

TO: New York City Council Speaker Adrienne Adams
FROM: New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission
RE: Commuter Van Safety Study for Calendar Year 2022
DATE: June 26, 2023

Pursuant to Local Law 7 of 2017, the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) submits its annual Commuter Van Safety Study for calendar year (CY) 2022.

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 94 safety-related violations to commuter vans, including 25 summonses to licensed commuter van owners and drivers for traffic safety violations in CY 2022, in addition to 69 violations for unlicensed operation.

II. Total number of collisions involving a TLC-licensed 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 2022, TLC-licensed commuter vans were involved in 2 collisions.

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

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

Commuter Van Authorities	11	Data current as of 5/24/2023
Commuter Vans Authorized	310	
Commuter Vans Licensed	31	Data current as of 12/31/2022
Commuter Van Drivers	84	

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 2022, 69 violations for unlicensed operations were issued, and 4 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 CY 2022, TLC seized 4 commuter vans. One vehicle was successfully forfeited, and a second vehicle is pending forfeiture at the time of this report.

VII. The 20 most utilized commuter van corridors.

Commuter vans do not record trip data. Based on enforcement data and public comments, vans in the most utilized corridors operate between:

- Sunset Park, Brooklyn, Flushing, Queens, and Chinatown, Manhattan
- Downtown Brooklyn and Kings Plaza, along Flatbush Avenue
- Jamaica and Far Rockaway, Queens, including Parsons Boulevard/Archer Avenue and the Queens-Nassau border, and in 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 6 of 2016, the 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 was estimated that daily, 24-hour van ridership may have exceeded 90,000 passengers at that time. 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 unlicensed vans, TLC continues to partner regularly with NYPD and the NYC Sheriff. This resource-intensive work yields summonses against unlicensed van operators as well as unlicensed for-hire vehicle operators illegally picking up fares. Unlicensed vans and for-hire vehicles not only add congestion in major van corridors but pose a threat to public safety. Removing these vehicles and keeping them off the road permanently is a strong enforcement tool, and TLC continues its van operations to further public safety.

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 2022

	Commuter Van Drivers	Commuter Vans	Commuter Van Authorities
New Applications	9	4	0
License Renewals	20	10	7
Application Denials	14	0	0

The total number of vans authorized by TLC fell from 35 vans to 30 vans between 2021 and 2022. This decline does not represent as dramatic a change as in previous years. For example, from 2020 to 2021, the number of authorized vans fell from 61 to 35. The most significant licensing change between 2021 and 2022 came from the number of commuter van authorities that did not renew their license. Over half of the authorities licensed in 2021 did not renew their license over the course of calendar year 2022, with the total number of licensed commuter van authorities going from 24 to 11. The chart below contains more information on changes in licensing and van affiliation for each licensed commuter van authority.

Changes in Affiliated Commuter Vans 2021 to 2022			
Base License Number	Affiliated Base Name	# of Affiliated Vans 2021	# of Affiliated Vans 2022 <small>Data current as of 5/24/2023</small>
B80152	ABRAHAM'S TRANSPORTATION SERVICE INC	2	0 (did not renew license)
B80169	ROYAL ROSE TRANSPORTATION LLC	1	0 (did not renew license)
B80012	MONTEGO VAN SERVICE INC.	0	0 (did not renew license)
B80087	COMMUNITY TRANSPORTATION SYSTEMS, CORP	0	1
B80025	DESTA TRANSPORTATION	0	0 (did not renew license)
B80145	ALEXIS VAN LINES INC	2	0
B80211	RED COLOR VAN SERVICE INC	0	0 (did not renew license)
B80107	FLUSHING VAN SERVICE INC	2	1
B80164	TRANSXPRESS SERVICES, INC.	1	1
B80150	BLACKSTREET VAN LINES, INC.	0	0 (did not renew license)
B80028	CITY EXPRESS CORP	0	0

Base License Number	Affiliated Base Name	# of Affiliated Vans 2021	# of Affiliated Vans 2022 Data current as of 5/24/2023
B80271	FLUSHING COMMUTER VAN MANAGEMENT CORP	4	4
B80182	EIGHT STAR INC.	0	2
B80080	PEBBLES TRANSPORTATION INC.	0	0 (did not renew license)
B80098	SUNSET SERVICE TRANSPORTATION INC	0	0 (did not renew license)
B80108	L & W EXPRESS VAN SERVICE CORP	17	19
B80102	G & E EXPRESS INC	1	0 (did not renew license)
B80157	YOURS 'N MINE TRANSPORTATION SERVICE, INC.	0	0 (did not renew license)
B80100	CITY LINK CORPORATION	1	1
B80101	GRAND APPLE TRANSPORTATION CORP.	3	0 (did not renew license)
B80201	L & H (NY) TRANSPORTATION, INC.	1	0 (did not renew license)
B80039	MARIO'S TRANSPORTATION INC.	0	0 (did not renew license)
B80276	GOGO BUS TOURS	0	1
TOTAL VANS		35	30

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. 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 2022 and December 2022, the number of Commuter Vans affiliated to Commuter Van authorities decreased from 35 vans to 30 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).