

**TO:** New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams  
**FROM:** New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission  
**RE:** Commuter Van Safety Study for Calendar Year 2021  
**DATE:** June 30, 2022

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Pursuant to Local Law 007 of 2017, the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) submits its annual report for calendar year 2021.

**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 a total of 54 safety related violations to commuter vans, including 9 summonses to licensed commuter van owners and drivers for traffic-safety-related violations in CY 2021, in addition to 44 violations for unlicensed operation.

**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 2021, TLC-licensed commuter vans were involved in 11 collisions.

Collisions involving any injury	3
Collisions involving critical injury	0
Collisions involving a fatality	0

To determine these numbers, TLC used the information collected in the Vision Zero TLC-Licensed Vehicle Crash Data report, required under Local Law 31.

**III. The number of commuter vans, commuter van drivers, and commuter van services licensed or authorized by the Commission, as of December 31, 2021.**

<b>Commuter Van Authorities</b>	28
<b>Commuter Vans Authorized</b>	536
<b>Commuter Vans Licensed</b>	35
<b>Commuter Van Drivers</b>	144

**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 2021, 44 unlicensed vehicles were summonsed, and 2 unlicensed vans 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, and TLC will continue to engage in these activities. TLC will also continue conducting LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging) enforcement along the Flatbush corridor in order to catch reckless van operators who speed. Additionally, TLC Enforcement will continue joint operations with the Sheriff and MTA police.

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

During Calendar Year 2021, TLC seized 2 commuter vans. One vehicle was successfully forfeited, and the second vehicle was ordered released after a hearing at OATH and will be declared abandoned if the Respondent does not retrieve the vehicle.

**VII. 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

**VIII. 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.

**IX. 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, TLC regularly partners with the NYPD and the NYC Sheriff as well. Although this is resource-intensive work, in 2021, TLC Enforcement conducted 54 operations targeting illegal vans, including 17 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 has continued its van operations as TLC officers engage in their enforcement operations.

**X. 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 2021**

	<b>Commuter Van Drivers</b>	<b>Commuter Vans</b>	<b>Van Authorities</b>
New Applications	<b>5</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>0</b>
License Renewals	<b>11</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>6</b>
Application Denials	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>

<b>Changes in Affiliated Commuter Vans 2020 to 2021</b>			
<b>Base License Number</b>	<b>Affiliated Base Name</b>	<b># of Affiliated Vans 2020</b>	<b># of Affiliated Vans 2021</b>
B80152	ABRAHAM'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICE INC	2	2
B80169	ROYAL ROSE TRANSPORTATION LLC	1	1
B80028	CITY EXPRESS CORP	3	0 (Failed to renew license)
B80012	MONTEGO VAN SERVICE INC.	1	0
B80087	COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, CORP	3	0
B80025	DESTA TRANSPORTATION	0	0
B80145	ALEXIS VAN LINES INC	1	2
B80179	CITIVAN LINES, CORP.	0	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80211	RED COLOR VAN SERVICE INC	3	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80107	FLUSHING VAN SERVICE INC	7	2
B80164	TRANSXPRESS SERVICES, INC.	NA	1
B80150	BLACKSTREET VAN LINES, INC.	NA	0

<b>Base License Number</b>	<b>Affiliated Base Name</b>	<b># of Affiliated Vans 2020</b>	<b># of Affiliated Vans 2021</b>
B80271	FLUSHING COMMUTER VAN MANAGEMENT CORP	3	4
B80182	EIGHT STAR INC.	2	0
B80104	J & HE TRANSPORTATION INC	1	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80111	HUMMER TRANSPORTATION INC	0	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80132	EASY TRANSPORTATION CORP	0	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80080	PEBBLES TRANSPORTATION INC.	1	0
B80098	SUNSET SERVICE TRANSPORTATION INC	2	0
B80108	L & W EXPRESS VAN SERVICE CORP	10	17
B80102	G & E EXPRESS INC	3	1
B80220	HENG TONG TRANSPORTATION INC.	1	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80260	LUNAU GROUP LLC	3	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80157	YOURS 'N MINE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC.	2	0
B80256	CALLAVAN TRANSPORTATION LLC	0	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80100	CITY LINK CORPORATION	1	1
B80101	GRAND APPLE TRANSPORTATION CORP.	5	3

B80201	L & H (NY) TRANSPORTATION, INC.	3	1
B80039	MARIO'S TRANSPORTATION INC.	2	0
B80258	FELLOWSHIP COMMUTERS INC.	1	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80270	YARDIE LINK	0	0 (Failed to renew their license)
B80276	GOGO BUS TOURS	0	0
<b>TOTAL VANS</b>		<b>61</b>	<b>35</b>

**XI. 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. This process involves mapping and reviewing locations requested by applicants and comparing travel times to other modes, if applicable. The DOT also determines if there are existing bus routes, subways, heavily trafficked areas, or other currently-operating commuter van services along the requested route.

**XII. 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 2021 and December 2021, the number of Commuter Vans affiliated to Commuter Van authorities decreased from 61 vans to 35 vans. This decline in affiliated vans is in line with trends from previous years. Accordingly, TLC does not believe that there is a current need to increase the number of authorized vans specified in section 19-504 (r).