

Cab Gab
by Abe Mittleman

Proposed Fare Increase

I can't believe the negative rumblings I hear from some people in this industry!

How can any one think that raising the waiting time to \$24 an hour from \$12 an hour would hurt? Ok, so maybe a few tight wadded passengers or a few passengers who live on a limited budget will hold back on the tip some what. But how many do you really think are going to do that? Even if some do, the fare will still be greater than what was. So, the worst that can happen in that case is you will have what you would have had before raising the waiting time, for most rides it will be more just on the additional clicks of the meter in traffic. Sure, we would all want an across the board fare increase. But, you can't always get what you want. So I say stop complaining and take what you can get. This can only help. There is no way it will hurt. The only way it will hurt is if it forced people to not ride. That's not going to happen!!

Now for the flat fare to JFK.

I'm cracking up, laughing intensely, at those who say that imposing a flat rate of \$45 to JFK it will lesson the fare! This is a win-win situation for us.

First of all if your meter is reading more than \$45. on fares to JFK, your either cheating your passengers by taking the Belt Parkway (the longest possible route) or you are sitting in traffic on the Van Wyck for twice the time it should take you to get to JFK if you knew the best way to go. If there is light traffic and you take the Van Wyck then the fare on the meter now from most midtown locations is under \$40. If there is heavy traffic and you take the Van Wyck then you are wasting your time.

Oh, so you don't know the best way. Well listen to this: It's very simple. Take the LIE from the Midtown tunnel to Woodhaven Blvd. Then take Woodhaven Blvd to Rockaway Blvd., turn left and take Rockaway Blvd. till it intersects the Van Wyck. Turn onto the Van Wyck and you are in the airport. Travel time from midtown around 40 minutes, fare on meter: \$38.! I don't understand why this industry

doesn't explain to the drivers who do not have the experience that native New Yorkers like my self have how to get to JFK when the traffic is heavy?

Not only will you be able to now get \$45. for this ride, the riding public will know exactly what it costs before they get into your taxi. This will put a dagger into the limousine hustlers who illegally hustle passengers by telling them they charge less than medallion taxis. The doormen at the hotels will no longer be able to lie to the prospective passengers. So, what's wrong with that?