

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES  
  
Of the  
  
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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September 14, 2016  
Start: 10:01 a.m.  
Recess: 10:45 a.m.

HELD AT: Committee Room - City Hall

B E F O R E: YDANIS A. RODRIGUEZ  
Chairperson

COUNCIL MEMBERS: Daniel R. Garodnick  
James Vacca  
Margaret S. Chin  
Stephen T. Levin  
Deborah L. Rose  
James G. Van Bramer  
David G. Greenfield  
Costa G. Constantinides  
Carlos Menchaca  
I. Daneek Miller  
Antonio Reynoso  
Donovan J. Richards

A P P E A R A N C E S (CONTINUED)

2 [sound check, pause]

3 [gavel]

4 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good morning,  
5 everyone.

6 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

7 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Welcome to  
8 today's hearing of the City Council's Transportation  
9 Committee. I's Ydanis Rodriguez, the chair of the  
10 committee. First, let me recognize my colleagues who  
11 are here today with us, Council Member Vacca, Van  
12 Bramer, Menchaca, Greenfield, Constantinides and  
13 Chin. Today, we will vote on a bill that makes a  
14 common sense change to the rules governing how New  
15 Yorkers cross our streets. Currently, pedestrians  
16 only have the right of way if they enter a crosswalk  
17 while the—while the white walk symbol is displayed,  
18 as a con—as the controlling rules were developed  
19 before the years a countdown clocks. So even if a  
20 pedestrian is able to safely enter the crosswalk and  
21 finish their crossing, they're under a red countdown—  
22 countdown period. They do not legally have the  
23 right-of-way and the legal ramifications that follow.  
24 Proposed Intro 997-A introduced by Public Advocated  
25 James would establish the right-of-way for

2 pedestrians—pedestrians while crossing the roadway,  
3 and require traffic to yield to pedestrians when a  
4 walking person flashing hand or flashing hand with a  
5 countdown clock is displayed. This change will more  
6 closely align the law with how most pedestrians  
7 assume they should approach single-light crosswalks  
8 particularly when they have a countdown clock to  
9 guide them. New York is a—is a walking city, and  
10 pedestrians should be protected with the right-of-way  
11 the entire time. It is safe to cross the street.  
12 This committee continues to prioritize safety on our  
13 streets from the many bills we've passed to help  
14 achieve Vision Zero. I'm proud of the work—of the  
15 work we have done on these important issues, and we  
16 will continue to make the changes necessary to save  
17 lives in New York City. This is a common sense bill,  
18 and I'm glad we are finally moving forward to protect  
19 all those who walk our streets.

20 I would like to thank Public Advocated  
21 James, DOT, NYPD, Committee Counsel Kelly Taylor, Rob  
22 Newman and Laura Popa, Mark Gewolb and, of course,  
23 Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and Juan Martinez and  
24 Mayor Bill de Blasio for working together with us on  
25 this valuable legislation. I now invite the sergeant

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2 here. Thank you. I now call for the vote on the  
3 Proposed Intro 997-A. The Chair recommends a yes  
4 vote. I ask the clerk to please call the roll.

5 CLERK: William Martin, Committee Clerk.  
6 Roll call vote committee on Transportation. Chair  
7 Rodriguez.

8 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye.

9 CLERK: Vacca.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: I vote aye.

11 CLERK: Chin.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: I vote aye.

13 CLERK: Van Bramer.

14 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: I vote aye.

15 CLERK: Greenfield.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Aye.

17 CLERK: Constantinides.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: Aye.

19 CLERK: Menchaca.

20 COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: Aye.

21 CLERK: by a vote of 7 in the  
22 affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions,  
23 the item has been adopted.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Great. With  
3 that, we will leave it open—this vote open for the  
4 next 20 minutes.

5 [pause]

6 [background comments]

7 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,  
8 Committee on Transportation. Quiet, please. Council  
9 Member Rose.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: Yes. I vote yes.

11 CLERK: The vote now stands at 8 in the  
12 affirmative. [pause] Continuation of roll call  
13 Committee on Transportation. Council Member  
14 Garodnick.

15 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

16 CLERK: The vote now stands at 9 in the  
17 affirmative. [pause]

18 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I need your  
19 claim form. (sic)

20 CLERK: Committee on Transportation,  
21 Council Member Richards

22 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please.

23 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

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2 CLERK: The vote now stands at 10.

3 [pause] Continuation roll call Committee on

4 Transportation. Council Member Levin.

5 COUNCIL MEMBER LEVIN: Aye on all.

6 CLERK: The vote now stands at 11 in the

7 affirmative.

8 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: [gavel] Quiet.

9 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet down, please.

10 CLERK: Continuation of roll call,

11 Committee on Transportation. Council Member Reynoso.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: And I vote aye.

13 [pause]

14 CLERK: Council Member Miller.

15 SERGEANT-AT-ARMS: Quiet, please. [pause]

16 CLERK: Council Member Miller, Committee

17 on Transportation.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: [off mic] Are you

19 sitting there? [pause] I got it. [laughter] I vote

20 aye on all.

21 CLERK: The final vote in Committee on

22 Transportation now stands at 13 in the affirmative, 0

23 in the negative and no abstentions.

24 [background comments]

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2 COUNCIL MEMBER MILLER: And with that,  
3 Transportation is adjourned.

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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 September 21, 2016