

CITY COUNCIL  
CITY OF NEW YORK

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TRANSCRIPT OF THE MINUTES

Of the

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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May 9, 2017  
Start: 1:25 p.m.  
Recess: 2:08 p.m.

HELD AT: 250 Broadway - Committee Rm,  
14th Fl.

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)

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COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

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[sound check]

[pause]

[gavel]

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Good afternoon everyone and welcome to today's hearing of the Transportation Committee. My name is Ydanis Rodriguez and I am the chair of this committee.

We are joined today by Council Member Vacca, Chin, Rose, Van Bramer, Constantinides, and Menchaca.

Today we will vote on a package of bills aimed at making our city safer and more efficient for pedestrians and commercial cyclists.

The first, Intro 1117-A, introduced by Council Member Van Bramer and myself, closes the loophole for commercial cyclist safety requirements, bringing independent contractors into the fold. As more cyclists become riders for app [sic] service and other tech companies, these cyclists should be looked after and supported with important safety items, even if they are not currently classified employees.

The efforts to support bike courier safety are important and I want to thank the advocacy of Bhairavi Desai and the Taxi Workers Alliance for

1 supporting this industry, as well as Council Member  
2 Van Bramer for his efforts.  
3

4 Intro 1177-A, introduced by Council  
5 Member Rosenthal and myself, will require the DOT to  
6 study implementing a Barnes dance style crossing at  
7 some of the most dangerous intersections in New York  
8 City. The study should consider the feasibility for  
9 this innovative street crossing that allows  
10 pedestrians to cross an intersection diagonally while  
11 no cars move in any direction. These crossings are  
12 popular in Japan and London and we have seen their  
13 effectiveness with a few we have here in New York  
14 City. With no cars moving, the chance of someone  
15 being hit at an intersection plummets.

16 Finally, Intro 1285-A, introduced by  
17 myself, seeks to ease crowding on our city's busy  
18 sidewalks. From 42nd Street near Times Square to 7th  
19 Avenue, between Penn Station and Times Square, to  
20 Main Street in Flushing, we know where our streets  
21 are overflowing and where needs for improvement are  
22 dire. It is unsafe to have pedestrians spilling into  
23 our streets as sidewalks brim with pedestrians; it  
24 was for this reason that the Times Square Pedestrian  
25 Plazas were such positive development and why I

1  
2 commend the DOT for remaining street space. My bill  
3 will require DOT to study six of the most crowded  
4 sidewalks in our city and come up with a strategy to  
5 ease crowding.

6 In all, these bills aim to address  
7 serious safety concerns while making the flow of  
8 pedestrians more efficient.

9 Before we begin, I would like to offer  
10 Council Member Van Bramer an opportunity to speak on  
11 Intro 1117-A.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Thank you  
13 very much Mr. Chair for supporting this piece of  
14 legislation. I am very proud to continue the work  
15 that we are doing in the City of New York to make  
16 delivery cyclists safer as they perform their duties,  
17 while also making pedestrians and motorists safer. A  
18 few years ago we passed a bill that required a  
19 delivery cyclist to have reflective vests and I  
20 believe that has made the cyclists safer, as well as  
21 pedestrians and motorists; it also includes some  
22 information on the food establishment that they are  
23 delivering for, and that law has worked well and  
24 every time I see one of those bicycles with reflector  
25 vests on, I feel very, very proud. But there are

1  
2 also hardworking folks who are delivering for  
3 entities like Uber Eats and others that are not  
4 subject to that initial law, so we are amending the  
5 law to make sure that those cyclists are safe and  
6 protected and cared for, as well as the pedestrians  
7 who come into contact with them. So it's an  
8 important addition to an important law that we've  
9 already passed and I thank the Chair and the  
10 Committee and the Council for their support.

11 [pause]

12 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: I would like to  
13 thank the Committee staff for all of their hard work  
14 on these bills -- Financial Analyst Chima Obichere;  
15 Counsel Faizah Malik; former Counsel Kelly Taylor;  
16 Policy Analysts Jonathan Masserano, Gafar Zaaloff and  
17 Emily Rooney, as well as my staff -- Jose Louis,  
18 Russell Murphy and Stephanie Miliano.

19 I recommend a yes vote on the bills and I  
20 now call for the Committee Clerk to call the roll.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: William Martin,  
22 Committee Clerk, roll call vote Committee on  
23 Transportation. Chair Rodriguez.

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2 CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Aye and I also  
3 would like to recognize Council Member Dan Garodnick,  
4 who is here with us.

5 COMMITTEE CLERK: Garodnick.

6 COUNCIL MEMBER GARODNICK: Aye.

7 COMMITTEE CLERK: Vacca.

8 COUNCIL MEMBER VACCA: Aye.

9 COMMITTEE CLERK: Chin.

10 COUNCIL MEMBER CHIN: Aye.

11 COMMITTEE CLERK: Rose.

12 COUNCIL MEMBER ROSE: I would like to be  
13 added to Intro 1285-A and 1117-A, and I vote aye on  
14 all.

15 COMMITTEE CLERK: Van Bramer.

16 COUNCIL MEMBER VAN BRAMER: Aye.

17 COMMITTEE CLERK: Greenfield.

18 COUNCIL MEMBER GREENFIELD: Thank you.

19 I'd also like to be added to 1117-A and 1285-A,  
20 congratulate my colleagues and I vote aye on all.

21 COMMITTEE CLERK: Richards.

22 COUNCIL MEMBER RICHARDS: I vote aye.

23 COMMITTEE CLERK: Constantinides.

24 COUNCIL MEMBER CONSTANTINIDES: I vote  
25 aye.

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COMMITTEE CLERK: Menchaca.

COUNCIL MEMBER MENCHACA: As a proud sponsor of all these bills, I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: Reynoso.

COUNCIL MEMBER REYNOSO: I vote aye on all.

COMMITTEE CLERK: By a vote of 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions, all items have been adopted on today's Transportation Committee agenda.

CHAIRPERSON RODRIGUEZ: Thank you. I will leave the vote open for the next half hour.

[pause]

COMMITTEE CLERK: Final vote in Committee on Transportation, all items have been adopted by a vote of 11 in the affirmative, 0 in the negative and no abstentions. Thank you.



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 June 7, 2017