

For Immediate Release

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TLC LAUNCHES NEW GROUP RIDE STAND AT YORK AVENUE BETWEEN EAST 70TH AND 71ST STREETS

New Service is Part of Mayor Bloomberg's Plan To Increase Transit Options in Underserved Areas

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) today inaugurated a new group ride service at *York Avenue, between East 70*th and 71st Streets.

In response to community requests, the TLC has established this new yellow taxi group ride stand in conjunction with the existing group ride stand at East 79th Street and York Avenue. Between the hours of 7 and 10 a.m. on weekdays, two or more passengers will be able to pay a flat fare of \$6.00 for taxicab rides from the group ride stand location to destinations in the financial district. After the taxicab exits the southbound FDR Drive, drop-offs would begin at Pearl Street, continuing south onto Water Street, ending at the World Financial Center. This follows the discontinuation of the X90 express bus, which had also traveled between the Upper East Side and the Financial District.

"We believe this is a practical and useful alternative transportation option for those who had relied on the X90 express bus," said TLC Commissioner David Yassky. "At \$6.00 per passenger, this service will not only be appreciated by riders, but it's a good economic option for the drivers as well. Whenever you can use existing resources to address challenges like those presented by the X90's discontinuation, everyone benefits, including the environment."

"Hail to the TLC for working with us to create a creative, no-cost way to help commuters on the east side. In particular, this will provide a great new option for those passengers who are being hurt by the discontinuation of the X90 bus," Council Member Jessica Lappin said.

The location was chosen after TLC staff observed passenger volume along the X90's route, as well as after consideration of its proximity to the existing East 79th Street/York Avenue stand and a nearby entrance to the southbound FDR Drive.

Further information on the Group Ride Stand is available on the TLC's web site at www.nyc.gov/taxi.