

## NYC Fleet: 2,000 Truck Side-guards and Counting

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If you go to England, Brazil, and many other parts of the world, commercial and public trucks come with a standard safety feature called a truck side-guard. This common-sense railing blocks the space between the high truck tires on both sides, preventing children, bicyclists, motorcyclists, and even small cars from getting trapped in the gap and badly hurt or killed.

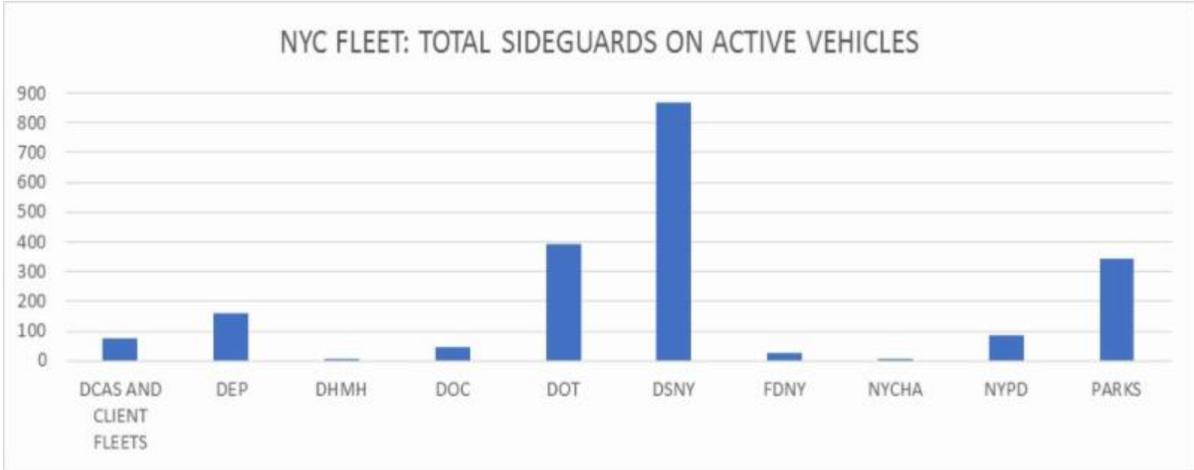


While standard and mandated in much of the world, these safety guards are still rare in the United States. As part of Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative, DCAS is working to change that. This week, we installed our 2,000th truck side-guard on City fleet units, the largest such initiative in North America, and with installations continuing weekly. NYC Parks, DOC, DOHMH, and DCAS have all completed installations for all of their trucks.

As part of Vision Zero, DCAS announced in May 2014 a partnership with the US DOT Volpe Center to study the efficacy and design of truck side-guards. In February 2015 DCAS and Volpe published a report on side-guards. As discussed in the report, trucks are 3.6% of vehicles operating in NYC but accounted for 12.3% of pedestrian fatalities, 14.8 deaths annually from 2002 to 2006, and 32% of bicyclist fatalities, 7.4 deaths annually from 1996 to 2003. Truck sides are involved with up to 25% of pedestrians hits and 55% for bicyclists. The fatality rate for bicyclists and pedestrians colliding with the side of a truck decreased by 61% and by 20%, respectively, following a national side-guard requirement in the United Kingdom in the 1980s.

In 2015, DCAS began installations on City trucks and the City Council passed Local Law 56 requiring side-guards to be implemented on City trucks and trucks from commercial waste fleets. In 2016, the Federal Laboratory Consortium (FLC) nationally recognized US DOT Volpe, NYC, Boston, Cambridge and San Francisco for their partnership on this initiative, and there is bi-partisan legislation pending in Congress to mandate this type of under-ride truck protection throughout the country.

Thanks to all our agencies, vendors and partners who brought this idea to life. DCAS will post a gallery of our newly safeguarded truck fleet on our website.



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