



A taxi that can accommodate passengers in wheelchairs.

Transportation

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Ramp-equipped taxi unveiled

SANTA CRUZ — Area residents confined to wheelchairs have a new transportation resource — a ramp-equipped taxi van.

The van, believed to be the state's first taxi accessible to disabled people in electric wheelchairs, is expected to be in operation by Dec. 1.

Owned by Yellow Cab, the taxi van has been fitted with a ramp, raised roof and tie-downs to accommodate wheelchair passengers.

According to Yellow Cab owner Jim Bosso, taxi service has previously been available only for disabled persons who use collapsible wheelchairs and could transfer from the chair to the car.

"Those that couldn't transfer to the car or who were in electric wheelchairs,

which are not collapsible, couldn't call a taxi," said Bosso. "Now, not only can they ride at the standard taxi-metered rate, but so can three of their friends."

The taxi van will join the company's 15 other taxis.

The vehicle is part of a program jointly undertaken by the Santa Cruz County Transportation Commission, Santa Cruz Metropolitan Transit District and Santa Cruz Transportation/Yellow Cab, said county transportation planner Meredith Roeder.

While Yellow Cab purchased the \$14,000 van, the transportation commission and transit district paid for an experimental ramp and other accessories at a cost of \$4,650.