The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission hereby extends a pilot program, pursuant to section 52C of the Commission’s rules, to test the effectiveness of allowing non-metered for-hire vehicles affiliated with Staten Island Bases to be inspected at locations other than the TLC’s Safety and Emissions Division located in Woodside, New York for an additional year. All for-hire vehicles are required to be inspected six times within the two-year lifespan of their license. Five of these inspections are done at a facility selected and paid for by the vehicle owner and the other inspection is done at the TLC’s Woodside facility. Vehicle owners from Staten Island have frequently expressed that the required bi-ennial trip to the Woodside facility is a great financial burden. Staten Island vehicle owners claim this trip to Woodside can cost up to $1,500 per vehicle. The TLC has not been provided with the details to support the stated amount. These costs, per the vehicle owners, come from the time involved in driving to and from Staten Island and Queens and the time spent waiting to be inspected at Woodside. Adding to these costs is the price of round-trip gas and tolls as well as the lost fare revenue for having a vehicle out of service all day.

This pilot program sets up an inspection process outside of our standard Woodside inspection requirement for vehicles affiliated with Staten Island bases. Prior to the conclusion of the Pilot Program the TLC will evaluate the results and the pros and cons of having a City vendor perform the required DMV inspections on these vehicles rather than the Safety and Emission Division in Woodside. A determination as to any possible rule changes will then be made.

In April of 2012, the Commission approved the original pilot program; however, the pilot did not begin until March of 2013. Today’s resolution is to continue the pilot program for an additional year in order to accumulate additional data in order to fully evaluate the conditions of the pilot program. The original reporting and evaluation criteria would remain in effect.