

## **Do the Twist and Keep Bicyclists Safe**

By: Keith Kerman and Eric Richardson

Bicycling is a healthy, fun, and great way to get around the city, whether for transportation or exercise. Through NYC's investment in bike lanes, NYC is experiencing a welcome growth in bicycling.

With this growth, we all have a role to play to keep bicyclists safe. When we drive, we need to drive slowly, carefully, and be respectful to bicyclists and pedestrians. How we exit parked vehicles also matters. From 2017 to 2021, over 8% of bicyclists killed on city streets have lost their lives from *dooring*, opening a car door without first checking to see if a bicyclist is approaching.

For over 50 years, in Holland, they have taught the *Dutch Reach*. Very simply, it means using your far hand to reach for the door handle when exiting. This allows passengers and drivers to turn and look back and check for any bicyclists that may be coming up beside the car.

This week, the New York City Taxi & Limousine Commission (TLC) and the Department of Transportation (DOT) launched a team effort with rock legend Chubby Checker to create a [New York Twist to promote this safer way to exit vehicles](#).



*Do The New York Twist campaign graphic showing a person twisting to view oncoming vehicles before opening their door.*

TLC Commissioner David Do stated, “This simple little upper-body swivel, which we’re calling the New York Twist, can mean the difference between a safe vehicle exit and one that can injure or even kill a passing bicyclist. Our hope is that Mr. Checker’s unforgettable song helps instill this movement as a reflex every time you get out of a car. If everyone did this, we could eliminate dooring.”

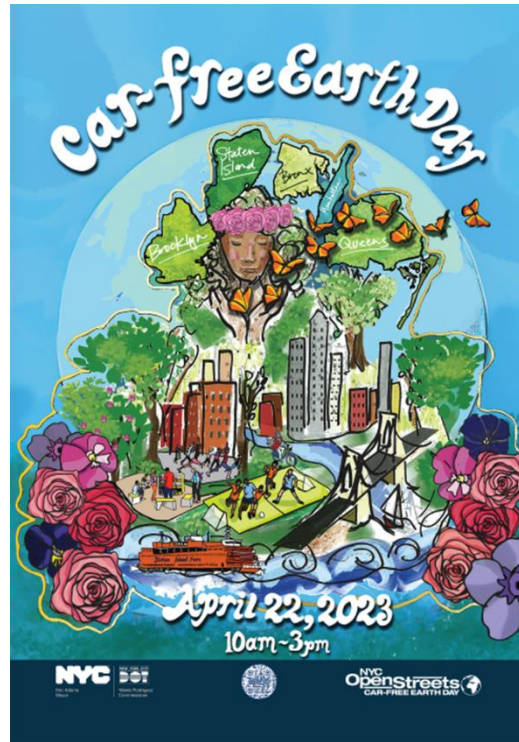
DCAS asks all City fleet operators to do the twist and join this safety effort. The New York Twist will be added to the NYC Vision Zero Safe Driver Training program.

We would like to thank TLC, DOT, and Chubby Checker for developing this critical safety message. We also want to thank our own DCAS Fleet staffer Gary Prasad for supporting the filming of the video.

**Car-Free Earth Day, Saturday April 22**

On Saturday April 22, Earth Day, NYC DOT will be hosting its annual [Car Free Earth Day](#) across the five boroughs with exhibits, live performances, and activities promoting walking, biking, sustainability, and global climate action. In support of this event DCAS, the Department of Correction, the Department of Sanitation, and other agency partners will be displaying all-electric vehicles and providing educational materials about the NYC Fleet sustainability program and e-bike rider safety. You can find the locations of these events on the [NYC DOT Car Free site](#).

DCAS Fleet was pleased to join DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez, who launched the first Car Free Day in 2016, at the recent Times Square announcement of this year's event. Commissioner Rodriguez reminded those in attendance that, "Open Streets, Car-Free Earth Day is about encouraging New Yorkers to leave their vehicles at home and enjoying our city's parks, plazas, and an expanded network of open streets. This celebration offers an opportunity to get outdoors and enjoy activities at dozens of locations in communities around New York City. It also serves as a reminder that we only have one planet -- and we must all do our part to reduce our carbon footprint and pay homage to the one beautiful planet we have."



NYC Deputy Chief Fleet Officer Eric Richardson and DCAS Fleet staff member Gary Prasad joined DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez and other guests at the Car-Free Earth Day Announcement. Picture is courtesy of NYC DOT.

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## NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

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## Save the Date: 34th Annual Equipment and Vehicle Show

The 34th Annual Equipment and Vehicle Show will take place on May 11, 2023 at Flushing Meadows Corona Park in Queens. The show is hosted every year by DCAS in collaboration with the NYC Department of Parks and Recreation, and highlights vendors who support the City of New York's Clean Fleet and Vision Zero initiatives.

To register and learn more, visit [DCAS's website](#).

## 34<sup>th</sup> Annual Equipment & Vehicle Show

Thursday, May 11, 2023  
9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.  
Rain Date: Friday, May 12, 2023

Flushing Meadows Corona Park,  
Queens, by the Unisphere

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## Fleet Vision International: The Show

The 2023 [Fleet Vision International: The Show](#) will take place on April 26 and April 27 in London. Registration information, speakers, and the full agenda [are now available](#).



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**COVID-19 Safety Reminder**

For all fleet drivers, when interacting with others in close quarters such as within a vehicle, it is strongly recommended to wear a mask.

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## Week In Review: April 9 - 15

Mayor Adams welcomes the Rat Czar, introduces new innovative technology for the NYPD and celebrates Broadway this week in New York City!



## Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 422, March 31, 2023](#): DCAS and City Agencies Introducing New Team of Safe Driving Trainers

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 421, March 17, 2023](#): DCAS Fleet Field Services Unit: Watching Over the City's Electric Vehicle Charging Network

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 420, March 10, 2023](#): NYC Fleet Spotlight - Kirkival Henry, DCAS Fleet Purchase Director

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 419, February 24, 2023](#): NYC Fleet Spotlight - Tom Bartkowski, NYC Emergency Management

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