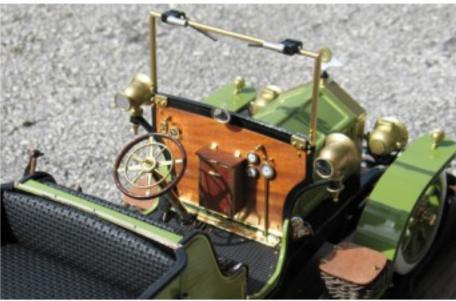


ELECTRIC CARS REPLACING NYC HORSES





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It was the electric car that first replaced the horse and carriage cab in New York City. Since then the gas-powered yellow cab has obviously taken over as king...with one exception. The hansom cab rides through the Central Park area have continued on a horse and buggy route, but soon it may receive the upgrade the rest of the equestrian fleet got over a century ago.





NYCLASS (New Yorkers for Clean, Livable, And Save Streets) does not like the current carriage rides through the Central Park area. The group sites horses getting spooked by traffic, high fatality rate, cramped living conditions, and traffic congestion as problems for the horses and residents of the city. Of course, there's also the smell.

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The solution they are proposing brings a little technology to the handsome cab industry. A design by The Creative Workshop in Dania Beach, FL, utilizes a vehicle looks like an early 1900s touring car, but under the skin is a modern electric drivetrain.

This electric horseless carriage utilizes a lithium iron phosphate battery system to drive an AC variable speed speed electric motor with regenerative capabilities. In between the power and the engine is a control box that converts the battery's DC power to AC, regulates the vehicle's acceleration, and distributes power for other vehicles systems such as lights, radio, intercom, etc. The design has the target to be in use non-stop for 12 hours and recharge overnight.

NYCLASS is in the final stretch of fund raising to complete its full-size prototype. Like any good eco/animal movement they are utilizing star power to bring in the money. Celebrities like Chelsea handler, Kathleen Najimy, and Lea Michele have thrown their support behind this cause to get it over the final hurdles.

By design an electric hansom cab rides are meant to be same wandering through the park experience as the vehicle it replaces, and it will not keep the pace with the city's yellow cabs. So just like the horse-powered rides, there will still have some traffic gathering behind the new electrics. At least now everyone will just get to enjoy the sweet scent of pure NYC.

TOP TEN

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