NEW YORK, NY (June 12, 2014) – The New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, First Department has upheld Nissan’s NV200 Taxi of Tomorrow, the City’s first purpose-built taxi designed to meet the immediate needs of drivers, passengers, and the rigorous conditions of New York City.

Developed in collaboration with the Design Trust for Public Space, the Taxi of Tomorrow is safer, more comfortable for driver and passenger and more durable than any taxi vehicle in New York’s history.

The vehicle is the result of a groundbreaking series of strategic, design-driven initiatives, ranging from innovative workshops and a sweeping exhibition of vehicle prototypes, to the first strategic plan to provide safety and comfort. From spearheading the amicus brief, to testifying in front of the NYC Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) and the Transportation Committee of the New York City Council in support of the Taxi of Tomorrow, Design Trust has played an instrumental role in reaching this historic moment for New York.

According to New York State Appellate Division Judge David B. Saxe: “We hold that the iconic ‘Taxi of Tomorrow’ – the Nissan NV200 – developed and implemented by New York City’s Taxi and Limousine Commission (TLC) after years of public vetting, is a legally appropriate response to the agency’s statutory obligation to produce a twenty-first century taxicab consistent with the broad interests and perspectives that the agency is charged with protecting.”

Continued: “The TLC carried out its assigned mission with an exacting process lasting from 2007 to 2011, obtaining input from all conceivable interests and concerns, to ensure a final decision that would best satisfy taxi passengers, owners, and drivers, as well as the general public. In sum, the TLC’s selection of the Taxi of Tomorrow does not represent a significant departure from its best practice, except insofar as it provided substantial additional benefits to riders, drivers, owners, and the public, while ensuring that future New York City taxis will be the best possible vehicle for the job.”

“This is a victory for riders and drivers comfort and safety, for the City as a whole, but also for thoughtful and user-centered design. We’re excited moving forward to see the ‘future streets’ of NYC completely transformed with one entire fleet of taxi cabs. At Design Trust, we’re committed to turning ideas into actions and will continue our collaborative work to improve public space,” says Susan Chin, FAIA, executive director of the Design Trust.
“Design is often thought to be something that happens at the very end of a process, to ‘make it pretty.’ But actually, design influences every aspect of our daily experience. Good design leads to an improved quality of life. And in the case of the NV200 Taxi of Tomorrow, the City will elevate the level of service for literally hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers and visitors alike,” adds Megan Canning, deputy director of the Design Trust.

**Key Features of Taxi of Tomorrow**

With the NV200, every taxi driver and passenger will enjoy superior safety, increased comfort and amenities, and improved durability. The new taxi also sits on a shorter wheelbase than a traditional sedan-based taxi, which reduces the overall length of the vehicle, maximizing the usable interior space with minimal physical footprint. To reduce both fuel consumption and pollution, the NV200 is equipped with a powerful, efficient 2.0-liter, 4-cylinder engine. Many of the features of the Taxi of Tomorrow were first proposed by the Design Trust, including: a legible roof light for clear communication; a flat floor for ease of entry and exit; lights to indicate passenger exits for oncoming vehicles and cyclists; sliding passenger doors, which will not interfere with other traffic or street activity; a clear, panoramic sunroof; greener interior materials; one integrated partition for passenger services; passenger air bags; a customized driver area; and separate climate control for the passenger area.

**Development of Taxi of Tomorrow**

Nine years ago, the Design Trust redefined the taxi as "moveable public space," recognizing how it dominates our streets, provides a crucial transit link, and contributes to the city's environmental quality. Through a series of strategic projects, the Design Trust helped the New York City Taxi and Limousine Commission realize the potential for a better taxi vehicle and system, complementing the important transportation initiatives underway to improve circulation and meet the demands of a rapidly-evolving global city.

Beginning with the hands–on Designing the Taxi workshop in 2005, the Design Trust successfully convened drivers, medallion owners, and city officials alongside architects, planners, and designers to brainstorm ideas for improving the taxi vehicle. This led directly to the multi-phase Taxi 07 program, an unprecedented effort that celebrated the taxi’s 2007 centennial with the Taxi 07 Exhibit at the New York International Auto Show; and in partnership with the NYC Taxi & Limousine Commission, developed the Roads Forward plan, a roadmap for how to improve the taxi system over a 10-year period.

As a direct result of our work, the TLC launched the Taxi of Tomorrow competition in 2008 to pursue the creation of a new iconic taxi for New York City. Recognizing the Design Trust’s pioneering role to bring innovation to the New York City taxi vehicle, Nissan engaged the Design Trust as a design advisor to the development of the NV200.

**About The Design Trust for Public Space**

The Design Trust for Public Space is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the future of public space in New York City. Our projects bring together city agencies, community groups and private sector experts to make a lasting impact—through design—on how New Yorkers live, work and play.

Design Trust jumpstarted the High Line’s conversions from derelict railway to a green corridor of open space, activated innovation for the first custom–built Taxi of Tomorrow, and developed the sustainability guidelines that became the precursor to New York City’s Local Law and PlaNYC.

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