



As many as 2 million New Yorkers in the outer boroughs lack easy access to public transportation. Since the mid 1980s, dollar vans have played an integral part in NYC's transportation system, serving thousands of daily commuters, and delivering accessible transportation service for as little as \$2 per ride. However, the current generation of dollar vans are gas-powered, emitting greenhouse gasses and reducing air quality in our communities.

Dollaride, founded in 2018, understands the value and necessity of this informal mode of transportation, and also the challenges associated with it – including environmental impact of gas powered vehicles, inconsistent service provisions, and the uphill road to economic sustainability for van drivers and fleet owners. Dollaride's mission is to deliver community-aligned clean transportation solutions that reduce local air pollution, help to overcome persistent transportation challenges, and improve quality of life in disadvantaged communities.

By digitizing informal transit networks, Dollaride helps riders access affordable transportation, enables drivers to grow their ridership, and equips businesses to offer commuter options that are cheaper than existing alternatives—all while reducing carbon emissions and bolstering clean mobility options. Currently, Dollaride operates a route between Jamaica and the GatewayJFK BID. The service is powered by the Dollaride mobile app, which lets riders view drivers in real-time, track ETAs, and pay for rides digitally.

Dollaride was recently named as a finalist for NYSERDA's [Clean Neighborhood Challenge](#). The NYSERDA Clean Neighborhood Prize will enable Dollaride to put electric vehicles (EVs) where they are needed most — in New York City (NYC) transit deserts. The initial scope of this program will focus on electrifying commuter van fleets in neighborhoods that Dollaride serves in Brooklyn and Queens, including routes along Flatbush and Utica avenues.

Dollaride's team is working to produce a final proposal for the NYSERDA opportunity, and wants to hear directly from the communities being served, in order to better understand who are the current and potential users of dollar vans, what types of features current and prospective customers want to see, and how an electrified fleet of dollar vans can best serve neighborhoods along Flatbush and Utica Avenues.