

October 2026 Commissioner's Corner

Access is Everything

Since being confirmed as Chair and Commissioner of the Taxi and Limousine Commission in March, I've emphasized how driver voices matter and would directly shape TLC policy. Licensees engaging TLC staff at events, showing up to public hearings, and speaking to me directly is an important part of how this administration will fulfill its promises to support working-class drivers.

To that end, I have some encouraging updates that will help drivers have a more dignified experience while they keep our city moving and move us closer to a transportation system that works together.

Bathrooms and curb space access directly affect drivers' quality of life and well-being, and we've made progress on both these fronts. Last month, Mayor Mamdani announced that the installation of 17 new public bathrooms has begun across the five boroughs, bringing free, accessible facilities to public plazas and high-traffic areas.

While we know many more are needed, this is an important first step. When it came to where these bathrooms were installed, TLC ensured that drivers' voices were at the forefront. Through our ongoing engagement with drivers, we elevated their priorities and concerns and provided recommendations based on what we heard—and we're glad to see this project moving forward.

We are also collaborating closely with the Department of Transportation (DOT) as it works to implement Local Law 24, which will allow for-hire vehicles and taxis to use metered commercial parking as part of a one-year pilot program. Access to dedicated curb space allows drivers to take a break, eat a meal, pray, or use the bathroom. Although drivers benefit from about 100 relief stands across the city, we know the demand for safe, convenient places to park is far higher. TLC is committed to partnering with DOT to improve access to curb space for drivers.

Additionally, we had a Commission Meeting in September. The Board voted unanimously to extend the Accessible Taxi Loan Assistance Service Pilot Program (ATLAS) by one year. ATLAS, which helps medallion owners purchase and hack up a wheelchair-accessible vehicle (WAV), has so far helped 42 owners get WAVs, with funding still available for another 58.

We still have more work to do to pass the MRP+ and driver relief package that drivers had a voice in shaping. The rule package was designed to provide needed financial relief to drivers. I remain committed to advancing policies that make a difference in the lives of

thousands of New Yorkers. This administration will continue fighting to pass these and future rules that bring economic justice, dignity, and improved working conditions for drivers.

Lastly, September 15 to October 15 is Hispanic Heritage Month. One in five drivers originates from a place that celebrates this unique time. I understand the cultural, economic, and societal impacts that our immigrant drivers from these countries have made both in the city and the United States. As a Latina and an immigrant, I want to thank them for their contributions and let them know that under this TLC, their stories, sacrifice, and contributions do not go unnoticed.

Midori Valdivia

Commissioner and Chair

Taxi and Limousine Commission