TUESDAY
June 27th, 2017
9:00 am - 1:00 pm

NYIT
11th Floor Auditorium
16W 61st St (Broadway)
New York, NY 10023

THE FUTURE OF THE TAXI MEDALLION SYSTEM & FOR-HIRE GROUND TRANSPORTATION INDUSTRY

DISRUPTED BY TECHNOLOGY & POLITICS!
Join UTRC for its second summit on this topic, focusing on facts and opinions from a wide variety of stakeholders, policymakers and researchers on the current state of the NYC taxicab medallion industry, including ridership, medallion values and marketplace trends. Panelists and participants will share observations, opinions and proposed solutions to help level the playing field, and to promote equity, accessibility and sustainability for all. Necessary legal, rulemaking and policy changes will be discussed, including caps or growth limitations on For-Hire Vehicles, the possibility of a taxicab fare increase and flexible taxis fares, enforcement and implementation of the new upstate Transportation Network Company (TNC) law, and the future of business at NYC and New Jersey area airports. The impact of the new TNC law, expected airport fees and changes, and the policy reasons for the regulatory framework that defines taxicabs, liveries, black cars and limousines, commuter vans, paratransit service, shared rides, and smartphone apps (e-hails) will be addressed.
Program

8:00 - 9:00 am | Breakfast & Registration

9:00 - 9:30 am | Welcoming Remarks
- Dr. Camille Kamga
  UTRC Director, CCNY

Opening Keynote:
- Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez
  NYC Council Member, Transportation Committee Chair

9:30 - 10:30 am | Panel 1: The Future of the NYC Medallion System
Moderator:
Matthew W. Daus, Esq., Distinguished Lecturer, CCNY/UTRC
- Tom O’Shea
  CEO, Aspire Federal Credit Union
- David Pollack
  President, Taxicab Service Association
- Robert Familant
  CEO, Progressive Credit Union

10:30 - 11:00 am | Panel 2: Medallion Industry Technology & Service Enhancements
Moderator:
Matthew W. Daus, Esq., Distinguished Lecturer, CCNY/UTRC
- Jason Gross
  VP, Global Head of Product and Marketing at Verifone Taxi Systems
- Alex LaVoie
  General Manager (United States), Via

11:00 - 12:00 pm | Panel 3: Leveling the Playing Field - Equity, Accessibility & Labor Issues
Moderator:
Matthew W. Daus, Esq., Distinguished Lecturer, CCNY/UTRC
- Hon. Patricia Gatling
  Former NYC Human Rights Commissioner & Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights to NY State Governor
- Jim Conigliaro, Jr., Esq.
  Founder, Independent Drivers Guild, General Counsel, Machinists Union, District 15, AFL-CIO
- Edith Prentiss
  Chair, Taxis For All Campaign, President, 504 Democratic Club

12:00 - 1:00 pm | Panel 4: Let’s Hear from the Drivers & Independent Medallion Owners!
Moderator:
Brad Gerstman, Lobbyist, Gotham Government Relations & Communications
- Sergio Cabrera
- Surjit Gill
- Marcelino Hervias

1:00 pm | Closing Remarks
- Nora Constance Marino, NYC Taxi & Limousine Commissioner (Board Member representing Queens, NY).
Hon. Ydanis Rodriguez  
NYC Council Member, Transportation Committee Chair

Council Member Rodriguez is an experienced member of the NYC Council’s Transportation Committee, and now presides as its Chairman, where he conducts oversight over several transportation-related government agencies, including the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, the NYC Department of Transportation, and the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC).

Council Member Rodriguez recently oversaw the passage of ground-breaking legislation relating to Vision Zero and the plan to use technology and other initiatives to reduce traffic fatalities. As a graduate of The City College of New York, where the UTRC resides, Council Member Rodriguez knows the ground transportation industry well, having worked early in his career as a TLC licensed for-hire vehicle driver.


Nora Constance Marino  
NYC Taxi & Limousine Commissioner (Board Member representing Queens, NY)

Nora Constance Marino was nominated by the Queens delegation of the NYC Council, and confirmed by the full Council and the Mayor of NYC as a member of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission’s Board of Commissioners. TLC Commissioner Marino has served continuously since 2011, and upon her most recent reappointment, her term now extends until 2022.

Commissioner Nora Constance Marino, a Queens County resident for over 20 years, has been in the private practice of law for well over a decade, with a focus on negligence, medical malpractice, constitutional law, matrimonial and family law, among other areas.

In 2001/2002, Commissioner Marino served her country as a First Lieutenant in the Judge Advocate General’s Corps of the United States Army Reserve. Dedication to her fellow Veterans remains a hallmark of her professional life, as demonstrated by pro bono assistance over the years to military Veterans. Marino also ran for New York State Senate in 2006 in what was a close race with a 34 year incumbent.

Commissioner Marino was educated at University of California at Berkeley, New York University, and the City University School of Law at Queens College. She is a member of the American Bar Association, New York State Bar Association, and New York City Bar Association, among others. She is also very active with the New York State Trial Lawyers Association, and annually lobbies for laws that protect consumers.

A prominent advocate for animals, Commissioner Marino volunteers for non profit organizations that promote animal advocacy and education. Marino regularly speaks at animal rights conferences and events, and lobbies and advocates for laws that protect animals. She is the proud guardian of six rescue animals.

Jim Conigliaro, Jr.  
Founder, Independent Drivers Guild

Jim began his career with the Machinists Union (I.A.M.A.W.) as an Apprentice Organizer for District Lodge 15. After attending St. John’s University School of Law, Jim became a labor lawyer in NYC for Pitta, LLP. Soon after, Jim re-joined the Machinists Union (I.A.M.A.W.) in a dual role as both General Counsel and Business Representative for District Lodge 15, which represents over 19,000 active and retired members throughout the northeast.

As General Counsel, Jim represented the union in traditional labor and management relations, collective bargaining, grievance mediation/arbitration, and related court litigation. As the eventual Assistant Directing Business Representative, he represented thousands of machinists and black-car drivers through organizing, collective bargaining, and political and social campaigns. In 2016, Jim founded the Independent Drivers Guild (“IDG”), an organization that was created in response to the pleas of workers in the NYC black car industry and was the first to sign an agreement with Uber providing basic worker protections and a voice in the workplace.
Panelists

Currently, Jim serves as Chief of Staff of the Eastern Territory of the IAMAW, serves on the Executive Board for the AFL-CIO's NYC Central Labor Council and was appointed by New York’s Governor Cuomo to sit on the Board of Directors of the Black Car Workers’ Compensation Fund. Jim lives in Brooklyn, New York with his wife Kristin and three daughters Savannah, Ryleigh and Olivia.

(Moderator)
Matthew W. Daus, Esq.,
Distinguished Lecturer, CCNY/UTRC

Matthew W. Daus, Esq. currently serves as a Distinguished Lecturer at the City University of New York’s (CUNY) Transportation Research Center of The City College of New York.

Professor Daus conducts research and is extensively published as an expert on ground transportation regulation and technology. He teaches courses on transportation history, policy, sustainability, for-hire regulation and technology. Mr. Daus also continues to serve as President of the International Association of Transportation Regulators (IATR), a non-profit educational and advocacy peer group of government transportation regulators from around the world promoting best regulatory practices. Mr. Daus is the longest serving Chairman of the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC), serving for 8½ years. Prior to his tenure as Commissioner, Mr. Daus served in executive positions in NYC government for almost 16 years at several agencies including as General Counsel to the TLC and the NYC Community Development Agency, as Special Counsel to the TLC and NYC Trade Waste Commission, and as a NYC Human Rights Prosecutor. Mr. Daus is a partner and currently chairs the Transportation Practice Group at Windels Marx Lane & Mittendorf, LLP.

Robert Familant
CEO, Progressive, Credit Union

Mr. Robert A. Familant has been the CEO and Treasurer of Progressive Credit Union for the last 28 years, and was previously the Assistant Treasurer for 13 years. Since August 1994, Mr. Familant served as Director of Prime-American Realty Corp., the General Partner of Prime Motor Inns Ltd Partnership. Since 1995, Mr. Familant has been a board member/trustee of the Bessarabian Young Men’s Benevolent and Educational Society. He was also the former President and Member of the Taxicab Service Association. Robert has a BA and MS from SUNY-Albany.

Hon. Patricia Gatling
Former NYC Human Rights Commissioner
& Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights to NY State Governor

Patricia L. Gatling is the former Deputy Secretary for Civil Rights under New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo. She oversaw the operations of the Department of Civil Service, the Governor’s Office of Employee Relations, the Division of Veterans Affairs, the Division of Human Rights, and the Public Employee Relations Board. For over a decade, Ms. Gatling served as the Commissioner and Chair of the New York City Commission on Human Rights under Mayor Michel Bloomberg and Mayor Bill de Blasio. As Commissioner, Ms. Gatling was charged with enforcing the Human Rights Law and combating discrimination in New York City. Ms. Gatling is also the Executive Producer of Fighting for Justice: New York Voices of the Civil Rights Movement, a series of groundbreaking documentary films for the New York City Commission on Human Rights and NYC Media’s online Civil Rights Museum. In addition, Ms. Gatling worked as a senior trainer with John Jay College of Criminal Justice, as part of the U.S. State Department’s International Law Enforcement Academy (ILEA), teaching “Human Dignity and the Law” in newly emerging democratic countries, such as Botswana, Thailand, and Budapest, and at the Dubai Police Academy International Conference in the United Arab Emirates. She has served on the New York City Charter Revision Commission and is currently a member of the Board of Trustees for the New York Lawyers’ Fund for Client Protection.
Panelists

(Moderator)

Brad Gerstman
Lobbyist, Gotham Government Relations & Communications

Brad Gerstman is a leading New York State attorney, lobbyist, and communications specialist. His diverse background and extensive experience in law, business, government relations, education, and the not-for-profit community places him in a unique position to represent and advocate for a broad range of clients and causes. Brad has been celebrated for his ability to provide clients with a unique blend of legal, political, and business experience. Mr. Gerstman has been a member of the New York State Bar since 1994 and has developed a remarkable reputation as a defense attorney, prosecutor and general corporate counsel.

In 2009, Brad began a government relations and advocacy firm, Gotham Government Relations, with his co-founding partner, alongside their law firm, Gerstman Schwartz & Malito. The firm specializes in legislative drafting, lobbying, coalition building, and government procurement federally, in New Jersey, New York State, New York City, and throughout Long Island.

Jason Gross
Vice President, Head of Mobile, for Verifone Transportation Systems

Jason Gross is Vice President, Head of Mobile, for Verifone Transportation Systems. In this role, he is in charge of the Curb mobile app and platform, connecting to over 50,000 taxis in more than 65 cities across the U.S. In his seven years at Verifone, he has led a variety of initiatives, including the launch of the Way2ride mobile payments app for taxis, multiple digital media platforms, and strategic partnerships with the Metropolitan Transportation Authority of NY (MTA), the Massachusetts Bay Transportation Authority (MBTA), and Via Transportation, among others. Currently residing in New York City, Mr. Gross is an honors graduate in Visual and Environmental Studies from Harvard University.

(Moderator)

Dr. Camille Kamga
UTRC Director, CCNY

Camille Kamga is Director for the University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) and an Assistant Professor of Civil Engineering at The City College of New York.

As a consortium of 18 major U.S. academic institutions, UTRC asserts a significant role in the Federal Region 2 and nationally, conducting research and projects on surface transportation, carrying out training and educational programs and actively disseminating the results of its work. It is one of the few such Centers in the U.S. federally designated since 1987. Dr. Kamga is a member of the TRB’s Urban Transportation Data and Information Systems Committee (ABJ30). He serves in the Board of Director of the Intelligent Transportation Society of NY – a professional group providing education and outreach to foster the understanding of ITS applications and technologies.

He is also a member of Education and Research Committee of the International Association of Transportation Regulators. He holds a Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from the Graduate Center of the City University of New York, specializing in Intelligent Transportation Systems (ITS). He is the 2006 recipient of the National Pikarsky Award for Outstanding Dissertation in Science and Technology from the Council of UTC.
Edith Prentiss  
**Chair, Taxis For All Campaign**  
**President, 504 Democratic Club**

Edith M Prentiss is active in a number of political, civic, and advocacy organizations. She is a member of the New York County Democratic Committee. She is currently President of the 504 Democratic Club and the Vice President - Legislative Affairs of Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York (DIA Metro NY). Ms. Prentiss is Chair of the Taxis For All Campaign (TFAC), and a Board member of the Disability Network of New York City (DNNYC), and Washington Heights Inwood Council on Aging (WHICOA). She is a member of the Manhattan Borough President’s Disability Taskforce and a member of the New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC).

Alex LaVoie  
**General Manager (United States), Via**

Alex Lavoie is the U.S. General Manager for Via, overseeing all of the company’s consumer markets. He joined the company in 2014. Prior to Via, Alex worked in the technology group at private equity firm TPG Capital, focusing on buyout and growth investments in internet and software applications. Before that, Alex worked in technology investment banking at Goldman Sachs. He is a graduate of Harvard College.

Tom O’Shea  
**CEO, Aspire, Credit Union**

Thomas O’Shea currently serves as President/CEO of Aspire FCU based in Clark, NJ. Mr. O’Shea has been at Aspire since 2005. Aspire serves the employees of over 200 companies and has more than 25,000 members located in all fifty states. He was awarded the New Jersey Credit Union League “CEO of the Year” award in 2008, and the League’s “Distinguished Service Award” in 1998. He was also the Sayreville, NJ Chamber of Commerce “Business Leader of the Year” in 1997. He received his Certified CU Executive designation in 1988. Mr. O’Shea is also a former board member of the NJ Credit Union League. His credit union career began in 1982.

David Pollack  
**President, Taxicab Service Association**

David Pollack wears many hats in the taxi industry, but he is perhaps most known for his positions as the President of the Taxicab Service Association (which features members among the largest taxi credit unions in the country) and as the radio talk show host of “The Taxi Dave Show” on WOR-AM (710), which has been ranked as #1 in talkers for Sundays between 8:00 - 9:00 PM. His prior experience also extends over many other facets of the for-hire industry – he was the principal of an insurance brokerage and medallion transfer company, and handled all aspects of insurance and transfers. He was also the credit union Head of Operations for all departments including delinquency and loans, and represented a credit union on local, state and national levels. Last but not least, Pollack was a third-generation taxi driver – his grandfather and father both drove taxis, so it’s easy to see he’s expert in multiple ways.

Pollack's greatest achievement came after September 11, 2001, when he developed and coordinated the first ever Taxi Industry Driver Expo. He planned the venue, media exposure, and vendors, which included fleets, agents, brokers, car dealers, attorneys, and the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission.

Pollack is also the current Editor In Chief of Taxi Insider Newspaper, which is now celebrating its 18th year of publication.

Edith Prentiss  
**Chair, Taxis For All Campaign**  
**President, 504 Democratic Club**

Edith M Prentiss is active in a number of political, civic, and advocacy organizations. She is a member of the New York County Democratic Committee. She is currently President of the 504 Democratic Club and the Vice President - Legislative Affairs of Disabled In Action of Metropolitan New York (DIA Metro NY). Ms. Prentiss is Chair of the Taxis For All Campaign (TFAC), and a Board member of the Disability Network of New York City (DNNYC), and Washington Heights Inwood Council on Aging (WHICOA). She is a member of the Manhattan Borough President’s Disability Taskforce and a member of the New York State Independent Living Council (NYSILC).