
NYC Fleet Year in Review, 2020

By: Keith T. Kerman

The year in fleet began with a major accomplishment. Mayor de Blasio announced at the State of the City that we would transition to an all-electric fleet by 2040. Executive Order 54 from February also launched our Fleet of the Future Network and furthered our efforts to be the cleanest and safest fleet in the country.

Of course, March brought a pandemic and changed everything to this day. Fleet staff citywide were asked to keep the fleet going while braving health risks, budget reductions, and taking on new emergency response roles. We could not be prouder of the response of our citywide fleet colleagues. We recognize again the fleet, and City staff, who gave their lives to help safeguard our City.

Despite the challenges, the citywide fleet program made progress in many areas, while also responding to emergency needs and fiscal constraints.

- **NYC Clean Fleet:** We now operate one of the nation's largest electric fleets at over 2,800 plug-in units, NY State's largest EV charging network with over 1,000 ports, and the world's largest portable solar charging network with 88 carports. We are making terrific progress in expanding our fast-charging network and hope to say more about that in early 2021. For the first time, all new police patrol vehicles were hybrids in 2020. While fiscal constraints may extend the timeframe on some of our initiatives, in the next year we will be issuing bids for all-electric equipment including SUVs, pickups, vans, Parks garbage trucks, and small trucks, and also establishing a long term contract for renewable diesel. We also continue to progress on mandated fleet reduction.
- **Vision Zero:** Through our Safe Fleet Transition Plan (SFTP), we have now installed over 55,000 safety upgrades to City fleet units including the nation's largest truck side-guard program, the Connected Vehicle initiative in partnership with US and NYC DOTs, and the nation's largest telematics project for public fleet and school busses. Despite COVID-19, we installed our largest side-guard program in 2020 and have completed over 82% of all trucks. Nearly all agencies are complete, and DSNY, our largest program, is making steady progress. We continue to implement automatic braking, heated mirrors, and driver alerts as part of the SFTP. Most importantly, we have begun the installation of 1,250 surround cameras for trucks to help prevent tragic line of sight crashes with City work trucks. We also placed our all-day Vision Zero Safe Driver Training online this summer for the first time. Already over 2,000 staff from 30 agencies have participated in online safety training.

- **Fleet Servicing:** COVID-19 greatly impacted fleet staffing. At the height in April, our garages estimated staffing resources were down to a 60 percent level. Despite all this, the fleet garages reported their lowest vehicle out of service, 8%, in 8 years of daily publicly reported tracking. We also completed 108,547 preventive and state maintenance inspections, our largest program ever. DCAS added two new strategic parts locations for FDNY at Seaview in Staten Island and Randalls Island in Manhattan. We also completed an adjustment of the shared services program with the Parks department assuming additional servicing of DEP vehicles in Queens and Manhattan. In NYC and throughout the nation, we were reminded that fleet is an essential service on which we all depend. NYC's fleet professionals and technicians met the challenge.
- **Emergency Response:** More than any effort, emergency response services dominated our attention this year. DCAS Fleet staff, led by Assistant Fleet Commissioner Brent Taylor, were deployed full time for over 6 months with the FeedNYC relief effort which delivered over 67 million meals to NYC residents from April through October. Fleet staff also helped review specifications for personal protective equipment including respirators, masks, and face shields. This summer, nine fleet staff at DCAS helped distribute air conditioners to New Yorkers as part of the Heat Wave Plan. Staff also assisted the Medical Examiner's Office as they addressed the tragic implications of the pandemic. Finally, throughout the year, we have addressed countless requests for fleet resources and emergency fleet services, supporting FDNY with emergency fueling, H&H with contact tracing, DOB and Health with additional inspection services, OCME and OEM for additional response assets, and all agencies with deep cleaning and disinfecting for vehicles.

All through the pandemic fleet staff at every level have responded to the call, coming into work despite the risks, implementing needed safety procedures, and freeing up resources to support changing emergency needs. Many other staff successfully transitioned to remote work, maintaining all our administrative and analytical operations in this new way of working. The pandemic is of course still with us and these response efforts continue.

We want to thank all our agency fleet and transportation coordinators, mechanics, and service professionals, and also recognize our oversight partners including OMB, DOI, Law, OLR, Operations, and the DM's office. We also want to thank our DCAS partners including Procurement, Budget, Energy, Counsel, Human Resources, Real Estate, and the Commissioner's Office.

As always, we wish everyone a safe and joyful New Year and strength, resilience, and health in the face of these continuing challenges. I think it's safe to say that we all wish for a better 2021 than this year delivered.

Thank you and Happy New Year!

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