



**Press Release  
For Immediate Release**

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## **TLC BOARD APPROVES FIVE BOROUGH TAXI RULES**

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The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) today announced the passage, by its Board of Commissioners, of five chapters of proposed rules codifying the Five Borough Taxi Law passed by the State Legislature and signed into law by Governor Andrew Cuomo.

These rules are the culmination of a concept envisioned and articulated by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg in his January 2011 State of the City Address, held in Staten Island.

"We're seeing the birth of a wholly new service today," said TLC Commissioner and Chair David Yassky, "that will allow communities throughout the five boroughs to enjoy and come to rely on the same levels of quality taxi service that are only experienced in portions of Manhattan.

"The road leading to this accomplishment was long and winding, but we were joined on it by people whose confidence in the plan never waned. I couldn't possibly at this moment name all those men and women who deserve our thanks for their unwavering support, but I will say thank you to Mayor Bloomberg and Governor Cuomo for their vision and leadership, as well as to the legislators who saw the logic and fairness in the plan early on and had the courage to stand for change. Now the work really begins."

The most crucial aspect of the plan was outreach to all the many stakeholders, and so, in the 15 months it has taken to take the Five Borough Taxi Plan from concept to fruition, some of the highlights of the TLC's outreach efforts have included (sometimes multiple) visits to virtually every Community Board in the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island; and numerous presentations made to civic organizations citywide, as well as to the Bronx, Brooklyn, Queens and Staten Island Borough Presidents. The TLC's outreach also included the hosting of three well-attended driver/operator information forums in the Bronx, Brooklyn and Queens, and the mailing of more than 84,000 info packets to vehicle owners, drivers, and base operators. We also surveyed a total of 3,000 stakeholders in Spanish and English, gaining invaluable feedback. We're also in the process of distributing a survey that seeks details about the financial needs of livery drivers for their vehicle's conversion to Borough Taxis (388 respondents so far!).

The basics of the plan are as follows. The City will make a total of 18,000 HAIL (Borough Street Hail Taxi) permits available at \$1,500 each, with an initial batch of 6,000 being sold starting in June 2012. A full 20%



of these permits will be earmarked for wheelchair accessible vehicles, with the City facilitating financial assistance to assist operators in covering the cost differential as compared to non-accessible vehicles. The vehicles will each have a unique color and markings (to be unveiled soon), as well as rooflights (for easy identification and availability), taximeters (for predictable, measured fares), credit/debit card readers (more than 50% of all taxi rides are now paid for by credit cards!), and GPS vehicle locations systems (to help return lost property – more than 50% of all TLC 311 calls are lost property reports!).

The TLC was created in 1971, and is the agency responsible for the regulation and licensing of almost 200,000 yellow medallion taxicabs and for-hire vehicles, their drivers, and the businesses that operate and support their industries. It is recognized as the largest and most active taxi and for-hire vehicle regulatory body in the United States.

To find out more about the TLC, or to review its rules, regulations and procedures, we encourage you to visit our official Web site at [www.nyc.gov/taxi](http://www.nyc.gov/taxi) or call 311 in New York City, or 212-NEW-YORK from outside of New York City.

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