

NYC Fleet Spotlight: DOT Mechanic Joe Cappellino

By: Keith T. Kerman and Nate Koszer

In this week's newsletter, we feature Joe Cappellino from DOT. Joe has been working in the Auto Mechanic title for DOT since 2005, having previously worked in several private sector repair shops and even in a shop of his own for a time. Joe started his DOT career in a repair shop in the Bronx. After two years, he joined the Technical Services unit at DOT Fleet where he has worked since.

The Technical Services unit at DOT tackles the many areas where fleet repair and IT technology converge. As we know, the fleet industry is transforming due to electrification and also information technology and computerization. Joe performs installs and repairs tied to new technologies. For example, DOT Fleet also has over 50 diagnostic scanners, laptops, and tablets used to diagnose mechanical issues for its complex fleet of vehicles. Fixing errors on these scanners is critical to DOT Fleet servicing and requires a unique knowledge base combining information technology and vehicle repair. Joe has the combined skills for these types of challenges.

Joe and Technical Services are also responsible for configuring, setting up, and maintaining the DOT solar-powered message boards that drivers see along the City's streets and highways. These message boards offer critical messages on safety, roadway changes, and emergencies.

Joe's team has also been involved in a number of initiatives involving the installation of new technologies. This includes the Zone Watch Project where cameras were installed on rack trucks to monitor highway work zones and detect speeding by civilian drivers. Technical Services has also developed and implemented twelve trailers that have this same capability. The trailers can be left at the worksites to assist with highway monitoring while DOT trucks are used for other tasks.

Joe is also working to install cameras for DOT's Flowboy trucks. These trucks can move large



amounts of asphalt while letting crews maintain a safe distance. The cameras will assist in both safety and monitoring of the asphalt operation.

Joe also assists with administrative functions relating to his technical work, including use of the NYC Fleet Focus system and helping improve EZ pass monitoring.

According to Eric Dorcean, Associate Deputy Commissioner for Fleet Services, Joe is DOT Fleet's "Go-to guy." Eric went on to say that Joe "is always ready to help other divisions with various issues, sometimes not even fleet or IT related."

When Joe is not on duty, he is spending time with his two sons, aged 17 and 25, and his wife of 30 years. He also enjoys working on his motorcycle, a Harley Davidson Ultra Limited.

Fleet technology is changing in many ways. As a mechanic, Joe is helping DOT Fleet stay on the cutting edge.



DCAS's Inside Citywide Podcast

DCAS's new [Inside Citywide podcast](#) provides a behind-the-scenes look at New York City government. Episode 2 is out now and takes a look at the future of the City of New York's vehicle fleet as it transitions to all-electric by 2040.

COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, please be reminded to wear a mask when operating a fleet vehicle with others in the vehicle. Attached again are the [Department of Health's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines relating to vehicle operation](#).

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 348, June 18, 2021](#): NYC Fleet Spotlight: FDNY Mechanic Chris Boodhan

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 347, June 7, 2021](#): Fleets of the Future- Chicago Fleet

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 346, May 28, 2021](#): US DOT and NYC Connected Vehicle Pilot Goes Live

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 345, May 21, 2021](#): TSR and DCAS Host Global Vision Zero Conference: Announce New Safety Award and Surround Camera Initiative for City Fleet Trucks

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 344, May 10, 2021](#): DSNY Introduces All-Electric Sweeper

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