



Press Release
For Immediate Release

June 18, 2013

BROAD COALITION OF CIVIC & BUSINESS LEADERS EXPRESS SUPPORT FOR *TAXI OF TOMORROW*

David Yassky
Commissioner

Office of Public
Affairs
33 Beaver Street
22nd Floor
New York, NY 10004

+1 212 676 1013 tel
+1 212 676 1101 fax

A broad coalition of civic and business leaders is expressing its support for the Nissan NV 200 *Taxi of Tomorrow* this week with a letter urging the Taxi and Limousine Commission's (TLC) Board of Commissioners to vote in favor of a rules package on June 20 that would bring the long-awaited project to fruition.

The coalition, headed by former MTA Executive Director and CEO, and former TLC commission member Elliot G. Sander, praised the vehicle's many amenities and highlighted its custom design, as opposed to the retrofitted models in current use.

"We believe the Taxi of Tomorrow will be an even greater advance in customer service. We recognize that the vehicles currently used as taxicabs were designed for general consumer use and have been retrofitted for taxi use. By contrast, the Taxi of Tomorrow vehicle has been custom designed for use as a taxicab, and will provide a new standard of safety, comfort and passenger amenities....."

"It is incredibly gratifying to see such wide-ranging support for the *Taxi of Tomorrow* from these professionals, whose common denominator is their love and devotion to New York City and its people," said TLC Chair David Yassky. "Their vote of confidence speaks volumes."

While the *Taxi of Tomorrow* (TOT) offers passengers a panoramic roof for unparalleled City vistas, greater legroom, a "hump-free" flat floor for ease of travel, plug-ins for electronic devices, and separate environmental controls, the letter's signatories, which include a number of prominent physicians and

surgeons, and transportation advocates, put its safety features at the top of their list of the TOT's most valuable characteristics.

“Unlike current taxis, the Taxi of Tomorrow vehicle will meet federal crash-test standards with the partition installed, and will reduce the risk of head and face injuries to passengers. The vehicle’s front is specifically designed to minimize pedestrian injuries in the event of a collision, and the sliding doors will prevent the ‘dooring’ of cyclists.....”

Among other things, the letter also goes on to laud features designed with older passengers and those with mobility challenges in mind.

“Many older passengers and passengers with limited mobility have difficulty entering and exiting the SUV and minivan vehicles that now compose about half of the taxi fleet. The Taxi of Tomorrow vehicle includes a retractable step, grab handles that will make entry and exit much easier, and an automatic light to alert pedestrians and cyclists when a passenger is entering or exiting the vehicle.”

A number of supporters have submitted letters of their own, to more comprehensively address their organization's appreciation for the final product of the TLC's groundbreaking years-long effort. Representatives of the coalition are also expected to testify in person at Thursday's public meeting, to personally encourage the TLC Board's support for the *Taxi of Tomorrow*.

A copy of the letter, and several individual letters of support, accompany this release.

[TOT Support Coalition Letter](#)