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## Spin Cycle

# Expert: City cab rule change would bring big impact

Friday June 24, 2011 11:40 AM By Dan Janison



The Bloomberg administration has been pushing in the waning days of the Albany session to allow passengers to hail livery cabs rather than yellow taxis outside of Manhattan.

Strategically, the drive, spearheaded by City Hall's able Albany rep Micah Lasher, is an effort to end-run the City Council, which tends to favor the yellow cabs.

Dr. Mitchell Moss, director of the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and

Management at New York University's Wagner School, said he believes the change would be "great for the outer boroughs."

"Taxis aren't just for rich people," he said. "Every New Yorker takes one sometimes."

"Now there is going to be a great economic boon to the music and cultural life of Brooklyn because people can now get to and from there late at night," Moss said. "You won't have to negotiate every time you get into a car service on Queens Boulevard."

Naturally, the medallion cab cartel is fuming and lobbying.

Fernando Mateo, heading a group called the New York State Federation of Taxi Drivers, which collects funds from taxi and livery drivers, has been at the forefront of protests against City Hall's plan.

[Mateo was quoted here as saying:](#)

"The livery industry will suffer, because although they think they're getting something, they're really getting nothing. They're getting a permit that's worth nothing," he asserted. "Their work and compensation insurance is going to go up 10-fold from what they're paying

now. Their insurance for driving their vehicles is going to double.”

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