxicabs are **exempt** from the three (3) passenger requirement for this HOV-3 lane. **However, FHVs and medallion taxicabs must have at least one passenger and comply with the E-ZPass requirement to be eligible to use the HOV-3 lane.** The NYPD will strictly enforce these restrictions. E-ZPass use is mandatory for all New York City medallion taxicabs.

The BBT is subject to regular Manhattan-bound single occupancy vehicle (SOV) restrictions from 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. on weekdays - in accordance with all other bridges and crossings leading into Manhattan south of 63rd Street. TLC licensed vehicles are **exempt** from the Single Occupancy Ban at the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel and may enter Manhattan without an additional person in the vehicle in non-HOV lanes.

The TLC further reminds all medallion taxicab drivers of their obligation to comply with the requests of passengers whose destination is in lower Manhattan. Rules and regulations prohibiting service refusals will be strictly enforced. All those found guilty of refusing these requests will be prosecuted, and may be subject to fines or TLC license suspension or revocation.

Information concerning the HOV-3 lane may be obtained by calling the TLC Customer Service Hotline, **(212) NYC-TAXI**. Operators fluent in both English and Spanish are available to answer questions and provide additional information.