

Ford Introduces Two New Fuel-Efficient Taxis

DEARBORN, Mich.: Ford, America's commercial vehicle leader, introduces two new taxis: the new 2019 Transit Connect Taxi and Ford's most fuel-efficient, purpose-built taxi ever – the 2019 Fusion Hybrid Taxi.

"Taxi operators want vehicles that are reliable, efficient and comfortable," said Imran Jalal, brand and communications manager for Ford fleet marketing. "Transit Connect Taxi and Fusion Hybrid Taxi offer all three with special attention to potentially help lower fuel costs. Plus, Fusion Hybrid underscores our commitment to introduce even more efficient and capable hybrids in the future."

New 2019 Transit Connect Taxi: Transit Connect Taxi, when equipped with available 1.5-liter EcoBlue® diesel engine, is targeted to return an EPA-estimated Highway rating of at least 30 mpg. Actual mileage will vary. Final EPA-estimated ratings available early 2019.

The Transit Connect Taxi offers seating for five with a roomy, flexible interior well-suited for livery service. It features more than 60 cubic-feet cargo volume behind the second row, more than the Nissan NV200 Taxi.

Along with the newly available EcoBlue diesel engine, the new 2019 Transit



Connect Taxi comes with a recessed second-row seat, a taxi upfit wiring harness, first-row side curtain airbags, optional roof access hole for signage and a reverse sensing system. It is also available with School Bus Yellow paint.

Standard dual sliding side doors provide riders with a wide entrance and exit. A low vehicle floor ensures easy step-ups and step-downs. The new taxi can be made wheelchair accessible through the Ford Qualified Vehicle Modifier program. The modification features an easy-to-deploy ramp that doubles as a deck for cargo when

stowed in the back.

First-ever Fusion Hybrid Taxi: The first-ever Fusion Hybrid Taxi shares parts with the Ford Police Responder Hybrid for improved durability in a livery duty cycle (police vehicles come with heavy-duty chassis parts, like wheels and suspension).

For Fusion Hybrid Taxi, Ford is projecting EPA-estimated ranges comparable to that of the Ford Police Responder Hybrid (projected EPA-estimated ratings of 40 mpg City/36 mpg Highway/38 mpg Combined). Actual mileage will vary.

The 2019 Fusion Hybrid Taxi includes

a police-tuned suspension with increased ride height and calibrated high-performance brakes, plus steel wheels. It features heavy-duty cloth seating or optional vinyl seating, vinyl floors, available School Bus Yellow paint, a standard rearview camera, and a mounting plate on top of the instrument panel to secure taxi meters and other fleet equipment. The 2019 Transit Connect Taxi and 2019 Fusion Hybrid Taxi can be ordered now. The 1.5-liter EcoBlue® diesel on 2019 Transit Connect will be available to order soon. Both Ford taxi models go on sale by year-end.

UberÉLECTRIQUE Launches Ridesharing in Montreal

MONTREAL: Uber Canada has announced the launch of the UberÉLECTRIQUE program in Montreal in partnership with the l'Association des véhicules électriques du Québec (AVEQ) and Electric Mobility Canada (EMC).

This is a first step for Uber Canada towards supporting more electric mobility in ridesharing. Working with close to 100 driver-partners who currently operate an electric vehicle (EV) on the Uber platform and leveraging the expertise of AVEQ and EMC, Uber will actively assess the opportunities and challenges of electrification in ridesharing. Uber will also promote awareness to hundreds of thousands of Montreal riders and drivers on the benefits of clean mobility solutions.

Through this new initiative, the aim is to empower driver-partners to be champions for a shared, electric future. Uber will be deploying EV educational materials to a large part of the Montreal population who use the service. When requesting an Uber, riders will now receive an in-app notification when they have been paired with an EV. Once in the car, an AVEQ fact sheet will be offered to riders so they can learn more about the benefits of electric mobility. And, after each EV trip, riders will receive an email containing additional educational info on EVs.

During visits to the Uber partner centre, drivers-partners will also receive an AVEQ booklet, on the economic, technical and environmental benefits of EVs,

encouraging them to consider an EV when making their next car purchase. An AVEQ Gold Membership will be offered free-of-charge to UberÉLECTRIQUE's first 100 drivers-partners.

In addition, Uber is making a series of in-app product improvements specifically for EV driver-partners. Starting now, the threshold for EV partners to be notified about a long-distance trip request will be reduced, helping them to better balance extended trips with car battery life.

"We are proud that Montréal has been chosen for the launch of the UberÉLECTRIQUE program and we look forward to contributing to the electrification of transportation in Quebec with the support of experts from the Association des véhicules électriques

du Québec and Electric Mobility Canada," stated, Jean-Christophe de Le Rue, spokesperson for Uber Canada. "Uber and other international experts in sustainable mobility believe that the future of urban mobility needs to be shared, electric and autonomous; today's announcement is another step towards this goal, which will reduce congestion and pollution, while offering a reliable alternative to driving your personal vehicle."

Round tables will be organized for UberÉLECTRIQUE's drivers-partners to share their feedback. Thanks to memoranda of understanding signed with EMC and AVEQ, Uber intends to share data on UberÉLECTRIQUE statistics with our EV partners. The goal of this undertaking is to help

share finding and jointly support policies that favour electrification in ridesharing.

Uber worked with the AVEQ and EMC to share local insights on ridesharing, such as the busiest travel areas.

"L'Association des véhicules électriques du Québec (AVEQ) is pleased to see a player like Uber turn to the electrification of transport, which will allow even more Montrealers to be aware of the economic and environmental benefits of electric cars," said Simon-Pierre Rioux, President of AVEQ.

"Electric Mobility Canada is eager to begin working with Uber to promote electrification with drivers-partners and ridesharing riders," stated Catherine Kargas, Chair of EMC.

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