

**From:** [Jean Ryan](#)  
**To:** [Testimony](#)  
**Subject:** [EXTERNAL] Testimony of Disabled In Action on the bill from 5-28-25  
**Date:** Saturday, May 31, 2025 4:57:09 PM

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Dear Transportation Chair Selvena Brooks-Powers -

Please excuse this last minute testimony written like this. We could not attend the hearing on 5-28-25 because we were in federal court on another matter.

I don't know if members of the city council are aware that there are ZERO wheelchair accessible electric vehicles (EVs) now. None are being made by any car manufacturer that we are aware of. Toyota is making hybrid Toyota Sienna's that use gas and electric but there are no vehicles that are accessible and use only electric power.

We need to get places in a timely manner and we often depend on taxis and for-hire-vehicles like Uber and Lyft. If all for hire vehicles and taxis by 2030 are EVs, we will be back to the dark and olden days of not being able to get around and being forced to use unreliable and advance reservation Access-A-Ride for everything that we cannot wheel to. Or having to buy our own accessible vehicle which a very few people do but most people can afford the steep price or even drive.

We are concerned about the environment and climate change, but we don't want to have policies that force us to stay home.

Jean Ryan  
President  
Disabled In Action of Metropolitan NY

[REDACTED]

Kathleen Collins  
Telephone No.: [REDACTED]  
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May 31, 2025

Council Member Selvena N. Brooks-Powers  
Chair  
New York City Council Committee On Transportation  
And Infrastructure  
Sent Online at <https://council.nyc.gov/testify/>  
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[REDACTED]

Re: New York City Council Committee On Transportation and Infrastructure-Int 0676-2024, A Local Law in relation to requiring a study on increasing the use of electric for-hire vehicles and installing new charging infrastructure, and to amend the administrative code of the city of New York, in relation to annual reports on increasing the use of electric for-hire vehicles and installing new charging infrastructure. Proposed Int. No. 676-A

Dear Chair Brooks-Powers;

My name is Kathleen Collins. I am a native New Yorker who is a congenital quadruple amputee who uses a wheelchair. I am on the board of Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (also known as Disabled In Action or DIA ). Disabled In Action is a 501(c)(3) grassroots civil rights organization run by and for people

with disabilities. Disabled In Action's mission is to eliminate discrimination for people with all kinds of disabilities.

As stated in my previous testimony, dated February 9, 2025, with respect to Int. 0676-2024, now amended to Int. 0676-A-2024, we submit that this bill needs to be further amended to also require that such a study and report include how we can have electric wheelchair accessible for-hire vehicles as well as charging infrastructure available for vehicles, including motorized wheelchairs, in New York City.

As this amendment is presently written this study will send us down the same path as in the past of New Yorkers with disabilities having to fight for a totally electric wheelchair accessible for-hire fleet. Thus, this entire bill needs to be amended to require that the study look at how the city can transition to a fully electric wheelchair accessible for-hire fleet as well as provide charging infrastructure that vehicles and motorized wheelchairs can use.

More specifically, section 2. subdivisions 9. and 10. of this bill state: "The commission shall no later than December 31, 2020 and annually thereafter submit to the council and the mayor a report on the effects of vehicle utilization [and], the regulation of the number of licenses issued to for-hire vehicles authorized by subdivision b of this section, and the use of electric vehicles. Such report shall include at least the following information:

9. An update on the city's progress towards a complete transition of all licensed for-hire vehicles to electric or wheelchair accessible vehicles, and on any agreements or commitments between the commission and private entities to facilitate such transition; and

10. Changes, if any, in incentives to encourage the adoption of electric for-hire vehicles." (underline and brackets in original).

As a tax paying, active voter, and native New Yorker with a disability who has fought long and hard for accessibility with respect to, among other things, transportation in New York City, I am highly concerned that this amended bill, continues deep-rooted systemic discrimination and thus, forces New Yorkers with disabilities to again fight for our basic civil right to have a fully electric wheelchair accessible for-hire fleet. This should not be an either or option, that is either an electric or a wheelchair accessible vehicle. Instead, the City Council should be demanding that this progress should be towards a complete transition of all license for-hire vehicles to a fully electric wheelchair accessible fleet and nothing less. I hope that the omissions here in the amended bill, Int. 676-A-2024, were a mere oversight that this Committee will correct before the bill is submitted to the entire City Council.

Please reach out to the disability community before and not after you write legislation. Thank you for this opportunity to speak and look forward to hearing from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Sincerely,  
Kathleen Collins  
Board Member of Disabled In Action  
of Metropolitan New York, Inc.