

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 1
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 20, 2023

Start: 9:33 a.m.

Recess: 9:50 a.m.

HELD AT: COUNCIL CHAMBERS - CITY HALL

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

COUNCIL MEMBERS:

Joann Ariola
David M. Carr
Amanda Farías
Linda Lee
Farrah N. Louis
Mercedes Narcisse
Lincoln Restler
Carlina Rivera
Nantasha M. Williams
Julie Won
Kalman Yeger

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2 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: This is a microphone
3 check for the vote on Transportation and
4 Infrastructure. Today's date is December 20, 2023.
5 We're located in the Council Chambers. The recording
6 is done by Rocco Mesiti.

7 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Good morning and
8 welcome to today's New York City Council hearing for
9 the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

10 Please silence all cell phones and
11 electronic devices.

12 Chair, we're ready to begin.

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

17 Today we will be voting on Proposed
18 Intro. number 1139-A sponsored by Council Member
19 Amanda Farías, a local law in relation to advertising
20 on the interior of for-hire vehicles.

21 This proposed bill would permit for-hire
22 vehicles to display digital advertising on an
23 approved electronic tablet attached to the interior
24 of the vehicle and allow drivers to bring in
25 additional revenue through this advertising. I want

2 to also take a moment to just highlight the first
3 hearing of this Committee was done jointly with
4 Council Member Fariás and the Committee on Economic
5 Development, and we are concluding with one of her
6 bills that was a top priority so I want to take point
7 of privilege to congratulate you in advance of the
8 vote. I will now allow Council Member Fariás to speak
9 on her bill.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: Thank you so much,
11 Chair Brooks-Powers. As Chair of the Committee on
12 Economic Development and the proud representative of
13 District 18 in the Southeast Bronx, I'm excited we
14 are voting on my bill, Intro. 1139-A, which would
15 allow for interior advertising for for-hire vehicles.
16 Intro. 1139 puts drivers first and supports their
17 economic mobility, and it is leveling the field for
18 drivers and customers with tablets in every rideshare
19 opportunity they take. This new advertising
20 possibility, while not a new idea to this city,
21 provides rideshare drivers with an opportunity to
22 earn a passive income from advertisements that could
23 allow for more money to stay in the pockets of our
24 hardworking drivers and their families. New York City
25 is home to roughly 100,000 rideshare drivers. A huge

2 share of our drivers are hard-working immigrants,
3 first-generation Americans, and black, Latino, AAPI
4 New Yorkers from across the five boroughs. The
5 rideshare economy has provided and continues to
6 provide a huge opportunity for working class and
7 immigrant communities to have financial stability and
8 upward economic mobility for themselves and their
9 families, but rideshare is not only a huge
10 opportunity for hard-working people, it is also a key
11 part of our city's economy, transit systems, and it
12 has become a truly essential part of so many New
13 Yorkers day-to-day lives. The ability for drivers,
14 specifically that service our outer borough
15 communities, to have advertisements in their cars
16 comes at an urgent moment with more fees incoming to
17 our drivers in communities like mine, due to rising
18 gas prices, cost to electrify, congestion pricing,
19 and the upcoming Green Rides Initiative. The revenue
20 sharing model outlined within this bill will allow
21 drivers to truly reap the benefits of ad revenue as
22 they will earn 25 percent of what plays on the
23 tablets.

24 Finally, I'd like to say thank you to my
25 Colleagues who have signed on on this important

2 legislation. Thank you to all the advocates and folks
3 who worked with me on this, like Independent Drivers
4 Guild, AFL-CIO, NYTWA, Lyft, Uber, and so many
5 others. A huge thank you to our Committee Staff,
6 Connor Mealey and Mark Chen, my Deputy Chief-of-Staff
7 Rebecca Nieves, and finally, thank you to the Chair
8 for your continued leadership in bringing this bill
9 to the floor today.

10 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you. I
11 will now ask the Committee Clerk to conduct a roll
12 call vote on this legislation, and I encourage my
13 Colleagues to vote aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Good
15 morning. William Martin, Committee Clerk. Roll call
16 vote Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure
17 on Proposed Introduction 1139-A. Chair Brooks-Powers.

18 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Aye.

19 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Rivera.
20 Yeger.

21 COUNCIL MEMBER YEGER: Aye.

22 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Louis.
23 Farías.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER FARÍAS: I proudly vote
25 aye.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Lee.

3 COUNCIL MEMBER LEE: Aye.

4 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Narcisse.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER NARCISSE: Aye.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Restler.

7 COUNCIL MEMBER RESTLER: Aye.

8 Congratulations to Council Member Farías.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Williams.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER WILLIAMS: I vote aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Won.

12 Carr.

13 COUNCIL MEMBER CARR: Aye.

14 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Ariola.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER ARIOLA: Aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Kagan.

17 With a vote of nine in the affirmative,

18 zero in the negative, and no abstentions, item has

19 been adopted by the Committee.

20 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: Thank you, and

21 congratulations once again, Council Member Farías.

22 With that, this vote is recessed pending

23 attendance of other Committee Members.

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2 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN:

3 Continuation roll call Committee on Transportation.

4 Council Member Louis.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LOUIS: Aye on all.

6 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

7 you. Council Member Won.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER WON: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

10 you. Vote is currently at 11 in the affirmative, zero

11 in the negative.

12 Continuation roll call Committee on

13 Transportation, Proposed Introduction 1139-A. Council

14 Member Rivera.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER RIVERA: I vote aye.

16 COMMITTEE CLERK WILLIAM MARTIN: Thank

17 you. Vote is now 12 in the affirmative, zero in the

18 negative, and no abstentions.

19 CHAIRPERSON BROOKS-POWERS: With that, the

20 final hearing of the Committee on Transportation and

21 Infrastructure for the term is concluded. Thank you,

22 everyone. [GAVEL]

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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 23, 2023