

City, State, NASCAR Promote Seatbelt Safety and Salute Spring Automotive High School Interns

By: Keith T. Kerman



This week, the Governors Traffic Safety Committee and NASCAR star Ross Chastain joined NYC Public Schools, DOT, Sheriff, Health, and DCAS to promote the importance of seatbelt use as part of the state's "Buckle Up New York, Click it or Ticket" campaign. Executive Deputy Commissioner Christian Jackstadt of New York State DMV joined NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, NYPD Chief of Transportation Philip Rivera, NYC Health Chief of Staff Jenna Mandel-Ricci, and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman to make the safety [announcement](#).

The event took place at A-Tech High School in Brooklyn. NY State Troopers staffed a simulator that enabled participants to experience the force that a 7-mile-

an-hour crash exerts on the human body. Participants also engaged in the "Seatbelt Challenge," racing in teams to see who could most quickly buckle up.

The event was attended by hundreds and also served as an occasion to recognize our first class of spring automotive high school interns. Each summer, NYC Public Schools and DCAS provide paid hands-on automotive internships in partnership with our large fleet agencies, such as NYPD, FDNY, DSNY, DOT, Parks, and DCAS.



Students get valuable experience fixing emergency city fleet vehicles and in other fleet roles. Many have gone on to join us in city automotive and mechanic careers. Historically, this was a summer-only program. We had 42 students last summer in 2023. DCAS has supported 426 student internships since 2015.

For the first time, in 2024, we also had a spring automotive intern class. We had 23 students from four agencies: DOT, Parks, FDNY, and NYPD, and from three schools: Alfred E Smith, A-Tech, and Coop Tech. Eleven (11) of the students attended A Tech, and all of them were assigned to NYPD Fleet Services.

These students are our future auto mechanics, fleet managers, and maybe race car drivers. A NYC mechanic at DSNY, Eric Ritter, already holds the [world speed record](#) in an electric vehicle. If safety and sustainability define tomorrow's transportation, it will be up to these students.



NYC Fleet: First Class of Spring Automotive Interns, May 2024

Agency	Student Name	School
DOT	Aaron Moore	School for Cooperative Technical Education
DOT	Justin Tejada	Alfred E. Smith HS
DOT	Kevin Manan	Alfred E. Smith HS
PARKS	Lenny Lopez	Alfred E. Smith HS
PARKS	Jawayne Langley	Alfred E. Smith HS
FDNY	Dencer Enrique Paz Gonzalez	School for Cooperative Technical Education
FDNY	Anthony Cuamani	School for Cooperative Technical Education
FDNY	Joel Coore	School for Cooperative Technical Education
FDNY	Ilia Selutin	School for Cooperative Technical Education
FDNY	Mario Morales	School for Cooperative Technical Education
NYPD	Sebastian Aguilar	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Roger Vilchis	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Aiden Lopez	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Ernesto Rivera	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Dexter Batson	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Bakari Hinton	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Sammy Dasilva	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Carter Horry	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Micheal Flores	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Jonsly Sanchez	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Dwayne Malone	A-Tech HS
NYPD	Matthew De La Cruz	Alfred E. Smith HS
NYPD	Jonathan Harris	Alfred E. Smith HS

DCAS is doing a lot to push safe vehicle design and technology. Intelligent speed assistance: we can design vehicles that can't and won't speed. High vision trucks and surround cameras help truck operators see vulnerable road users. Truck side-guards that prevent unnecessary deaths in back wheel crashes. Telematics. We track everything a vehicle does every moment of the day. We can address unsafe driving before crashes happen. All of these should be standard in the fleet industry.

This week's event focused on a long-established technology that is not new but still saves lives: seatbelts. Seatbelts are standard but not always used. Our fleet, like so many others, has known unnecessary tragedy and loss from failure to buckle up. **Seatbelts can save your life, but only if you wear them every minute, every mile.**

Thanks to the Governors Traffic Safety Committee, New York State Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV) including Commissioner Schroeder, Executive DC Christian Jackstadt, and DC Owen McShane; the NY State Troopers; Together for Safer Roads (TSR); A-Tech Teacher Renato Rosales; the Career and Technical

Education Program (CTE); our DCAS safety and intern team, Eric Richardson, Javier Negrón-Nieves, and Nate Koszer; and all our fleet agency partners.

Buckle Up.



Every seat.
Every time.



The life
you save
will be
your own.

NYC DCAS
Citywide Administrative Services

VISION ZERO 
Building a Safer City

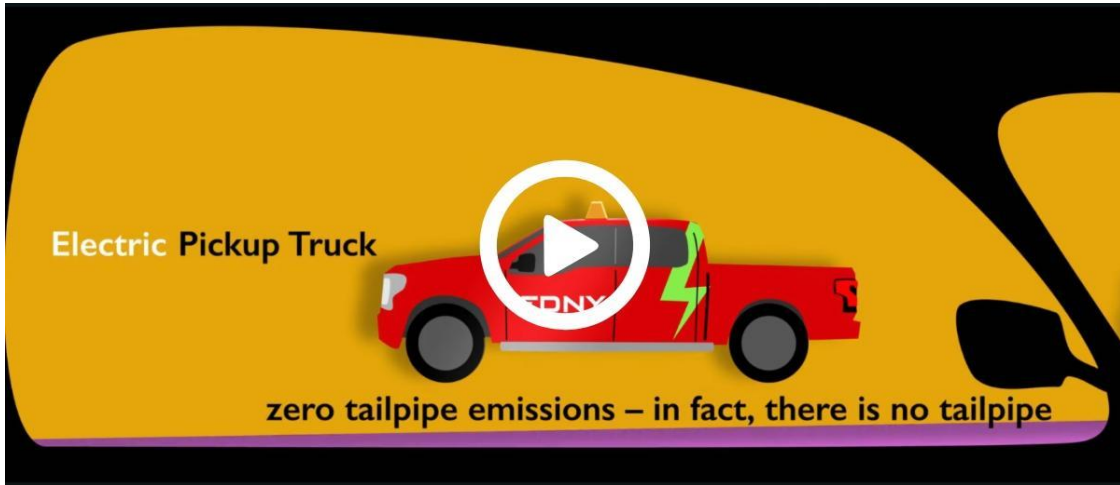
 **TOGETHER FOR***
SAFER ROADS
COMPANIES DRIVEN TO SAVE LIVES™

 **NASCAR**

 **NEW YORK**
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Department of Motor Vehicles

 **NEW YORK**
STATE OF OPPORTUNITY. | Governor's Traffic Safety Committee

Watch *'Batteries Included'* Below



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Week in Review | May 19 - May 25



I hope you had a peaceful Memorial Day weekend and feel as ready as I do to go "Get Stuff Done" for our fellow New Yorkers this week — because you certainly made an impact last week.

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 458, May 17, 2024:](#) DCAS Releases Clean Fleet Report Update; NYC Fleet Will Achieve Fifty Percent Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction by 2025 (50x25)

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 457, May 9, 2024:](#) Con Edison Recognizes DCAS for EV Fast Charging Achievement

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 456, May 2, 2024:](#) Fleet Spotlight: Tonya Tillery, Homeless Services (DHS) Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 455, April 25, 2024:](#) Marking 5,000 Electric Vehicles in NYC's Fleet, DCAS and NYC Public Schools Release Animated Educational Video "Batteries Included"
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