

NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Notice of Public Hearing and Opportunity to Comment on Proposed Rule

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 1043(b) of the New York City Charter (“Charter”) that the Taxi and Limousine Commission (“TLC”) proposes amending the provisions of Chapter 1 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York to eliminate the group ride fare from LaGuardia Airport.

This rule is proposed pursuant to sections 1043 and 2303 of the Charter and section 19-503 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York. The proposed rule was not included in the TLC’s regulatory agenda for Fiscal Year 2009 because the need for the rule change was not anticipated at the time the agenda was submitted.

A public hearing on these proposed rules will be held by the TLC at its offices at 40 Rector Street, 5th Floor, New York, New York 10006 on Thursday, December 17, 2009, at 1:30 p.m. Persons wishing to testify at the hearing may notify the TLC in advance, either in writing or by telephone to the TLC’s Office of Legal Affairs at the address and telephone given below. Any request for a sign language interpreter or other form of reasonable accommodation for a disability at the hearing must be submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs in writing or by telephone no later than Wednesday, December 16, 2009.

Written comments in connection with these proposed rules should be submitted to the Office of Legal Affairs and must be received no later than Wednesday, December 16, 2009 to:

Charles R. Fraser
Deputy Commissioner for Legal Affairs/General Counsel
Taxi and Limousine Commission
40 Rector Street, 5th Floor
New York, New York 10006
Telephone: 212-676-1135
Fax: 212-676-1102
Email: tlcrules@tlc.nyc.gov

Written comments and a summary of all comments received at the hearing will be available for public inspection at that office.

New material is underlined.

[Material inside brackets indicates deleted material.]

It is proposed to amend Title 35, section 1-71, Group Rides, by deleting the text of subdivision (a) to read as follows:

§1-71 Group Rides.

- (a) [Group rides fare from LaGuardia Airport. Notwithstanding the rate of fare set forth in §1-70 (a) and (b), the fare for trips made pursuant to a group riding plan from LaGuardia Airport shall be as follows for each passenger:
- (1) for a trip to the East Side of Manhattan, east of Fifth Avenue, from 23rd Street to 96th Street: \$7.50
 - (2) for a tip to the West Side of Manhattan, west of Fifth Avenue, from 23rd Street to 96th Street: \$8.50
 - (3) for a trip to downtown Manhattan, south of 23rd Street: \$9.50]

Repealed.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Proposed Rule

Since 1993, Taxi and Limousine Commission rules have permitted three different group ride fares from LaGuardia Airport to specified areas in Manhattan. However, these group rides are no longer used. The LaGuardia group rides were put in place at a time when there was a shortage of taxicabs at LaGuardia, which is no longer the case. Therefore, the TLC and the Port Authority agree there is no longer a need for this group ride rate.

The TLC is interested in studying, by means of a pilot program, whether a different group ride structure might attract more passenger interest. For instance, it may be that there are shortages of taxicabs at the airport at certain times of day, or at certain locations such as the Marine Air Terminal, where many commuters arrive on shuttle flights. Also, it may be that business travelers who are heading to similar destinations in the Manhattan Business District may be interested in a group ride program. The repeal of the existing unused group ride structure would be necessary to facilitate such future pilot programs.