

**GROUP RIDE VEHICLE SERVICE TO BEGIN IN FOUR  
SERVICE AREAS IN BROOKLYN AND QUEENS**

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***Service to Offer New Transportation Mode  
For Communities with Limited Options***

New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) Commissioner/Chair David Yassky today announced that one service area has begun to receive point-to-point shared Group Ride Vehicle service, with the four remaining areas, all based around MTA bus routes that have been eliminated or significantly reduced, soon to follow.

Group Ride Vehicle service between the Kew Gardens Subway Station and Queens College began this morning, with passengers paying a flat fare of \$2 for rides within the service area (*see service area maps*). Fares for shared ride service among specified pick up and drop off locations in other service areas, which are scheduled to begin service on Monday, September 20, will also be \$2. Vehicles will be clearly marked with the words "GROUP RIDE VEHICLE" on their exterior, and will have unique identifying decals (see below) in several locations. There will also be identifying markings in each vehicle's interior. Pick-up and drop-off locations will be marked with DOT-provided signage, though additional drop-off locations within service areas may be requested by passengers and agreed-to by drivers. The pilot program was originally announced by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg, Deputy Mayor Stephen Goldsmith, TLC Commissioner David Yassky and Council Speaker Christine C. Quinn on June 22, 2010.

"The purpose of this program is to provide safe and reliable service in areas that have been impacted by the MTA's service disruptions, some of which were already challenged by limited transportation options," said Commissioner Yassky. "This is an exciting opportunity for the TLC to help introduce and test an entirely new kind of service that never before existed – one that we believe will help thousands of people get where they need to go in a safe and convenient way."

The program will include a strong enforcement component, in coordination with the NYPD.



## **Group Ride Vehicle Pilot Program Facts**

### **What is the Group Ride Vehicle Pilot Program?**

The Group Ride Vehicle Pilot Program was created to assist those commuters affected by the MTA's discontinuation a number of routes.

### **When where the routes decided? How many are there? Which routes were selected?**

On **July 15, 2010**, the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission approved the Group Ride Vehicle Pilot Project for ten service areas, based on a number of discontinued MTA bus routes. The first five of the routes that were selected to receive the service were the **B23, B39, B71, Q74 and Q79**. The TLC has not yet selected any additional service areas.

### **What is the duration of this pilot program?**

The pilot program's duration will be one year from the date of its beginning.

### **When will the pilot program begin?**

The Q74 service area will go into operation on Monday, September 13; service areas based on the B23, B39, and Q79 bus routes are expected to go into operation on Monday, September 20; and service based on the former B71 is expected to begin on September 27.

### **Where are those routes, who will operate them, what will their hours of operation be and how much will it cost?**

The former Q74 service area, which began service today (September 13), runs between Kew Gardens and Queens College, and is operated by Community Transportation Systems, Inc. The group ride vehicle will run weekdays from 6AM-10PM, making stops every 15 minutes during the rush hours of 6AM-10AM and 3PM-8PM, and 30 minutes at all other times; and weekends from 6AM-8PM, making stops every 30 minutes. *The fare for this service will be \$2 per rider.*

The former B23 service area will run through Borough Park, Kensington and Flatbush starting on September 20, and will be operated by Sunset Service Transportation, Inc. The group ride vehicle will run seven days a week between the hours of 6AM and 10PM, making stops every 30 minutes, *for a fare of \$2 per rider.*

The former B39 service area, which will run through Williamsburg and the Lower East Side of Manhattan, will be operated by City Link Transportation Systems. The group ride vehicles will run weekdays 6AM-10PM, and weekends 6AM-1AM, making stops every 30 minutes, *for a fare of \$2 per rider.*

The former Q79 service area, which will run through Little Neck, Glen Oaks, and Bellerose, will be operated by Alpha Van Lines. Starting September 20, Group Ride Vehicles will run weekdays from 6AM-8PM, making stops every 15 minutes during the rush hours of 6AM-10AM and 3PM-8PM, and 30 minutes at all other times; and weekends from 8AM-6PM, making stops every 30 minutes. *The fare for this service will be \$2 per rider.*

The former B71, which will run through Park Slope, Carroll Gardens and Prospect Heights starting September 27, will be operated by Brooklyn Van Lines. The group ride vehicle will run from 6AM-10PM seven days a week, making stops every 30 minutes. *The fare for this service will be \$2 per rider.*

### **What will identify the Vehicle as being part of the Group Ride Vehicle program?**

Each vehicle will have unique Group Ride Vehicle Pilot Program decals like the one below, that are similar to those already made for other Taxi and Limousine Commission-regulated vehicles, on all four sides of the vehicle. The Taxi and Limousine Commission also requires that on operators display “GROUP RIDE VEHICLE” on both sides of each of their vehicles.



### **Who should customers call to get more information about the pilot program, find out where a vehicle is, or lodge a complaint?**

Except for the former B23 service area provider, each operator has a phone number that is dedicated to this program as follows: former B39 service area (718-723-7269), former B71 service area (718-676-0504), former Q74 service area (718-297-0710), former Q79 service area (516-792-6751). This information will also be available on the signs at each stop and through our website, as well as by calling 311, which will also be able to answer certain route-related questions.