

Back to Basics, Taking Care of Your Vehicle

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As the City addresses the fiscal stresses caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, we can expect to see reduced and delayed vehicle replacement. We have become accustomed to resolving some major repair needs or extensive crash damage through our replacement program. As we face this more challenging fiscal environment, it is critical that we care for our existing equipment well, and that we sustain and extend the useful life of our over \$3 billion in existing fleet and equipment assets.

The good news is that the average age of fleet units has decreased in recent years due to more recent replacements of older fleet units.

If I told you that personal health begins with you and not your doctor, it would make sense. How you eat, exercise, sleep, and take care of yourself is the key to your fate. Regular physicals and medical services as needed certainly come in to play, but it starts with you.

The same is true for fleet health. Fleet operators and dispatchers have a critical role to play in keeping our fleet on the road. Our goal should always be to keep vehicles out of the repair shop. There are many steps we can take:

- **Drive safely:** Safe driving is most importantly about the health of drivers and pedestrians. Crashes also cause extensive damage to vehicles and long down-time. Erratic driving and hard braking are both unsafe and also wear down your vehicle.
- **Use hybrid and electric vehicles for your highest mileage assignments:** Hybrids and EVs require less maintenance and also eliminate emissions.

NYC Fleet

Daily Operator Vehicle Checklist

- Brakes
- Both Taillights
- Windshield and Wipers
- Horn
- Turn Signals
- Back-up Lights
- Both Headlights, High and Low Beams
- Tires, Safe Tread Depth, No Bald Spots
- Brake Lights
- Safety Belts
- Hazard Lights
- Inspection Sticker
- Engine Oil
- Mirrors

- **Balance the use of the fleet across like units:** If you have one SUV going 2,000 miles a year and another going 10,000, it's time to switch these. You may not be able to replace the heavier-use unit for a while.
- **Reduce idling:** Unnecessary idling is, of course, an environmental hazard and against the law. Idling also puts tremendous wear on a vehicle engine and transmission. One hour of idling can be the equivalent of 25 to 30 miles of driving.
- **Do pre-trip checks:** Some of the basic elements of a daily pre-trip check are shown here. Keeping tires properly inflated and replacing fluids as needed can help avert many problems. If a service issue is emerging with a vehicle, the driver will know first. Let's address small problems quickly before they become major repairs. If you need help understanding what to look for, reach out to your garage.
- **Keep up on preventive maintenance:** NYC Fleet offers extensive preventive maintenance services. We would much rather greet you in the shop for a scheduled PM than meet you on the road when a vehicle breaks down. With reliable PMs, we can prevent major vehicle component failures, saving money and time. When fleet calls for a PM, MVI, or recall, please show up on time.
- **Monitor and respond to maintenance alerts through Live Telematics:** A five year old City truck recently caught on fire and was destroyed. On further investigation, there had been engine alerts from the unit in days prior. Through our telematics program, we can relay engine, tire, brake, and other alerts. Please use this tool to address maintenance concerns quickly.

NYC has been through many challenges and our City will weather these times on the way to better days. NYC's fleet is a major support resource for City services. If we all play our parts, our fleet will be there and ready when we need it.

2020 U.S. Census

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