
Matthew W. Daus, Commissioner/Chair

**Press Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION APPROVES
ACCESSIBLE DISPATCH SYSTEM PILOT PROGRAM**

The New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) today voted to approve a two-year experimental program that would provide wheelchair accessible service via medallion taxicabs and meter-equipped for-hire vehicles (FHVs).

Technically a demonstration project strictly for persons who use wheelchairs, requests for accessible service would be made through 311, the City's government services hotline, and a dispatch contractor would take the necessary information and then find the closest available participating accessible taxicab or FHV. Participating drivers will receive all necessary training, and will fully assist passengers using wheelchairs in securing them in the vehicle.

The cost for wheelchair accessible rides provided under the program will be based on a standard metered fare, and all dispatch equipment will be provided to participating vehicles at no cost to their owners.

"This program is a cause for celebration," said TLC Commissioner and Chairman Matthew W. Daus. "The TLC has worked hard with its partners to create the framework of a new service to persons with disabilities that never before existed, while answering important questions about demand and about realistic response times, among other things.

"We could never have done this without close collaboration with the Mayor's Office for Persons with Disabilities, the Mayor's Office of Operations, and the Department of Information Technology and Telecommunications, and in consultation with many knowledgeable disability advocates."

This program builds on a number of achievements already realized by the Bloomberg Administration in the area of accessible transportation, including the recent sale of 63 of 150 accessible taxicab medallions authorized by Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg. The remaining accessible medallions will be auctioned in the spring of 2008, bringing the number of roll-in wheelchair accessible taxicabs in New York City to 230, more than any other city in the nation.

It is anticipated that the system will be ready to provide wheelchair accessible service as of January 1, 2008.