



**PRESS RELEASE
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

MARCH 23, 2022

TLC EXTENDS MORATORIUM ON NEW FOR-HIRE VEHICLE LICENSES

Ryan Wanttaja
Acting Commissioner

Office of Public Affairs
press@tlc.nyc.gov

33 Beaver Street
22nd Floor
New York, NY 10004

NEW YORK – Following a review of factors that included traffic congestion, vehicle supply, passenger demand, driver earnings, and attrition rates, the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) today released its biannual decision on whether to license new for-hire vehicles (FHVs), determining not to issue any new FHV licenses in the next six months, except for those vehicles that are wheelchair accessible.

“With today’s decision to extend the FHV license pause, TLC continues to prioritize the long-term health of the taxi and for-hire vehicle industries, the drivers, and the riding public,” said **TLC Acting Commissioner Ryan Wanttaja**. “The existing for-hire vehicle fleet already exceeds passenger demand and putting more non-accessible cars on the road will only add congestion to our streets and undermine driver pay while providing no benefit to passengers. As always, we encourage those interested in obtaining a new for-hire vehicle license to apply for a wheelchair-accessible vehicle license.”

Findings from the underlying analysis, based on data current as of January 2022, include the following:

- Bridge and tunnel traffic into the central business district remains close to pre-pandemic levels, and Midtown traffic speeds have been decreasing since March of 2021.
- For-hire vehicle trip volumes are still significantly lower than pre-pandemic levels. While trips continue to increase as the city’s economy recovers, FHV trips for the high-volume companies are still down 28.2% from January 2020 to January 2022.
- There were 96,114 total for-hire vehicle licenses as of January 2022, representing only a slight decline from the 96,493 licenses as of July 2021.
- Passenger wait times decreased citywide by 27% between August 2021 and January 2022, with significant decreases in all outer boroughs as well as the central business district, showing that vehicle supply is adequately meeting passenger demand.
- Almost 30,000 licensed for-hire vehicles did not perform trips for high-volume companies in January 2022, representing a large pool of vehicles available to serve passengers citywide.
- Vehicle owners can still obtain a new for-hire vehicle license, as has always been the case, if they provide wheelchair-accessible service to the riding public.

Background

Following City Council legislation signed by the mayor in 2018, and rules adopted by TLC in 2019, TLC conducts a biannual review of for-hire vehicle licenses and determines whether new licenses should be issued. This review includes an analysis of traffic congestion levels, driver earnings, license attrition rates, outer-borough service, and fleet electrification. An exemption for wheelchair accessible vehicles continues to increase the level of accessible service for passengers.

###