

Vision Zero Dusk and Darkness: Recognizing the Safety Risks of Night Driving

By: Keith Kerman

Daylight savings time has ended and our days are getting shorter. Driving already comes with challenges, and lack of visibility doesn't help. Schoolchildren now finish after-school activities when it's dusk and the evening commute will be at night. Reduced visibility and glare from lights make driving harder and increase the risks to vulnerable road users including children, seniors, bicyclists, and pedestrians. Historically, crashes increase during this dusk-to-darkness period. We can prevent it.



Vision Zero Dusk and Dawn Campaign infographic describing safe practices for drivers and pedestrians at night.

First launched in 2016, the annual Vision Zero Dusk and Darkness campaign kicked off on November 4 with street teams made up of Department of Transportation (DOT), New York City Police Department (NYPD), and DCAS staff handing out literature and talking to commuters, drivers, and bicyclists about road safety. Teams were at the Staten Island Ferry, Penn Station, Washington Heights, the Barclays Center, and other sites spreading a safety message:

First, if you don't have to drive, don't. Take public transportation, walk, teleconference, or bike.

If you drive at night, your vision as a driver falls tenfold. This means you need to be that much more careful and cautious.

Speeding is a leading cause of traffic deaths. Even small reductions in speed will save lives.

Slow down when turning. Pause and look for pedestrians and cyclists every time you turn.

Check and clean your headlights, mirrors, and windshield wipers before driving.

On November 3, DOT, NYPD, the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission, the New York City Business Integrity Commission, DCAS, and elected officials held a press announcement to promote the [dusk to darkness awareness campaign](#).

At the announcement, DCAS Deputy Commissioner and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman reminded us all that the only safe driving is focused driving. "Driving at night is not the time to check on your phone, lose yourself in your music, or munch on some food," stated Keith Kerman. "It's the time to focus on the road. We talk about a New York minute but a careless New York second can get you or someone else hurt or killed. Please don't let it happen."

Special thanks to Gary Prasad, Nate Koszer, Jason Li, and Kayla Rodriguez from DCAS who participated in both the street teams effort and the announcement.



DCAS Deputy Commissioner and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman joins NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and DCAS staff at the Dusk and Darkness announcement.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

Fleet Vision International: The Show

[Fleet Vision International: The Show](#) was held on April 12 and 13 in London. DCAS Deputy Commissioner and Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman and NYPD Deputy Commissioner Robert Martinez discussed the electrification of the City's fleet and how NYC is a worldwide leader in sustainability. Presentations from the show will be posted to the [DCAS Fleet webpage](#).



COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, when interacting with others in close quarters such as within a vehicle, it is strongly recommended to wear a mask.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 409, November 4, 2022:](#) DCAS and U.S. DOT Volpe Issue First Clean Fleet Transition Plan

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 408, October 28, 2022:](#) Our 7th Vision Zero Fleet Forum

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 407, October 14, 2022:](#) Reducing Risk While Driving

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 406, September 30, 2022:](#) Fleet Spotlight: Reggie Cooper, Ensuring the Quality of Our Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 405, September 23, 2022](#): Marking Climate Week, NYC Exceeds 4,000 Electric Vehicles

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