

**HEARING BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON STATE & FEDERAL LEGISLATION
June 15, 2011**

Good afternoon Chairwoman Foster and Members of the Committee. I am David Woloch, Deputy Commissioner for External Affairs at the Department of Transportation (DOT). Thank you for providing us with this opportunity to state the Administration's opposition to a Home Rule Message in support of A502/S3069 which would require commercial bicyclists in New York city to wear helmets, display the identifier at the rear of the bicycle, and register with the local police precinct.

DOT is opposed to a Home Rule Message in support of A502/S3069. Local Law 9 of 2007, passed by the Council and signed by the Mayor, already provides that businesses that require their employees to bike must provide them with helmets, and that the helmets be worn. In addition, while we agree that we need to do more to get commercial cyclists to obey the rules of the road, it is not clear that requiring registration of bikes with the Police Department is the best way to accomplish that. As many businesses frequently change the bikes they are using and many bikes travel outside of individual precincts the bill as written is problematic. The bill also does not address the way that deliveries are actually taking place – where third parties make delivery cyclists available to restaurants. Other strategies such as increasing enforcement of existing laws, which the Police Department has begun to do and which we have even begun to help fund, and improving cyclist education can help achieve the same objective. Through our current Bike Smart Campaign and other initiatives geared specifically toward commercial cyclists, we're beginning to address this issue. We are certainly interested in working with the Council to strengthen existing local law, but believe that such mandated registration is unnecessary.