

**am**  
**NEW YORK**  
 MANHATTAN'S LARGEST CIRCULATION DAILY  
[amny.com](http://amny.com)

**IRAN: BRITISH  
 HOSTAGES  
 HEADING HOME**

PAGE 9

**RICHARDS SAYS  
 DAD-SNORTING  
 WAS A JOKE**

PAGE 12

cingular is now

The new  at&t

**HAVE YOU USED  
 AN NYC CONDOM?**  
**A YES B NO**

Using your Cingular/at&t phone,  
 text your vote, A or B, to amNY  
 (2669) or log onto  
[www.amny.com](http://www.amny.com)

# Taxis of Tomorrow



(Lane Johnson)

See the new car models and a sneak  
 peak of this weekend's auto show on

[amny.com](http://amny.com)

**Taking a ride in the  
 yellow cabs of the future**

PAGE 3

THURSDAY, APRIL 5, 2007

# Hailing the future's cabs

## Concept taxis of the future on display at auto show

By Justin Rocket Silverman  
amNewYork Staff Writer

They can reach speeds of up to 200 mph. They run on clean-burning compressed natural gas, or even pure hydrogen. They have lights under the rear doors so exiting passengers can see the puddle they're about to step in.

These are just some of the innovations for yellow taxis on display at a special exhibit at the New York International Auto Show, which opens at the Javits Convention Center tomorrow.

**amny.com**  
**FOR MORE ON**  
**THE AUTO**  
**SHOW**

Go online for a sneak peek with photos, videos and an interactive presentation and to talk about cars

A total of eight concept cars — built as collaborations between automakers, industrial designers and artists — give a glimpse of the future of the city's taxis. One model will be picking up passengers in New York City next year.

"The yellow cab is already a New York City icon the world over, and we wanted to explore what the next taxi would be like," said Deborah Marton, executive director of the Design Trust for Public Space, which organized the exhibit, timed with the 100th anniversary of the gas-powered taxi.

The future cabs had to meet certain criteria such as built-in child seats and sunroofs and easy access for the elderly and disabled. They



Not intended for production, RIDES magazine gave this Crown Victoria a makeover, turning it into a hi-riser.

(Photos: Lane Johnson)

also had to run on alternative fuel and be made of environmentally friendly materials.

Not assuming the future to be a crime-free utopia, design criteria also included a safety partition to separate the driver from passenger.

While most of the models won't see the lights of Broadway, one taxi on display, the Standard Taxi, will be released next year for use on city

streets. At more than 6 feet tall, the Standard looks huge compared to the Ford Crown Victoria yellow cab of today and costs about the same at \$25,000.

But all that height allows room for wheelchairs and a commercial-grade trucker's seat for maximum driver comfort.

"The Standard Taxi is designed from the ground up specifically to

### Future features



Some seats swivel out for improved access by elderly or disabled passengers.



Electricity is just one of the alternative fuels explored in the concept taxis.



A mini side mirror alerts passengers to an approaching cyclist before opening the door.



Taxi stands like this could do all the hard work of hailing a cab in the future.

work as a taxi, just like a postal truck is designed for the express purpose of delivering mail," Marton said.

In recent years, the Taxi and Limousine Commission has approved a number of gas/electric hybrid models as part of the city's effort to reduce its carbon footprint.

(silverman@am-ny.com)