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## New proposal would drastically limit flow of new Uber cars on city streets

BY DAN RIVOLI / NEW YORK DAILY NEWS / Tuesday, June 23, 2015, 9:43 PM

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The yellow taxi industry concerned that Uber is killing business and tanking medallion values hailed the new proposal, which must pass the City Council.

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Thousands of Uber cars that hit the streets in recent years got the city Tuesday to call for a road block to more black and livery cars.

"The rate at which new cars are coming on the road is tremendous," Taxi and Limousine Commissioner Meera Joshi said.

The fleet of for-hire cars since 2011 exploded 63% in the age of Uber and other tech-fueled car service companies, with 25,000 new black and livery vehicles

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riding around city streets.

Newly licensed for-hire cars were rolling into the city at a staggering rate of 2,000 vehicles a month in the 2015 fiscal year, according to the TLC.



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"Unfortunately, this would reverse improvements made by Uber and others to our transportation system and most notably, stand between New Yorkers looking for work and their opportunity to make a better living," Uber spokesman Matt Wing said in a statement.

Transportation officials said they need to put limits on new cars — a 1% increase for big vehicle bases such as Uber's — during a proposed one-year study to see how the glut of cars is affecting congestion and air quality. Traffic in car-choked Manhattan crawled to an average 8.5 miles per hour last year from 9.3 mph in 2010, according to the city Department of Transportation. Buses, meanwhile, plodded through their routes during rush hour at speeds 5% slower last year than in 2013, DOT data showed.

The yellow taxi industry concerned that Uber is killing business and tanking medallion values hailed the new proposal, which must pass the City Council.

"For months, we have seen drivers in all sectors lose income because of the saturation of the vehicles," said Bhairavi Desai, director of the New York Taxi Workers Alliance, a cab drivers' union.

But the city's former taxi chief Matthew Daus— who backed a study for "unbridled and unchecked growth" — argued that a yellow cabbie's fear of a black Uber car is unfounded.



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"You're never gonna get an Uber or Lyft or any other app as fast as a yellow cab in the Manhattan central business district ever," Daus said.

"You're never gonna get an Uber or Lyft or any other app as fast as a yellow cab in the Manhattan central business district ever," Daus said at a taxi conference Tuesday.

Uber, which has nearly 19,000 vehicles affiliated with its bases, blasted the proposal putting new cars in park for now.

"Unfortunately, this would reverse improvements made by Uber and others to our transportation system and most notably, stand between New Yorkers looking for work and their opportunity to make a better living," Uber spokesman Matt Wing said in a statement.

Councilman Ydanis Rodriguez, chairman of the Transportation Committee, backed the effort and will lead a hearing on the proposal on Monday.

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TAGS: nyc taxis , uber , new york city council

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