
Matthew W. Daus, Commissioner/Chair**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE****March 15, 2010****TLC, DOT, EDC ANNOUNCE RFP FOR DEDICATED
LIVERY STAND AT STATEN ISLAND FERRY TERMINAL*****RFP Paves the Way for Safer, More Convenient
Transportation for Staten Island Ferry Riders***

New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) Commissioner Matthew W. Daus, NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, and New York City Economic Development Corporation (NYCEDC) President Seth W. Pinsky today officially released a Request For Proposals (RFP) with the goal of creating a dedicated livery stand to provide exclusive transportation services to passengers at the DOT's St. George Ferry Terminal in Staten Island. The Staten Island Ferry serves 21 million riders per year, with 110 trips per day ferrying approximately 70,000 passengers per average weekday between Staten Island and Lower Manhattan.

The RFP represents a new and innovative approach to providing transportation at a location where the significant demand for livery service is sometimes met by illegal operators, which put passengers at risk and poach business from legitimate operators. The successful proposer(s) would create a combination of on-site dispatch for peak demand hours, and a 24-hour phone service for other hours, allowing passengers to receive expeditious service delivered by TLC-licenses bases, TLC-licensed and inspected vehicles, and TLC-licensed drivers. The NYCEDC prepared and is managing the RFP on the TLC's behalf.

"Ferry commuters rely heavily on livery cars at the St. George Terminal, but unfortunately they aren't always what they seem to be," said TLC Commissioner/Chairman Matthew W. Daus. "This plan will ensure that Staten Islanders receive the safe, convenient and accountable livery service they want and deserve."

"Staten Island commuters now enjoy three new ferryboats, two rebuilt terminals and key amenities like the new café, and soon, this world-class service will no longer have to end at the taxi ramp," said Commissioner Sadik-Khan. "We're working right now to design and build new terminal ramps at St. George, which will make for even smoother sailing for the increasing number of commuters who are choosing to take the Staten Island Ferry."

“Providing a designated livery stand at the St. George Terminal will greatly improve transportation options for the more than 19 million commuters and tourists who use the Ferry for travel between Staten Island and Lower Manhattan every year,” said NYCEDC President Seth W. Pinsky. “In addition to providing Ferry users with a safe alternative to illegal operators, this service further complements our efforts to increase retail options inside the Terminal and make it more user-friendly.”

Among the criteria that proposals must satisfy are the requirements that vehicles must be dispatched within five minutes during peak weekday hours, and within 10 minutes at all other times; all fares must be clearly displayed at the livery stand and filed with the TLC; and drivers must provide detailed receipts to passengers for rides, which will include the base name, the date/time/location/destination of the ride, the fare, the vehicle/license number, and TLC/311 consumer contact information. The successful proposer will create a vehicle staging and queuing plan that takes into consideration both vehicular and pedestrian traffic at the terminal to maximize passenger safety. An optional pre-proposal meeting and site visit for prospective proposers will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2010 at 12 p.m. at the St. George Ferry Terminal, and proposals are due no later than 4 p.m. on Friday, April 30, 2010.

The RFP may be viewed at www.nycedc.com/RFP.

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) was created in 1971, and is the agency responsible for the regulation and licensing of almost 200,000 yellow medallion taxicabs and for-hire vehicles, their drivers, and the businesses that operate and support their industries. It is recognized as the largest and most active taxi and limousine regulatory body in the United States.

To find out more about the TLC, or to review its rules, regulations and procedures, we encourage you to visit our official Web site at WWW.NYC.GOV/TAXI or call 311 in New York City, or 212-NEW-YORK from outside of New York City.