

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE
CITY COUNCIL
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE

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December 18, 2025
Start: 11:46 a.m.
Recess: 11:50 a.m.

HELD AT: 250 BROADWAY - 8TH FLOOR - HEARING
ROOM 2

B E F O R E: Selvena Brooks-Powers, Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
Chris Banks
Carmen N. De La Rosa
Amanda Farias
Farah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse
Julie Won

OTHER COUNCIL MEMBERS ATTENDING:

Shekar Krishnan
Erik D. Bottcher
Simcha Felder

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning. This is a
3 microphone check for the Committee on Transportation
4 and Infrastructure. Today's date is December 18,
5 2025, located in Hearing Room 2, recording done by
6 Pedro Lugo.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning, and
8 welcome to the New York City Council vote of the
9 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10 At this time, can everybody please
11 silence your cell phones, and no one is to approach
12 the dais.

13 Chair, we are ready to begin.

14 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: [GAVEL] Good
15 morning, and welcome to this hearing of the Committee
16 on Transportation and Infrastructure. I'm Selvena
17 Brooks-Powers, Chair of the Committee.

18 Today, we will be voting on Proposed
19 Intro. Number 1000-A, sponsored by Council Member
20 Brannan.

21 All right. I'm going to do that again.

22 So good morning, and welcome to this
23 hearing of the Committee on Transportation and
24 Infrastructure. I'm Selvena Brooks-Powers, Chair to
25 the Committee.

2 Today, we will be voting on Proposed
3 Intro. Number 276-A, sponsored by Council Member
4 Krishnan, which is in relation to the wrongful
5 deactivation of high-volume for-hire vehicle drivers;
6 Proposed Intro. Number 1000-A, sponsored by Council
7 Member Brannan, which is in relation to establishing
8 a for-hire vehicles parking pilot program; Proposed
9 Intro. Number 1233-A, sponsored by Council Member
10 Bottcher, which is in relation to the planting of
11 vegetation on the new medians separating bicycle
12 lanes from motorized vehicle traffic; and Proposed
13 Intro. Number 1346-A, sponsored by myself, which is
14 in relation to requiring the Department of
15 Transportation to study the commuter van industry.

16 Before Council Member Krishnan and
17 Bottcher discuss their bills, I want to take this
18 opportunity to discuss my bill, Proposed Intro.
19 Number. Proposed Intro. Number 1346-A is the product
20 of numerous commuter van working group meetings that
21 I convened over the course of this legislative
22 session. This working group was created to discuss
23 the challenges facing the commuter van industry and
24 includes commuter van operators, TLC, DOT, NYPD, taxi
25 stakeholders, and transit unions. Together, we

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2 collaboratively worked to develop creative and
3 effective solutions to solve these issues while
4 receiving feedback from those directly impacted by
5 commuter vans every day. I am proud of this
6 legislation and believe it is a positive step toward
7 ensuring the commuter van industry continues to grow
8 and thrive alongside our current public transit
9 system.

10 I will now allow Council Member Krishnan
11 to provide an opening statement.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER KRISHNAN: Good morning,
13 everyone. Thank you so much Committee Chair Selvena
14 Brooks-Powers for your advocacy of this bill, Intro.
15 276, and for giving it a hearing, and for your work
16 on it every step of the way to get it to this point.

17 Every worker in New York City deserves
18 dignity, deserves due process, the right to notice,
19 an explanation why they've been fired, and an
20 opportunity to make their case. But right now, Uber
21 and Lyft hold all the power over their drivers,
22 drivers that make them a billion-dollar corporation.
23 And in a matter of seconds, with no notice, no
24 opportunity to be heard, Uber and Lyft can strip the
25 livelihood of drivers, the vast majority of whom are

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2 immigrants and people of color. Most of them, 90
3 percent, will never be put back on the app. Most of
4 them, 90 percent of them, will never get their job
5 back when they are deactivated or fired. Now they
6 have no way to pay off the 30,000-dollar car loan
7 they took out to start driving. Soon, they won't be
8 able to put food on the dinner table for their
9 families. They won't be able to pay their rent. They
10 won't be able to pay their mortgage. They won't be
11 able to provide for their families. And their
12 families are devastated. This current system is
13 broken, and I know it in being the Council Member of
14 Jackson Heights and Elmhurst, proudly representing
15 the most driver residents in all of New York City. I
16 hear their stories. Their children go to school with
17 my children. I see them in the neighborhood, and I
18 know that many of them, Uber and Lyft drivers from
19 the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, are right here in
20 this room. Thank you for your sacrifice. Thank you
21 for what you do to keep this city moving every single
22 day, and today we will make sure that you get the
23 rights that you have always deserved. This is the
24 biggest issue in crisis to hit the taxi driver
25 population in New York City since the medallion

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2 crisis, and the current system allows Uber and Lyft
3 to upend drivers lives in exchange for their own
4 profits. My bill, Intro. 276, puts an end to these
5 unfair and unjust firings, giving workers notice,
6 just cause, and an appeals process. Basic rights,
7 rights enshrined in our Constitution. I'm proud that
8 this Committee is championing this bill and starting
9 a nationwide movement to end unfair firings of app-
10 based drivers, and that is exactly why Uber and Lyft
11 are so afraid of what we are doing here today. We are
12 giving power to workers and ending their control over
13 workers. Today, we are setting an important national
14 precedent for drivers, giving labor more power and
15 holding megacorporations accountable. Today, we are
16 proving once again that this is a City Council that
17 stands up for workers and is committed to making New
18 York City a city for working families, a city that is
19 affordable for all. I urge my Colleagues on this
20 Committee to vote yes for 276. Thank you, Chair.

21 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you,
22 Council Member.

23 Next, I will allow Council Member
24 Bottcher to provide an opening statement.

25

2 COUNCIL MEMBER BOTTCHER: Thank you, Chair
3 Brooks-Powers, and thank you to all my Colleagues. So
4 I'm proud today to bring forward Intro. 1233, a
5 simple yet practical bill with an outsized impact on
6 safety, public health, quality in life, and climate
7 change mitigation. This legislation simply requires
8 the City to include trees and other vegetation in new
9 medians that separate bicycle lanes from car traffic.
10 When I first took office, one of the first rallies I
11 organized was for a protected bike lane on 10th
12 Avenue and Lower 6th Avenue in our Districts. Today,
13 we have those protected bike lanes. Now you could
14 take a protected bike lane from 14th Street up to
15 Harlem on Manhattan's West Side, but when they went
16 to include the bike lane on 10th Avenue, they were
17 initially not going to put any trees on the
18 pedestrian refuge islands. That is a huge missed
19 opportunity for climate change mitigation, for
20 quality of life. This bill ensures that they will do
21 that going forward. Trees and plantings are not just
22 decorative extras, they're essential infrastructure.
23 They clean our air, filter pollutants, they absorb
24 storm water and reduce flooding, they increase
25 biodiversity through native plantings that support

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2 birds and pollinators, they create safer and warm
3 welcoming streets that people can feel proud of, and
4 cars drive slower on tree-lined streets. We know that
5 from much, much research. So this might seem like a
6 modest change, but the cumulative impact will be
7 enormous. Every planted median and every new tree
8 adds up to a city that feels healthier, safer, and
9 more livable. I want to thank all the Staff who
10 helped work on this bill, and I want to thank my
11 Colleagues for their support.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you,
13 Council Member.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
15 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
16 vote, Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.
17 All items are coupled.

18 Chair Brooks-Powers.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: I vote aye on
20 all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: De La
24 Rosa.

25 COUNCIL MEMBER DE LA ROSA: Aye on all.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Fariás.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Permission to
4 explain my vote.

5 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Permission
6 granted.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you, Chair.
8 I vote aye on all with the exception of Intro. 276-A,
9 in which I vote no, because as written, it does not
10 deliver the worker protections it promises, and it
11 comes with a significant fiscal impact of
12 approximately 23 million annually. While I strongly
13 support protecting app-based drivers from wrongful
14 deactivation, this bill ultimately hands control over
15 and the appeals process to the companies themselves,
16 allowing them to select and pay arbiters rather than
17 ensuring a truly independent worker-centered process.
18 That undermines due process and fails to create a
19 fair system drivers can trust. I gave several
20 attempts at amendments and feedback on the bill
21 language, fighting for the Black and Brown immigrant
22 drivers I represent in my District, including with
23 the Independent Drivers Guild and their members. We
24 know deactivations and ways to keep money in the
25 pockets of our drivers are critical issues we must

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2 continue to fight for, work I've been doing over the
3 last four years in this Council, but given the size
4 of the ongoing fiscal commitment and the fact that
5 the drivers deserve to maintain their own independent
6 worker-centered process, I believe we have a
7 responsibility to get this right. New York City
8 should not spend 23 million a year on a system that
9 does not guarantee independent arbitration or
10 meaningful worker representation. I remain committed
11 to working with labor drivers and my Colleagues to
12 advance a version of this legislation that is fair,
13 accountable, and fiscally responsible, but for this
14 version for me is not there yet. Thank you.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSSE: Permission to
17 explain my vote?

18 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Permission
19 granted.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSSE: While I want to
21 vote aye on 276-A, I have concern and let's be clear
22 my father used to be a cab driver, so I understand
23 the needs for folks to be able to work and make a
24 living and not being deactivated for not good reason,
25 but I'm concerned on the long-term effect and the

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2 money that's supposed to be spent and with the
3 difficulty that in New York City, with bus lane and
4 everything else, you know, drivers waiting for
5 clients, there's a few things that I'm very
6 concerning about. I hope we can continue working on
7 this, but in the meanwhile I will vote aye with those
8 concerns to get it out of the Committee and we look
9 forward to continue the conversation because I have a
10 concern on the long-term effect of this bill. And for
11 the rest I vote aye, I mean all of them I vote aye.

12 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you.

13 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
14 you, Council Member.

15 Won.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye on all.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Banks.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER BANKS: Aye on all.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: I am a no on
21 Intro. 1000-A, 1233-A, and 276-A for which I align
22 with the Majority Leader in her statement as to why
23 and an aye on the rest.

24 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank
25 you.

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2 Following results, Proposed Introduction
3 276-A has a vote of six in the affirmative, two in
4 the negative, no abstentions. Proposed Introduction
5 1000-A and Proposed Introduction 1233-A have seven in
6 the affirmative, one in the negative, no abstentions.
7 Proposed Introduction 1346-A has eight in the
8 affirmative, zero in the negative, no abstentions.
9 All items have been adopted by the Committee.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Please refrain
11 from clapping. Just use the happy hands, okay.

12 I'd like to take a moment to first
13 congratulate my Colleagues who are passing really
14 important legislation today. This is actually our
15 last time in this term having a vote, and I'm
16 extremely proud of the work that the Committee on
17 Transportation has been able to conduct over the
18 course of the last two terms and I just want to thank
19 the Members of this Committee for your advocacy, for
20 your support, for your leadership on issues that are
21 not always easy to move on but we have really passed
22 some meaningful work over time and so again
23 congratulations and to everyone that is here thank
24 you for your advocacy and I wish you all a happy
25 holiday. Thank you. Over and out, T and I. [GAVEL]

C E R T I F I C A T E

World Wide Dictation certifies that the foregoing transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings. We further certify that there is no relation to any of the parties to this action by blood or marriage, and that there is interest in the outcome of this matter.



Date December 29, 2025