



## **Mobilizing disabled New Yorkers**

In a new pilot program, New Yorkers with disabilities are using taxis to get around the city—and paying their fares using a prepaid debit card from JPMorgan Chase.

The program aims to curb the cost of Access-A-Ride, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) service that provides 24-hour, door-to-door transportation to people with disabilities who cannot use a bus or subway.

Instead of scheduling Access-A-Ride vans to pick them up and drop them off, the 400 customers in the pilot now hail a cab and use the card to pay the equivalent of a subway fare.

### **How it works**

Those participating in the pilot don't require vans equipped with wheelchair lifts—about 75% of Access-A-Ride customers can travel without them. Pick-ups and drop-offs are limited to Manhattan below 96th Street, where yellow cabs are generally abundant.

The pilot program is expected to improve service for Access-A-Ride users while reducing the MTA's average cost per trip by nearly 70%, from \$49 to \$15.

After the 90 days, the MTA will evaluate the pilot and decide whether to continue and expand it to more customers. If the pilot is a success, the program may be expanded to include livery cars and black cars to reach parts of the city where taxis are less available.

### **Diversity + Innovation = Good business**

"With the city still facing difficult fiscal challenges, we are constantly searching for more and more ideas like this one—innovations that will improve services while cutting costs," says New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg.

The MTA estimates that, over the course of one year, the 400-passenger pilot could save in the range of \$2 million. The total cost of the Access-A-Ride program is now about \$450 million annually, and about 150,000 people are enrolled in it.

JPMorgan Chase is "proud to deliver beneficial solutions to the citizens of New York City," says Craig Vaream, Receivables and Debit Card Product executive for Treasury & Securities Services.