

Teaching Fleet Safety at City Schools

By: Keith T. Kerman

In last week's newsletter, we discussed our recent trip to McKee High School, to talk fleet sustainability and electrification. NYC Fleet is also working with the NYC Department of Transportation (DOT) to discuss fleet and truck safety with public school students.

As our local and national economies have become more reliant on online retail, especially throughout the pandemic, the presence of trucks and other large vehicles on our roads has also grown. Through our Vision Zero Safe Fleet Transition Plan, DCAS is working to implement safer designs for trucks and vehicles, and train fleet operators on safe driving best practices.

It is equally critical that we educate vulnerable road users about the safety risks posed by trucks and other large vehicles. Over the last month, DCAS partnered with DOT to bring truck safety into NYC elementary school classrooms through in-person visits. The biggest risk from large trucks is their line of sight. The operator of a conventionally designed large truck, where the engine is in front of the driver, cannot see the ground up to 25 feet ahead of the vehicle. A child, a bicyclist, or a pedestrian, having full view of the truck, may not understand or recognize that the truck driver cannot see them similarly. DCAS is advocating for high vision trucks to address line of sight issues. Until those become universal, we must take steps including training, cameras, and mirrors to address line of sight risks.



Students at P.S. 152 in Queens, where NYC Vision Zero was first announced, getting firsthand experience with a DCAS fuel truck and a brand new Department of Correction personnel bus.

Actual trucks were brought into schoolyards so that fourth and fifth graders could have the opportunity to get a safe, close-up experience with large vehicles. Students were able to see either a DCAS fuel truck, a DSNY packer, or a brand new Department of Correction personnel bus. They were also given safety tips by DOT training staff on how to safely approach intersections and increase their visibility to the drivers of large vehicles. Students were shown the features City trucks are now equipped with that make them safer, including sideguards, telematics, and surround cameras.

Students were also given a rare opportunity to sit in the driver's seat of the trucks, to experience firsthand the difficulties truck drivers face behind the wheel. Metal reflective mock-ups of bicyclists and pedestrians were placed strategically around the trucks so that kids could get acquainted with the blind spots truck drivers face. After sitting in the trucks, students spoke with the actual drivers of the trucks, as well as NYPD traffic safety personnel, so that no truck safety questions were left unanswered.



Bicyclist cut out demonstrates line of sight restrictions for truck operators.

DOT Assistant Commissioner Kim Wiley-Schwartz emphasized the importance of these efforts: "Our collaboration with DCAS to bring this lifesaving truck education program to schools was an example of Vision Zero in action. Seeing children interact with the City's fleet drivers and get in their literal seats to see the road from their perspective was inspiring. We look forward to scaling this project up in spring 2022, and we are grateful to DCAS for their tireless dedication to the safety of New Yorkers."

DCAS looks forward to continuing safe and clean fleet education at NYC public schools. Thanks to Assistant Commissioner Kim Wiley-Schwartz and everyone at DOT for your partnership in this safety initiative. Thanks to the Department of Sanitation and Department of Correction, for providing the showcase vehicles, and the schools for supporting this effort. Also, thank you to the DCAS staff who helped make this event possible: Eric Richardson, Harris Kaplan, Kareem O'Connor, Nathaniel Koszer, and Veronica Rodriguez.



The interagency Vision Zero team members from DOT, DCAS, DSNY, and NYPD who participated in the fleet safety initiative with NYC school kids.

NYC Fleet Manual

The NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook has been updated. Please see the updated version at [NYC Fleet Manual and Drivers Handbook](#).

Fleet Vision International Quarter 4

The Fleet Vision International magazine for the fourth quarter of 2021 is out now. This edition features an article written by DCAS Deputy Commissioner and NYC Chief Fleet Officer Keith Kerman on the work NYC Parks is doing to clean, repair, and safeguard NYC parks while reducing fleet emissions.

[Fleet Vision International Q4 2021](#)



DCAS's Inside Citywide Podcast

DCAS's [Inside Citywide podcast](#) provides a behind-the-scenes look at New York City government. Episode 2 takes a look at the future of the City of New York's vehicle fleet as it transitions to all-electric by 2040.



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 371, November 22, 2021:](#) Fleet Spotlight - Ralph McKee Automotive High School

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 370, November 12, 2021:](#) Fleet Spotlight: DCAS Commissioner Lisette Camilo

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 369, November 5, 2021:](#) Vision Zero Dusk and Darkness Campaign

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 368, October 29, 2021:](#) City Council Expands Truck Side-Guards Law to Contractors

[NYC Fleet Newsletter 367, October 21, 2021:](#) Eric Ritter, DSNY Mechanic, Eclipses World Speed Record for Electric Vehicles

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