

**TO:** New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson  
**FROM:** New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission  
**RE:** Commuter Van Safety Study for Calendar Year 2017  
**DATE:** June 29, 2018

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Pursuant to Local Law 007 of 2017, the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) submits its annual report for calendar year 2017.

**I. Number of Safety-related violations issued by the Commission committed by those operating a commission-licensed commuter van or an unlicensed commuter van**

- 37 safety related violations were issued in CY 2017

**II. Total Number of collisions involving a licensed TLC commuter van**

- In calendar year 2017, 166 TLC-licensed commuter vans were involved in collisions of any kind.

<b>Collisions involving any injury</b>	37
<b>Collisions involving critical injury</b>	0
<b>Collisions involving a fatality</b>	0

**III. Total Number of collisions involving unlicensed commuter vans**

TLC receives data from the Police Department about crashes in the City, and the TLC compares that data with our licensees' plate numbers. For crashes not involving a TLC-licensed vehicle, we are unable to determine whether or not the vehicle was operating as an unlicensed commuter van. Therefore, we do not have that number available.

**IV. The number of commuter vans, commuter van drivers, and commuter van services licensed or authorized by the Commission, as of December 31, 2017**

<b>Commuter Vans Affiliated</b>	318
<b>Commuter Van Authorities</b>	53
<b>Commuter Vans Authorized</b>	751
<b>Commuter Van Drivers</b>	238

**V. The number of unlicensed commuter vans operating, to the extent known to the Commission or estimated**

TLC does not have access to the number of unlicensed commuter vans operating in 2017.

**VI. The Commission's efforts to ensure commuter vans do not operate on bus routes, including, but not limited to, current enforcement efforts and future plans regarding such effort**

Licensed commuter vans operate within designated routes approved by DOT, and drivers are not allowed to pick up passengers at bus stops. TLC conducts routine enforcement operations in conjunction with local precincts along major commercial corridors including but not limited to Flatbush Avenue, Nostrand Avenue and Kings Highway in Brooklyn and Jamaica Avenue, Parsons Blvd and Archer Avenue in Queens.

**VII. The number of commuter vans seized by the Commission**

The TLC is able to seize vehicles of owners who have one or more prior unlicensed activity violations at the time they are stopped by the TLC for an unlicensed activity violation. Within a week of the seizure, there is a hearing at OATH on whether the TLC can retain the vehicle pending the outcome of a civil forfeiture proceeding. If successful at that OATH hearing, the TLC retains the vehicle and commences a civil forfeiture proceeding in state Supreme Court. As a result of this new program, in 2017, the TLC seized 27 vans and forfeited 13 vans.

**VIII. The 20 most utilized commuter van corridors**

TLC does not collect trip data for commuter vans, but estimates that the most utilized van corridors include:

Routes beginning in Manhattan heading to destinations in Sunset Park, Brooklyn and Flushing, Queens, as well as routes that begin in Downtown Brooklyn and terminate at Kings Plaza (Nostrand Avenue and Avenue U) with major hubs at the intersection of Utica Avenue and Eastern Parkway and the intersection of Nostrand Avenue and Flatbush Avenue.

Routes in Queens primarily begin at Parsons Boulevard and Archer Avenue and travel towards the Queens/Nassau border, near the Green Acres Mall. Vans also operate in Far Rockaway along Mott Avenue and Beach Channel Drive.

**IX. Available commuter van ridership, including information on whether commuter vans are being utilized to connect to other mass transit, to the extent known to the Commission;**

TLC does not collect data on commuter van passenger numbers and Local Law 006 of 2016 eliminated the requirement of a passenger manifest. Through TLC's past field research, we identified that many commuter van passengers are utilizing vans to connect to subway station terminuses, particularly the Utica Avenue corridor, which begins at the Eastern Parkway and Utica Avenue train station and ends at Kings Plaza. As part of DOT's Jamaica Now revitalization plan, pickup and staging areas for commuter vans near the Jamaica Center – Parsons/Archer MTA station have moved to accommodate a new pedestrian plaza and other improvements. Pickup and staging areas will move to 153<sup>rd</sup> Street nearby.

**X. The Commission's efforts to reduce the number of unlicensed commuter vans operating and future plans regarding such efforts**

As part of our enforcement against illegal vans, the TLC regularly partners with the NYPD and we have recently begun partnering with the City Sheriff as well. This is difficult and resource-intensive work. In 2017, TLC Enforcement conducted 439 operations targeting illegal vans, including 271 joint operations with the NYPD. These operations yield hundreds of summonses against illegal van operators but also against for-hire vehicles doing illegal pickups, which also add to congestion in major van corridors. Removing these vehicles from their owners and keeping them off the road permanently is our best enforcement tool, and we plan to continue our van operations.

**a. Forfeiture of Vehicles**

- As mentioned in Section VII above, forfeiture is available as an enforcement option when the vehicle owner has two or more founded violations in a 36 month period for unlicensed activity.

**b. TLC and NYPD Joint Operations**

- In Calendar Year 2017, TLC conducted 439 commuter van operations citywide, 271 of which were joint enforcement operations with NYPD. The TLC will continue its partnership with NYPD to reduce illegal van operation.

**XI. The number of licenses for commuter vans and commuter van drivers and authorizations for commuter van service that were renewed and rejected, as well as any changes in the number of commuter vans affiliated with each authorized service**

**Commuter Van Application Totals in CY 2017**

	<b>Commuter Van Driver</b>	<b>Commuter Van</b>	<b>Van Authorities</b>
<b>New Applications</b>	38	72	3
<b>License Renewals</b>	89	106	17
<b>Application Denials</b>	17	0	1

**Changes in Affiliated Commuter Vans 2016 to 2017**

BASE LICENSE NUMBER	AFFILIATED BASE NAME	Affiliated Vans 2016	Affiliated Vans 2017
B80012	MONTEGO VAN SERVICE INC.	9	5
B80025	DESTA TRANSPORTATION	13	12
B80028	CITY EXPRESS CORP	21	17
B80039	MARIO'S TRANSPORTATION INC.	8	6
B80070	EARLY BIRD TRANSPORTATION INC	8	6
B80080	PEBBLES TRANSPORTATION INC.	3	1
B80087	COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, CORP	32	29
B80094	ALPHA VAN LINE	9	6
B80098	SUNSET SERVICE TRANSPORTATION INC	21	19
B80100	CITY LINK CORPORATION	20	9
B80101	GRAND APPLE TRANSPORTATION CORP.	10	10
B80102	G & E EXPRESS INC	16	11
B80104	J & HE TRANSPORTATION INC	5	3
B80107	FLUSHING VAN SERVICE INC	26	22
B80108	L & W EXPRESS VAN SERVICE CORP	23	24
B80111	HUMMER TRANSPORTATION INC	2	3
B80112	OGO VAN SERVICE CORPORATION	1	1
B80132	EASY TRANSPORTATION CORP	12	6
B80139	SCARLET GIRL VAN LINES INC	3	3

B80140	CONFIDENCE TRANSPORTATION	3	2
B80145	ALEXIS VAN LINES INC	28	6
B80148	CEDI TRANSPORTATION SVC	12	11
B80150	BLACKSTREET VAN LINES INC	6	3
B80151	DORCAL EDENWALD INC	4	1
B80152	ABRAHAM'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICE INC YOURS 'N MINE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE,	5	1
B80157	INC.	4	5
B80164	TRANSXPRESS SERVICES,INC	18	10
B80169	ROYAL ROSE TRANSPORTATION LLC	10	6
B80173	HAL TRANSPORTATION SERVICE INC	1	1
B80179	CITIVAN LINES, CORP.	12	13
B80182	EIGHT STAR INC.	10	7
B80191	JAH LOVE	11	9
B80195	MILLENIUM TRANSPORTATION INC.	1	0
B80196	B.Q.E BUS SERVICE INC	1	2
B80197	GUYMACK EXPRESS INC	1	1
B80211	RED COLOR VAN SERVICE INC	5	5
B80212	TD VAN SERVICE INC	4	2
B80213	WHITESANDS TRANSPORTATION, LLC.	3	3
B80215	FLEXIBLE LINE INC.	3	2
B80220	HENG TONG TRANSPORTATION INC.	6	4
B80224	HCWC INC.	2	1
B80253	PRESTIGE CHOICE TOURS INC.	3	1
B80255	ACE-VIP TRANSPORTATION INC.	1	0
B80256	CALLAVAN TRANSPORTATION LLC	6	7
B80258	FELLOWSHIP COMMUTERS INC.	3	2
B80260	LUNAU GROUP LLC	2	1
B80201	L & H TRANSPORTATION	9	8
B80259	GRAND PARADISE TRAVEL SERVICE INC.	1	1
B80265	EDNER VAN LINES	1	0
B80266	E Z AMERICAN VAN LINES	1	1
B80267	KOLANJI TRANSPORTATION INC	2	5
	<b>CV Authorities Opened in 2017</b>		
B80271	FLUSHING COMMUTER VAN MANAGEMENT CORP		3
B80270	HILLARY 2016		1
	<b>CV Authorities Closed in 2017</b>		

B80261	ISLAND RIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES	0	
B80240	CITIED EXPRESS	0	
	<b>TOTAL VANS</b>	421	318

**XII. A discussion of how commuter van service areas are selected**

When applying for commuter van licenses, van authorities submit their anticipated routes to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) and DOT approves the van routes based on whether or not there is a public necessity. They also determine if any relevant commuter van signage should be placed in a specific location.

**XIII. Whether, in the judgment of the Commission, there is a need for commuter vans in a number exceeding the number specified in subdivision r of section 19-504.**

Between January 2017 and December 2017 the number of Commuter Vans affiliated to Commuter Van authorities decreased from 365 vans to approximately 318 vans. Accordingly, the TLC does not believe that there is a current need to increase the authorized number specified in section 19-504 (r).