

NEW YORK CITY TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

Notice of Promulgation of Rules

Notice is hereby given in accordance with section 1043(e) of the Charter of the City of New York (“Charter”) that the Taxi and Limousine Commission (“TLC”) hereby promulgates rules governing the Port Authority Bus Terminal Group Ride.

These rules are promulgated pursuant to sections 1043 and 2303 of the Charter and section 19-503 of the Administrative Code of the City of New York.

A Public Hearing on these rules was held by the TLC at its offices at 33 Beaver Street, 19th Floor, New York, New York 10004 on May 19, 2011 at 10:00 a.m.

These rules will take effect 30 days after they are published in the City Record.

Statement of Basis and Purpose of Promulgated Rule

On May 28, 2010, the Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) approved an experimental group ride plan for taxicabs for trips from a group ride taxi stand at the Port Authority bus terminal in midtown Manhattan to the area of Sixth Avenue and 59th Street. The main purpose of group ride plans is to increase the number of passengers who can use the taxicab fleet during peak times such as morning rush hours. An individual passenger will have an incentive to use the group ride plan if the price of his or her group ride is lower than the price of a comparable ride. Taxi drivers will have an incentive to use the group ride plan if the fares earned from group riders are greater than the fare earned for the same trip at the standard price.

The regular metered fare for a trip from the Port Authority bus terminal to the area of Sixth Avenue and 59th Street is about \$5.85. During the experimental program, each group ride passenger paid a fare of \$3, saving almost half the cost of the regular fare. Drivers made a total fare of \$9, significantly higher than the regular fare. The Port Authority bus terminal group ride plan operates during weekday morning rush hours, and has drawn an estimated average of 10 group ride trips and 30 passengers per day. The TLC believes that this volume of usage justifies making the group ride plan permanent.

New material is underlined.

Section 1. Section 58-26(c) of chapter 58 of Title 35 of the Rules of the City of New York is amended by adding a new paragraph 3 and renumbering subsequent paragraphs, to read as follows:

§58-26 – Rates and Tolls

(c) *Group Ride Fares.*

(1) *Group Ride Fare from LaGuardia Airport (Reserved)*

(2) *Group Ride Fare from York Avenue.* The fare for trips made under a Group Riding plan from York Avenue to the Financial District will be \$6.00 per passenger. In addition, there can be a fee for dispatch services as the Commission determines.

(3) *Group Ride Fare from the Port Authority Bus Terminal.* The fare for trips made under a Group Riding plan from the Port Authority bus terminal at Eighth Avenue between 40th and 42nd Streets to the 59th Street and Sixth Avenue area will be \$3.00 per passenger.

(4) *Experimental Group Ride Programs.*

(i) *Additional Pickup Locations.* The Chairperson can recommend for Commission approval additional Group Riding plan pickup locations on a temporary basis, to determine the effectiveness of each Group Riding plan.

(ii) *Demand-Driven Temporary Group Riding Plans.* The Chairperson can also recommend for Commission approval additional Group Riding plans on a temporary basis to respond to demand created by special events or unique circumstances.

(iii) *Duration.* Any Group Ride plan established by the Commission under this subdivision will terminate one year after the date the plan was established, unless:

A. Final rulemaking has been enacted establishing the Group Riding plan location and rate of fare; or

B. The Commission has determined that it is in the best interest of the Commission to extend the Group Riding plan pilot program for an additional definite period of time not to exceed one year.

