



TLC Will Initiate Rulemaking on Tipping in FHV Industry

One step in a larger process to ensure TLC-licensed drivers earn a livable wage while working for-hire

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Following a recent hearing on industry economics where dozens of professional drivers gave testimony about their struggle for a decent livelihood, the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) plans to initiate rulemaking in regards to tipping options in the For-Hire Vehicle (FHV) industry. The proposal, which will be introduced in the coming months, will be one step in a greater process to ensure that TLC-licensed drivers earn a livable wage while working for-hire.

“Professional drivers are a vital part of both our City’s transportation network and economy, and driving for-hire has supported hundreds of thousands of New York City families for decades,” said TLC Commissioner Meera Joshi. “This rule proposal will be an important first step to improve earning potential in the For-Hire Vehicle industry, but it is just one piece of a more comprehensive effort to improve the economic well-being of drivers.”

During an almost six-hour hearing on April 6, more than 80 speakers shared testimony with the Commission on industry economics and the working conditions that drivers face. Many drivers told stories of declining incomes and economic hardship, as well as a lack of transparency in pay.

“Safeguarding the economic health and workplace rights of drivers in the for-hire vehicle industry is essential to ensuring the livelihood of the growing population of New Yorkers who are part of this contingent workforce,” said Department of Consumer Affairs Commissioner Lorelei Salas. “This proposed rule is a great first step towards ensuring more stable workplace standards for for-hire drivers so they can better care for themselves and their families. We look forward to continuing to work with TLC and other sister agencies to establish labor protections that work for our city’s evolving economy.”

The TLC received a petition in February from the Independent Drivers Guild, a group that represents FHV drivers who work for Uber in New York City. The petition called on the TLC to initiate rulemaking to require FHV bases that allow passengers to book trips through smartphone applications to include an in-app gratuity option. The rules on tipping options will incorporate the idea put forward by this petition, but will be platform agnostic to ensure that *all* passengers can tip drivers seamlessly, regardless of whether they used an app or called a car service for a ride.

About the NYC TLC:

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) was created in 1971, and is the agency responsible for the regulation and licensing of almost 200,000 yellow medallion taxicabs and for-hire vehicles, their drivers, and the businesses that operate and support their industries. It is recognized as the largest and most active taxi and limousine regulatory body in the United States.

To find out more about the TLC, or to review its rules, regulations and procedures, we encourage you to visit our official Web site at www.nyc.gov/taxi.