



NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Pilot Report

**Modified Accessible
Rear-Entry Toyota Sienna**

April 17, 2008

Autovan Pilot Program

- Pilot began in July 2007
- Two modified Toyota Siennas were placed into service (**8V53** and **8V71**)
- Additional safety and usability testing was performed
- Feedback collected from drivers and owners

Safety Testing

- Unmodified Siennas have a 5 star safety rating from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA)
- Autovan-modified Siennas were subjected to crash testing to confirm that modifications for accessibility would not add additional risks
- Tested vehicles meet or exceed federal standards and manufacturer standards for safety
- Unmodified Siennas have been in service for many years without serious problems

Usability Testing

- Positive feedback from drivers
 - Of 14 fleet drivers surveyed and interviewed, 100% gave the Sienna the highest possible rating
- Enthusiastic feedback from wheelchair users and advocates for passengers who are disabled
 - Focus group with 18 wheelchair users – 17 of 18 liked the Sienna
 - Support from the Disabled Riders Coalition
- Interest from owners
 - “The rear entry accessible Sienna has outperformed my expectations”

Staff Recommendation

- The modified Sienna appears to be appropriate for taxicab use in New York
- Autovan and Freedom Motors should show evidence of quality control standards either by OEM support or independent engineering verification

Recommended Commission Action

- The pilot and current MOUs can be extended to allow for additional vehicles on the road
- The rear-entry Sienna should be allowed as a vehicle option for the upcoming auction of 86 accessible medallions pending final rulemaking by the Commission



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