

TSR and DCAS Host Global Vision Zero Conference: Announce New Safety Award and Surround Camera Initiative for City Fleet Trucks

By: Keith T. Kerman

On May 19, Together for Safer Roads (TSR) and DCAS hosted a Global Vision Zero Fleet Safety Conference.

TSR is a global advocate for road safety, bringing together some of the largest companies in the world. DCAS is pushing safety through Mayor de Blasio's Vision Zero initiative in NYC and spreading the word through our Fleets of the Future Initiative as part of [Executive Order 53](#).



The event was precluded by an announcement on May 17 by the Mayor's Office, TSR, and DCAS of a [new safety award to be given out annually in honor of Lenin Fierro](#), our own DCAS Fleet Safety Director, who was taken from us in the early days of COVID-19. Lenin's wife Brenda spoke to the forum and thanked everyone for keeping Lenin's memory alive and sharing his commitment to safety.



Nigel Reid of City Harvest was the first recipient of the award. City Harvest uses 22 trucks and 160 staff members to rescue food and redirect it to hungry New Yorkers. This effort was never more important than in the last year due to COVID-19. Nigel has matched this commitment to helping fellow New Yorkers with an equal commitment to driving safely and responsibly while doing so.

At the conference, City Hall and DCAS also announced [the rollout of surround safety cameras for 1,500 City work trucks](#). Truck operation is essential but difficult work, and is an especial risk to pedestrians, bicyclists, and children in a crowded city like ours. Conventional trucks have many blind spots and a limited line of sight to the ground below. These visual impairments have led to tragic vehicle crashes. In November 2018, DCAS announced it would transition the [purchase of new City trucks to high vision models](#). However, the turn-over of the fleet takes over a decade and depends on available vehicle models.

In the meantime, DCAS will retrofit existing trucks with surround cameras and sensors. These cameras and sensors will offer drivers an additional tool to monitor the front, sides, and rear of the truck, enabling a quick visual check of areas otherwise very hard to see. Over 500 units have already been installed on trucks from 13 agencies and all installs will be complete by the end of the year.



The keynote speaker for the conference was NYC's own Meera Joshi. Meera is currently the Deputy Administrator of the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, part of US DOT, and was the Taxi and Limousine (TLC) Commissioner who helped launch NYC's Vision Zero initiative. Meera discussed the role of the Safety Administration in promoting safety nationally, especially with the growing truck and delivery industry. She also addressed frankly that there has been a decline in safe vehicle operation in the US, tied to the COVID-19 disruption of daily and commercial life, and the need

for all of us to rededicate ourselves to this critical area of public health.

The full set of speakers for the events is available on the [Vision Zero Fleet Forum website](#). There was a very thoughtful discussion of Vision Zero and safety from government officials, safety advocates, fleet drivers and fleet managers, safe technology suppliers, and trainers. DCAS will post [the presentation](#) from the event on our website and will discuss more in future newsletters.

Thanks to David Braunstein, President of TSR, and Eric Richardson, Deputy Chief of NYC Fleet, for organizing this important event. Thanks also to all our partner agencies for their help in implementing the truck safety project.

COVID-19 Safety Reminder

For all fleet drivers, please be reminded to wear a mask when operating a fleet vehicle with others in the vehicle. Attached again are the [Department of Health's COVID-19 Safety Guidelines relating to vehicle operation](#).

Check out past editions of the Fleet Newsletter

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 344, May 10, 2021](#): DSNY Introduces All-Electric Sweeper

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 343, April 30, 2021](#): Over 5,000 Drivers Complete Online Vision Zero Safety Training

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 342, April 22, 2021](#): Mayor Announces School Busses Going Electric

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 341, April 14, 2021](#): DCAS, US DOT Kick Off Clean Fleet Transition Plan

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 340, March 29, 2021](#): NYC Fleet Spotlight: Dina Luddeni, FDNY Safety

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