

TO: New York City Council Speaker Corey Johnson
FROM: New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission
RE: Commuter Van Safety Study for Calendar Year 2019
DATE: July 1, 2020

Pursuant to Local Law 007 of 2017, the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) submits its annual report for calendar year 2019.

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

TLC issued 33 summonses to licensed commuter van owners and drivers for traffic-safety-related violations in CY 2019, in addition to a total of 541 violations for unlicensed operation – 516 issued to unlicensed owners and 25 issued to unlicensed drivers.

II. Total Number of collisions involving a licensed TLC commuter van, and to the extent known to the commission, such collisions involving an unlicensed commuter van, disaggregated by those resulting in a fatality, critical injury, or injury of any severity

In calendar year 2019, TLC-licensed commuter vans were involved in 16 collisions.

Collisions involving any injury	15
Collisions involving critical injury	0
Collisions involving a fatality	1

TLC receives collision data from the New York City Police Department (NYPD). TLC compares that data with our license plate numbers in the TLC database.

III. The number of commuter vans, commuter van drivers, and commuter van services licensed or authorized by the Commission, as of December 31, 2019

The number of actually licensed and operating commuter vans has remained under 300 vans since 2018.

Commuter Van Authorities	47
Commuter Vans Authorized	737
Commuter Vans Licensed	215
Commuter Van Drivers	223

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

The number of unlicensed commuter vans in operation is unknown. In 2019, 391 unlicensed vehicles were summonsed, and 50 unlicensed vehicles were seized.

V. 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

In addition to targeted van operations and NYPD joint operations, taking vans off the street to the tow pound has been an integral part of enforcement. TLC will also continue conducting LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) enforcement along the Flatbush corridor in order to catch reckless van operators who speed. TLC Enforcement will also continue joint operations with the Sheriff and MTA police.

VII. The number of commuter vans seized by the Commission

The TLC seized 50 commuter vans in 2019. As of December 31, 2019, 9 vans have been forfeited after a state court proceeding, and 17 forfeiture cases were still pending, awaiting a final decision by the New York State Supreme Court.

VIII. The 20 most utilized commuter van corridors

Commuter vans are not equipped with trip recording data, but based on enforcement data and public comments, vans in the most utilized corridors operate between:

- Sunset Park, Brooklyn and Manhattan
- Flushing, Queens and Manhattan
- Downtown Brooklyn and Kings Plaza
- Parsons Boulevard/Archer Avenue and the Queens-Nassau border
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

Through Local Law 006 of 2016, City Council eliminated the requirement for a passenger manifest, therefore precise ridership numbers are not available. However,

based on a New York City Department of Transportation (DOT) study in 2017 of ridership in the three major markets (Central Brooklyn, Southeast Queens, and Chinatown, Manhattan), it is estimated that daily, 24-hour van ridership may exceed 90,000 passengers. According to DOT, Commuter Vans in the Southeast Queens market operate between predominantly residential neighborhoods and an MTA transit hub where travelers can transfer to bus or subway service. Commuter van services from Jamaica Center connect commuters from that station with Guy R. Brewer/147 Ave, Merrick Blvd, Liberty Ave, and Linden Ave corridors, as well as to Far Rockaway and within the Rockaways via Beach Channel Dr.

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

As part of TLC enforcement against illegal vans, the TLC regularly partners with the NYPD and the NYC Sheriff as well. Although this is resource-intensive work, in 2019, TLC Enforcement conducted 739 operations targeting illegal vans, including 115 joint operations with the NYPD. These operations yield 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 the best enforcement tool, and TLC plans to continue our van operations.

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 2019

	Commuter Van Driver	Commuter Van	Van Authorities
New Applications	20	45	0
License Renewals	64	84	17
Application Denials	10	0	N/A

Changes in Affiliated Commuter Vans 2018 to 2019

Changes in Affiliated Commuter Vans 2018 to 2019			
Base License Number	Affiliated Base Name	# of Affiliated Vans 2018	# of Affiliated Vans 2019
B80070	EARLY BIRD TRANSPORTATION INC	3	1
B80152	ABRAHAM'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICE INC	1	1
B80169	ROYAL ROSE TRANSPORTATION LLC	5	5
B80028	CITY EXPRESS CORP	13	13
B80215	FLEXIBLE LINE INC.	2	2
B80253	PRESTIGE CHOICE TOURS INC.	1	0
B80012	MONTEGO VAN SERVICE INC.	2	2
B80087	COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, CORP	22	15
B80025	DESTA TRANSPORTATION	10	4
B80145	ALEXIS VAN LINES INC	3	2
B80179	CITIVAN LINES, CORP.	8	1
B80211	RED COLOR VAN SERVICE INC	6	6
B80195	MILLENNIUM TRANSPORTATION INC.	2	2
B80266	E Z AMERICAN VAN LINES INC.	0	0
B80107	FLUSHING VAN SERVICE INC	28	27
B80139	SCARLET GIRL VAN LINES INC	2	2
B80140	CONFIDENCE TRANSPORTATION	2	2
B80271	FLUSHING COMMUTER VAN MANAGEMENT CORP	3	3

Base License Number	Affiliated Base Name	# of Affiliated Vans 2018	# of Affiliated Vans 2019
B80182	EIGHT STAR INC.	11	13
B80191	JAH LOVE	5	3
B80104	J & HE TRANSPORTATION INC	1	1
B80111	HUMMER TRANSPORTATION INC	4	3
B80132	EASY TRANSPORTATION CORP	4	3
B80148	CEDI TRANSPORTATION INC	6	2
B80197	GUYMACK EXPRESS INC	1	1
B80080	PEBBLES TRANSPORTATION INC.	1	1
B80098	SUNSET SERVICE TRANSPORTATION INC	19	14
B80108	L & W EXPRESS VAN SERVICE CORP	25	23
B80267	KOLANJI TRANSPORTATION INC	5	5
B80102	G & E EXPRESS INC	10	7
B80220	HENG TONG TRANSPORTATION INC.	3	3
B80260	LUNAU GROUP LLC	1	3
B80157	YOURS 'N MINE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC.	4	3
B80256	CALLAVAN TRANSPORTATION LLC	2	4
B80100	CITY LINK CORPORATION	5	3
B80164	TRANSPRESS SERVICES, INC	7	4
B80101	GRAND APPLE TRANSPORTATION CORP.	9	9
B80150	BLACKSTREET VAN LINES INC	3	2
B80094	ALPHA VAN LINE	4	2
B80196	B.Q.E BUS SERVICE INC	2	2
B80201	L & H (NY) TRANSPORTATION, INC.	9	8
B80255	ACE-VIP TRANSPORTATION INC.	1	0
B80039	MARIO'S TRANSPORTATION INC.	6	5
B80224	HCWC INC.	2	2
B80258	FELLOWSHIP COMMUTERS INC.	1	1
B80272	BROOKLYN VAN LINES, INC.	0	0
B80270	YARDIE LINK	0	0
TOTAL VANS		264	215

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

When applying for commuter van licenses, van authorities submit their potential areas of operation to the New York City Department of Transportation (DOT), and DOT approves the commuter van territory based on whether or not there is a public necessity.

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 2019 and December 2019, the number of Commuter Vans affiliated to Commuter Van authorities decreased from 264 vans to 215 vans. Accordingly, the TLC does not believe that there is a current need to increase the number of authorized vans specified in section 19-504 (r).