



NEW YORK CITY TAXI & LIMOUSINE COMMISSION

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TLC NEWS | PRESS RELEASES

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NEW YORK CITY AND WESTCHESTER TAXI AND LIMOUSINE COMMISSIONS ANNOUNCE FINAL RECIPROCITY AGREEMENT

New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) Chairperson Diane McGrath-McKechnie and Westchester County Executive Andy Spano today announced the finalization of an agreement that, effectively immediately, would allow for licensing and operating reciprocity between the two jurisdictions (Westchester County and New York City) regarding inter-municipal transportation.

Effective immediately, vehicles licensed by the NYCTLC with a valid Tier I permit, and operated by a driver with a current, valid operator's license issued by the NYCTLC, may discharge passengers within Westchester County on trips originating outside Westchester County and may accept passengers by pre-arrangement from points within Westchester County for destinations outside Westchester County.

Vehicles licensed by the WCTLC, holding a valid permit to engage in intra-county transportation, and operated by a driver with a current, valid operator's license issued by the WCTLC, may discharge passengers within the City of New York on trips originating outside the City, and may accept passengers by pre-arrangement from points within the City of New York for destinations outside the City of New York. No separate authorization or permit from the NYCTLC will be required.

While the City of New York faced some initial legal hurdles in seeking the ability to enter into such an agreement, the recent creation of the WCTLC in the image of New York City's TLC, as well as the WCTLC's agreement to mirror the high standards of the TLC's licensing criteria, ultimately allowed for the reciprocity agreement.

Said Chairperson Diane McGrath-McKechnie, "We are extremely pleased to have been able to work so closely with the WCTLC to craft this effective agreement, that will assist so many commuters, travelers and professional transportation providers. As the City of New York's sole concern throughout this process has been the safety of the riding public, this agreement provides the necessary assurances of public safety and addresses all of our previous concerns. I would like to thank Mayor Rudolph W. Giuliani for his guidance in making this agreement a reality."

"In honoring each other's duly licensed vehicles, New York City and Westchester County have come together to make sure that the for-hire vehicles in both communities meet the same high safety and competency standards. This has been a long time in coming and because of the dedication and commitment of both the Westchester County TLC and the New York City TLC, limousine companies will not have to pay two different jurisdictions to make sure that passengers ride in comfort and convenience. I thank Mayor Giuliani for helping to make this happen," said Westchester County Executive Andy Spano.

The reciprocity agreement required that the WCTLC create specific language in its rules and regulations that provide for the following:

- The WCTLC's creation of Persistent Violator (TLC rule specific violations) and Critical Driver (state DMV-related violations) Programs requiring license suspension following the accrual of six points within 15 months, and license revocation following 10 points within 15 months;
- the drop-off of passengers (trips originating in New York City) within their jurisdiction (Westchester County);
- the drop-off of passengers within their jurisdiction (Westchester County), including interim stops within their jurisdiction, as part of a continuous trip which has a final destination outside their jurisdiction;
- the pick-up of passengers within their jurisdiction (Westchester County) for destinations outside their jurisdiction including interim stops within their jurisdiction as part of a continuous trip;
- a requirement that WCTLC licensed drivers who operate in New York City (pick-up of passengers within New York City for a destination outside New York City) be tested for illegal drugs/controlled substances;
- WCTLC licensed drivers be required to complete a state-approved defensive driving course;
- the WCTLC to require the fingerprinting of all operator's license applicants for the purpose of obtaining a criminal history from the state Division of Criminal Justice Services, and adopt criteria for the review of all new and renewal applicants for the suspension and revocation of those convicted of serious criminal offenses.

The agreement additionally called for the WCTLC and NYCTLC to share live access to their respective licensee databases.