

BOMA-NY Codes & Regs Committee
Transportation Subcommittee Report - June 2024 – Supersized Summer Edition
Glenn Waldorf, Bell Environmental Services

CONGESTION PRICING – HIT THE BRAKES / ABOUT FACE / FLIP FLOP - CHOOSE YOUR OWN METAPHOR.

NEW YORK'S GOVERNOR DELAYED THE START OF CONGESTION PRICING IN A SURPRISING 11TH HOUR SHIFT!

Governor Hochul announced a delay the state's pending congestion pricing plan to an indefinite point in the future. [Officially the reasons are: To wait until and after the courts weigh in and until after final federal signoff.](#) (Remember there's a NJ Lawsuit that's unresolved and a [Trucking Group just sued to block](#) this policy.) It would also allow time to gather more metrics on how the city's commuting patterns are recovering post-pandemic (3-day in office workweeks) and for people's economic outlooks to improve. Hochul thinks implementing the toll now would hurt everyday people too much. Delaying the plan avoids hurting lower-income households. (Yet New York's DOT found that the toll would [primarily affect commuters with an income 31% higher than the median Manhattan worker.](#)) Midtown Manhattan hasn't recovered to the point where this would be the right time for congestion pricing. And people are [worried that the subways are still unsafe.](#)

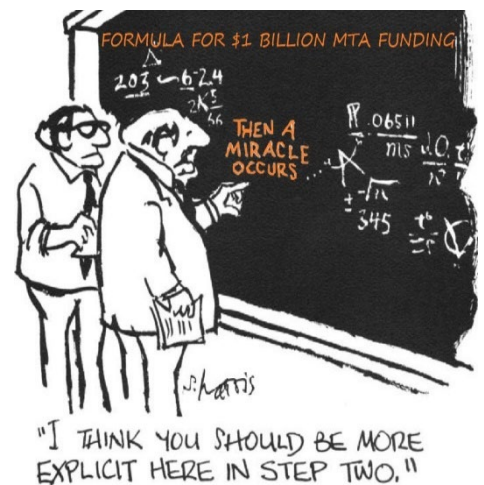


IS THIS ALL ABOUT POLITICS? [Politico reported](#) the governor is also concerned that a June 30 implementation would hurt Democrats in competitive House races this year. April 2024 polls showed [63% on NYers, including 64% of NYC residents, are opposed to Congestion Pricing.](#) Trump [came out against it in May 2024.](#) (Here's the [NY Times' behind the scenes reporting](#) on how it all unfolded.) On June 7, the Governor held a press conference justifying her decision and after visiting various NY Diners. [Hochul cancelled](#) an ill-timed fundraiser [sponsored by NY State Car Dealerships.](#)

The decision brought a lot of [relief \(especially in NJ\), angry pushback \(REBNY and others had been supportive\),](#) and questions. [What is the Plan B?](#) To replace the lost revenue stream, Hochul is reportedly considering raising payroll taxes on businesses in NYC, which is a [Levy That Already "Disproportionately Affect\[s\] Workers Of Color.](#) By law, \$3 billion of the congestion pricing revenues must go to the commuter railroads. So, if the program -- as currently constructed -- is financed by an exclusive NYC tax, it'd be a pretty massive transfer from city employers to the suburbs. *Note: There Has Been Significant Capital Spent Already: The MTA already [spent \\$400+ million to install the camera system for this plan](#) and heavily advertised its arrival.*

WHERE DOES IT GO FROM HERE? The MTA Still Needs \$1 Billion! You Can't Bond Against 1-Time Cash Infusions

The legislature's session ended [without the state coming up with an alternative funding source for the MTA.](#) The Budget Office put out [a fierce statement.](#) The MTA is controlled by the governor, who selects the agency's chairman and directly appoints the plurality of the board, so it quieted down rather pick a fight with her. But by law, the MTA is technically separate from the state and its board must approve its budget. Further complicating matters, the way the congestion-pricing law was written in 2019 seemingly obligates the MTA to establish the program and charge the tolls. [There's a question of does the MTA board have to start this program, even if it's been instructed by the Governor not to.](#)



The MTA does not believe it has the authority to move ahead without the Governor's approval. Federal law requires the approval of NYCDOT, NYSDOT & the FHWA for the MTA to be able to use tolling revenue for anything other than funding highways. If the Governor – who wants a pause - does not allow the NY State DOT to approve the congestion pricing plan, it cannot go forward. MTA officials [said the board would have to reassess where its current funding should best be allocated,](#) "Modernization and improvement projects like electric buses, accessible (ADA) stations and new signals will likely need to be deprioritized to protect and preserve the basic operation and functionality of this 100+ year old system." [Experts](#) and the NY Daily News Editorial Page are saying this is [unauthorized](#) and [anticipating lawsuits.](#) And Fitch upgraded MTA bonds in March 2024 recently based on anticipated Congestion Pricing revenues. [Do bondholders have standing?](#) **The Billion Dollar Question Remains: How Will NY State Fund the MTA?**

WEIGHING IN AS A NJ RESIDENT!

About Congestion Pricing: DESPITE SAYING EACH MONTH DURING CODES & REGS MEETINGS THAT A JUNE 30 START ISN'T DEFINITIVE, EVEN I'M SURPRISED that Hochul took this late step.

About the Governor's stated reason of "NYC Diner Conversations" to abandon it during her June 7 Press Conference:

The Governor cited conversations she had in NYC and feared NJ residents wouldn't go to NYC to patronize their favorite diners. While NJ residents are known as the Bridge and Tunnel crowd, we are allowed to be skeptical of this claim: **NJ is famous for our diners. We have the Sopranos – which (ambiguously) ended in a diner. Our Absolut ad depicts a diner. One of our baseball teams even renames itself the NJ Diners for several games a year.** I'll quote: **"NOTHING MORE OFFENSIVE TO ME AS A NJ NATIVE THAN HOCHUL IMPLYING ANYONE FROM NJ WOULD DRIVE INTO THE CITY TO GO TO ONE OF THEIR DINERS."**

Gothamist

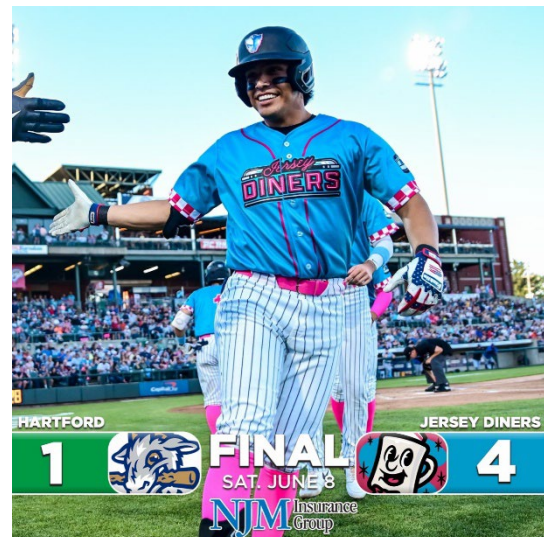
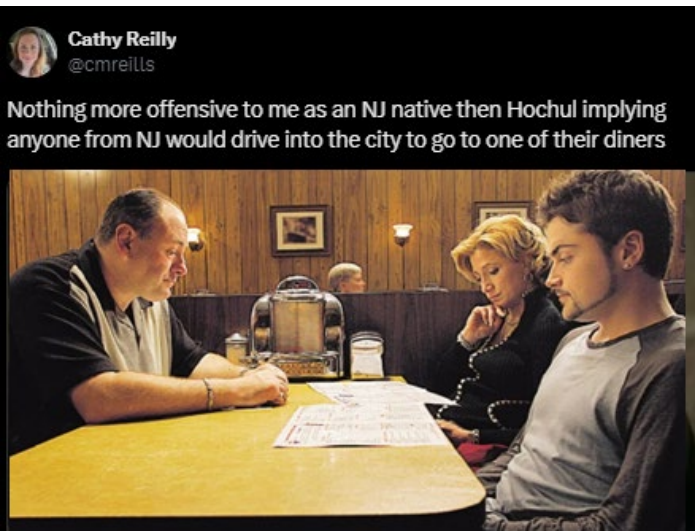
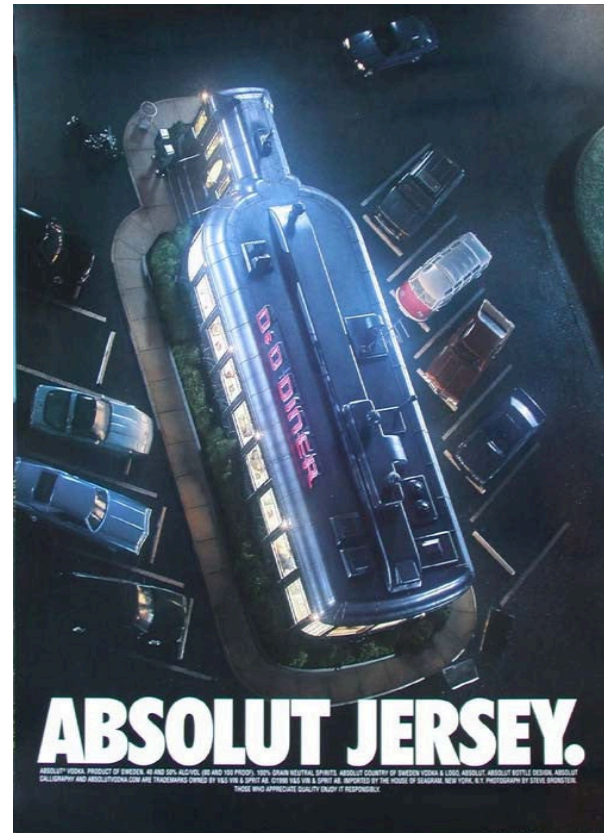
Donate



Gov. Kathy Hochul has long been a vocal fan of diners as places to eat and listen to "ordinary" New Yorkers' concerns. Nevertheless, she surprised many reporters on Friday when she justified her unexpected 11th hour decision to delay congestion pricing — a plan to charge most drivers \$15 to enter Manhattan south of 60th Street — with conversations she has had at New York City diners.

In addition to citing business owners' rising levels of anxiety, the governor said she had met customers who told her they had driven from New Jersey to patronize their favorite diners.

"That's all I need to know," Hochul said.



BACK TO THE DOLLARS AND CENTS/SENSE OF CONGESTION PRICING

How Big A Deal Was/Is Congestion Pricing For The MTA Budget?

[See Newsday For The Headlines!](#) [And See Bloomberg](#) For The Budget Breakdown, *And Not The Jokes:*

In Sum: NY MTA Needs \$25 Billion More For Transit System Upgrades

A NY State Comptroller report says MTA 2025—2029 Capital Budget Expected To \$51.5 Billion or Flat With The Current Capital Budget.

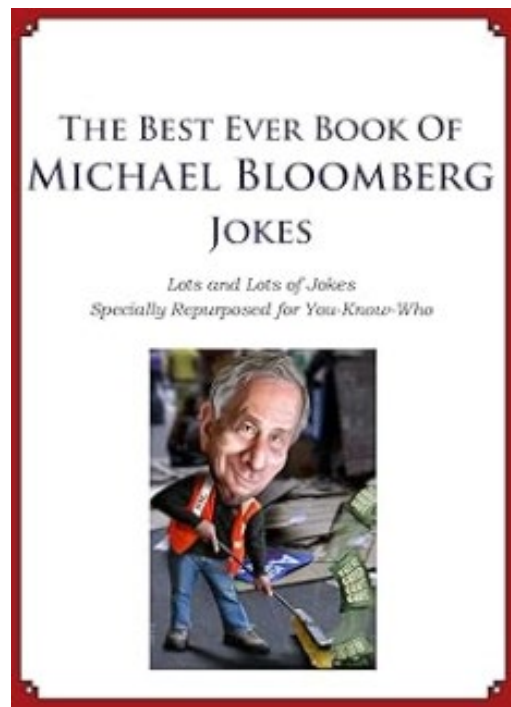
Projected Shortfall of \$25 Billion. Certain revenue sources are already committed.

MTA already held off spending due to Congestion Pricing Lawsuits.

Congestion Pricing by law needs to bring in \$1 Billion a year in revenue so the MTA could Float \$15 Billion in bonds and make capital upgrades.

MTA has \$46.7 billion of debt outstanding. Paying \$2.8 billion in debt service (principal and interest payments) in 2024. MTA's debt will increase to nearly \$60 billion in 2028. Principal and interest payments, including for debt that's repaid through a lockbox and not through the MTA's operating budget, will reach \$5 billion by 2031.

The MTA needs more capital funding, additional revenue from increased ridership, and/or better-than-anticipated tax subsidies, otherwise the agency will have to choose between maintaining the required level of its state of good repair capital projects vs, balancing its operating budget. The MTA can't issue a bond against a 1-time infusion from the State.



DEEP DIVE: CONGESTION PRICING [AS A BIG POLITICAL QUESTION AND EFFECTIVE DEMOCRATIC GOVERNANCE](#)

Political Analyst Matthew Yglesias has an interesting response to the Congestion Pricing Delay: New York's congestion pricing disaster and the larger crisis of Deep Blue governance. The author is both very frustrated with Kathy Hochul's efforts to kill New York City congestion pricing at the last minute and also sort of weirdly sympathetic to her. At some level, Hochul is just trying to help House Democrats win races on Long Island, a worthy and important goal. The congestion pricing plan is unpopular there, and she is prioritizing policy moderation and winning over idealistic pursuit of a niche interest group goal. But, as someone who really likes congestion pricing, I'm annoyed that transportation reformers' ox is the one getting gored here. Why did New York Democrats sink so much political capital into a bail reform program and other soft on crime measures that, even in the absolute best case scenario, had minimal upside for most people's lives? [Keep reading here.](#)

WHAT CONGESTION PRICING IS/WAS SUPPOSED TO FUND:

Does this cancel the Second Avenue Subway extension? (*Expanding Second Avenue line to East Harlem is the single biggest-ticket item on the MTA's \$15 billion congestion-pricing project list and this subway would daily carry more riders than BART =San Francisco's Bay Area Rapid Transit.*)

What about subway accessibility? What about the more plans for a zero-emissions bus fleet?



THE SCALE OF SUBWAY RIDERS VS. MANHATTAN DRIVER NUMBERS AND OTHER KEY METRICS:

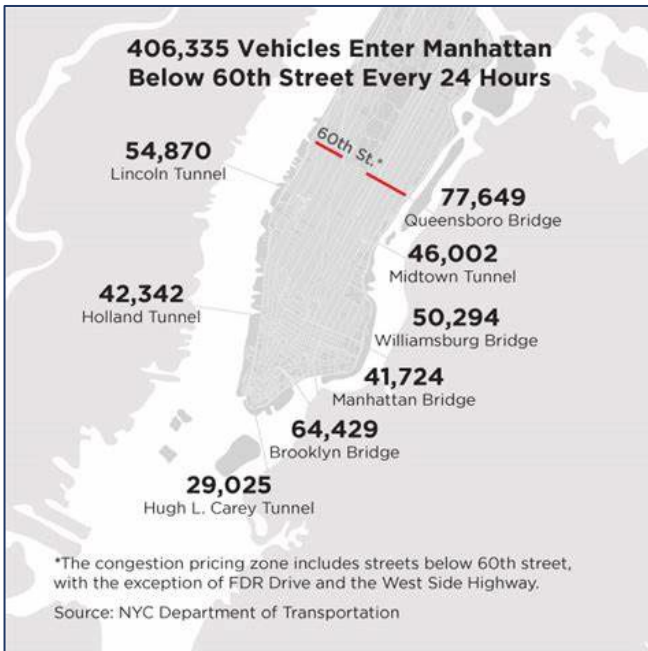
55% of NYC Households Do Not Have Cars.

406,335 Vehicles Enter Manhattan Below 60th Street Every Day

Approximately 3.6 million people took the NYC subway **every day** in 2023 that's more than the daily passenger levels on all US airlines. (A record [2.95 Million people were screened for flights](#) on May 25, 2024: the busiest travel day ever.)

The subway carries more daily riders than the entire combined populations of:

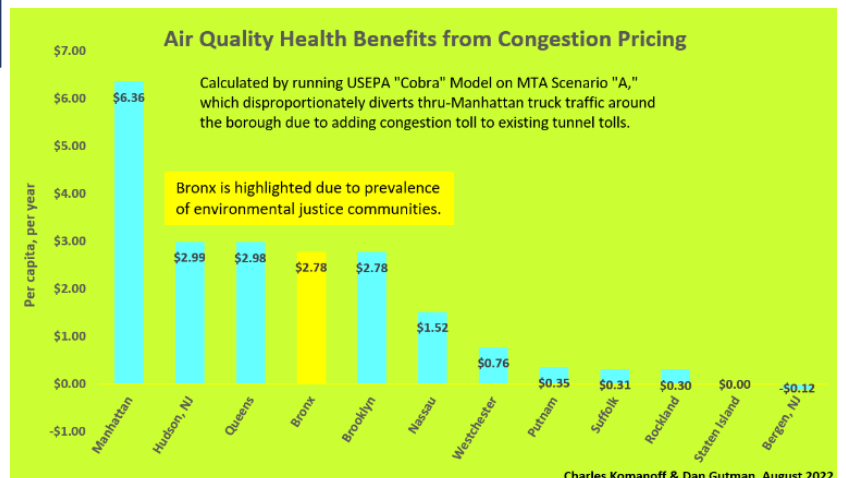
Boston	629,842
Miami	456,229
San Francisco	746,481
Seattle	757,992
Washington, DC	672,738
Total Residents =	3,263,282



What The Clean Air Benefits Would Have Been

If Congestion Pricing were put in place, officials expected it to reduce air pollution, as well as carbon emissions. [The impact may be uneven.](#) It is unclear how much the program will contribute to New York State's ambitious goal of reducing greenhouse emissions 85% by 2050. Pollution would go down in Manhattan, Brooklyn, and Queens. But likely increase in the Bronx and on Staten Island – not to mention NJ.

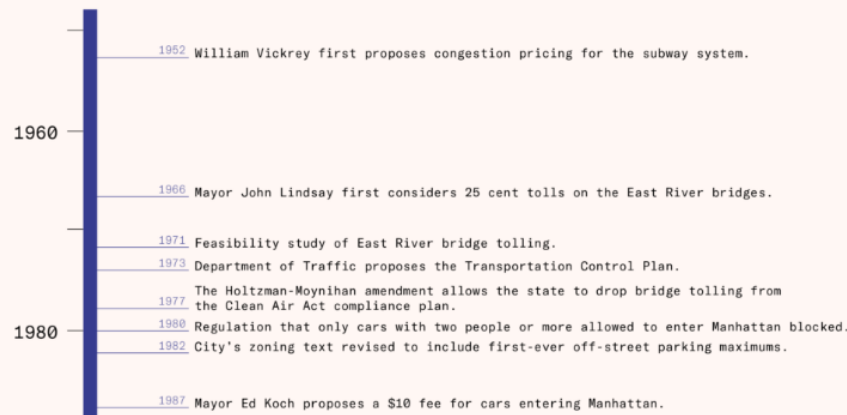
The City was planning to spend to [cap the pollution on the Cross Bronx Expressway.](#)



CONGESTION PRICING- A HISTORY OF THE EFFORT TO GET TO THIS POINT

Really Deep Dive: [New York's Long Road To Congestion Pricing](#) It has taken 70 years to (finally? almost?) bring traffic congestion pricing to New York. (*Apologies for the split infinitive.*) Read the story of how politicians and advocates built the coalition it needed to finally happen.

Timeline of events in New York's congestion pricing



If You Won't [Read](#) The History Of Congestion, Then [Listen To A Podcast](#) While Commuting...



City Traffic Pricing Wins U.S. and Spitzer's Favor

June 8, 2007

ALBANY, June 7 — Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg's plan to reduce traffic by charging people who drive into the busiest parts of Manhattan received significant support on Thursday as Gov. Eliot Spitzer endorsed the idea and the Bush administration indicated that New York stood to gain hundreds of millions of dollars if the plan were enacted.

If the measure is approved by the Legislature, New York

Back in 2007, Independent Mayor, Democratic Governor, Republican President Were Aligned for Congestion Pricing

BTW - [Just Who \(W?!?\) Supported Congestion Pricing In The Early 2000s?](#)

NYC Congestion Pricing at one point was a George W. Bush administration proposal (backed by then-Mayor Bloomberg) that died due to opposition from then- NY State Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver. After it died, what happened to the [\\$354.5 million in federal financing](#) that NYC left on the table? [Well, some went to Chicago, to pay for its new congestion initiative](#). The US Department of Transportation [gave \\$153 million of the money](#) to Chicago for a plan that included the creation of a new rapid Bus Rapid Transit network and a variable rate parking meter system downtown. The bus system had dedicated lanes and use technologically advanced buses which will have priority at busy intersections so that green lights can be extended for buses that are really late. The new parking meters charge higher rates during the morning and evening rush periods so commuters are encouraged to take mass transit instead of driving. BTW - LA also got some of this federal money for express toll lanes.

WHAT WOULD THE COSTS HAVE BEEN (AND MAY STILL OCCUR?)

[Reminder of Rates](#) –Taking Effect ~~On June 30, 2024?~~ Someday?

- Passenger vehicles will pay \$15, small trucks \$24, large trucks \$36, and motorcycles \$7.50.
- Rates will apply from 5am to 9pm on weekdays & 9am to 9pm on weekends.
- Off hour rates are 75% lower than the peak time charge. A goal of congestion pricing is to incentivize time shifting for trips like deliveries to occur during off-hours.
- \$5 credit for those using an already-tolled entrance for which they are paying an additional separate fee (e.g., the Lincoln Tunnel from NJ)
- Drivers will only be charged 1x daily, after which point they can drive around, or in and out of, Manhattan as much as they like, and they won't be charged for trips originating and ending within the congestion zone – from Tribeca, in Downtown Manhattan, to Hell's Kitchen, in Midtown Manhattan, for instance.
- Taxis and ride-hail services will be exempt, but instead they will pay \$1.25 and \$2.50 surcharges per ride, respectively.

But The MTA Was Suggesting Drivers [Get Ready Now!](#)

If you drive in NYC 🚗 Here are 3 things you can do to make sure you're ready 📌

- Make sure your EZ-Pass is up to date
- If you don't have an EZ-Pass, sign up for an account now.
- Check if you're eligible for a discount or exemption to the CRZ

BRIDGES & TUNNELS

Here's How NJ Bridges Are [Protected From Incidents Like This Spring's Baltimore Crash](#)

Beware Scofflaws: Port Authority Bringing [License Plate Readers To Staten Island Bridges](#)

Gateway Tunnel To Avoid The National Political Risk: [Project Heads For 'Point Of No Return' Before Election](#)

The long-delayed \$16 billion Gateway Tunnel project connecting NY and NJ is planned to cross the last hurdle to secure federal funding ahead of the presidential election. Gateway will receive roughly \$12 billion from the federal government and once the project secures the full funding agreement it will enter into the formal contract with the federal government, securing the final financial commitment needed for the project.

The massive project includes construction of a new underwater tunnel as well as replacement of the existing one that was damaged by Hurricane Sandy in 2012. The start of major construction, is expected to begin in July, with tunnel fully completed in 2035. New York is committing about \$1.34 billion to the project, New Jersey around \$308 million and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey \$2.68 billion.

NJ Transit On The Hook For [\\$88M To Help Rehab 2 East River Tunnels. Here's Why.](#)

Similar to the 114-year old Hudson River tunnels, two of the four East River tunnels were damaged by Hurricane Sandy in October 2012 and need to be rehabilitated and upgraded. NJ Transit will fund \$88.4 million of the work on the two of the East River Tunnels. NJ Transit uses them to travel between New York Penn Station and Sunnyside Yard in Queens where they are stored between the morning and evening commuting rush. The [tunnel rehabilitation project](#) is estimated to cost \$1.6 billion and work is scheduled to start later this year with a 2027 completion date. Those tunnels serve 453 trains per day, including 42 Amtrak intercity trains and 411 LIRR commuter trains. That total doesn't include NJ Transit trains that use the tunnels to access Sunnyside Yard. The project is expected to provide another 100 years of service life to the tunnels, that were originally built by the Pennsylvania Railroad.

CASINOS ROYALE? C'MON- IT'S POSSIBLE WE GET ROYAL CASINOS IN KINGS AND QUEENS COUNTIES....



New Jackpot City: [Eleven rivals. Countless Billions. One Prize:](#) The Right To Build A Casino In The Heart Of New York. The Latest Comprehensive Look At The Candidates To Build Downstate Casinos. Why Does This Matter?

Once the New York State Gaming Commission (NYSGC) determines which three NY casino applicants will be chosen to move forward with their projects, each must pay a \$500 million licensing fee and a minimum \$500 million investment. All \$1.5 billion made from licenses will go to MTA funding, along with a share of an estimated \$231 million to \$413 million in incremental annual tax revenue. [Timing for approval just got accelerated by the NY State legislature.](#)

Did The Mets Owner Strike Out? Denied Progress Toward Casino

[NYC lawmaker blocks Steve Cohen's \\$8B Metropolitan Park casino project](#) by Mets' Citi Field, which is a serious blow.

[Here's what happened!](#)



No Worse Than His Team Is Doing!

Mets Pitcher Gets Ejected and Throws Glove into Stands as [Broadcaster Declares, 'That's Where the Mets Are At Right Now'](#)

BTW – While the Mets were in London to play the Phillies in early June, [Steve Cohen said the food in London is better than New York. Really!?! As you can imagine, NY Sports Radio had a field day with that remark.](#) Cohen shook it off and moved onto his next venture focusing on the [New York Golf Club he owns that's part of Tiger Woods' TGL - Tomorrow's Golf League.](#)



BUSES

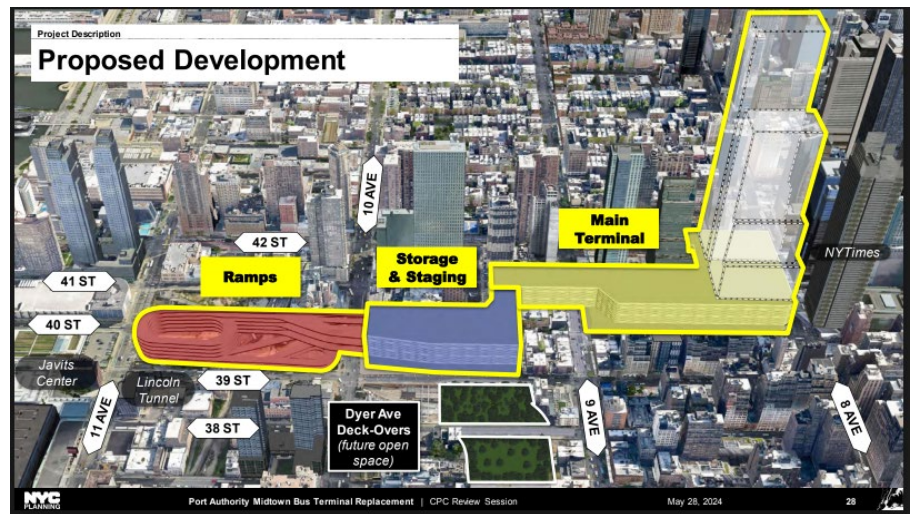
New "Big" Plan For The New Port Authority Bus Terminal

[The City Planning Commission started the public review process on the new Port Authority Bus Terminal](#) — an important project that will improve bus service and get the large coaches off the streets of Hell's Kitchen and into the terminal. Plans for a new green space as a park is built over Dyer Avenue In order to accommodate hundreds of buses, a new, multi-story staging structure will be built between 9th-10th Aves. A new set of ramps will be built west of 10th to replace the existing ramps between 9th-10th Avenues.

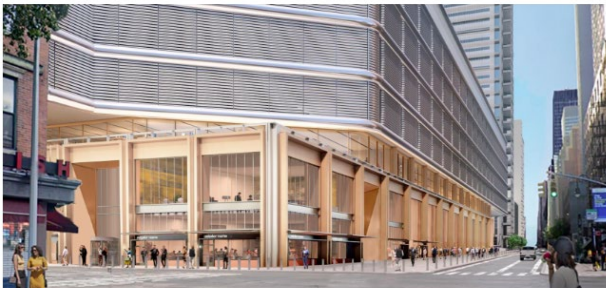
Proposed Development:

1. Five operational bus floors, with expanded space for bus operations. 40 Gates for Intercity Buses.
2. Bus Storage: 300-350 buses midday (existing = 50)
3. Grand Entrance/ Central Atrium
4. Retail space: • 2,850 linear feet of street-facing retail, approximately 155,344 sf of retail space (141,644 is street-facing) vs existing 69,365 sf (55,665 sf is street-facing).
5. Ceiling heights for modern buses, electric charging capabilities.
6. Two towers ▪ Max height of 926 feet and 1,344 feet

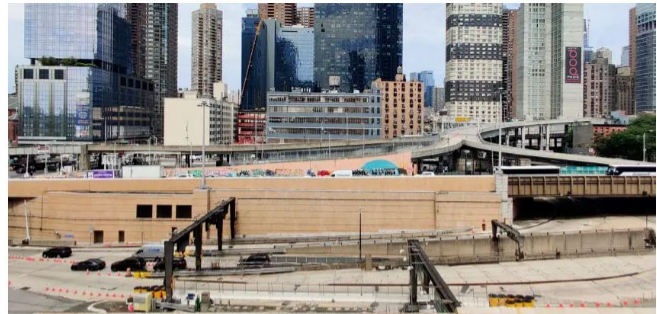
[Link To Full Presentation Here.](#)



Here's the proposed Main Terminal atrium. | Rendering: Department of City Planning



And here's 40th Street looking east. | Rendering: Department of City Planning



Here's sunken Dyer Avenue before (top) and after. | Rendering and photo: Department of City Planning

Electric School Bus Carbon Test: Why The EPA's New Green-School Grants Matter

[Harvard scientists find American cities save \\$207,200 every time they electrify just one old diesel bus](#)

DOT Proposes Bus Lanes To Speed Up Crosstown Transit In Upper Manhattan

[Bus lanes are coming to 96th Street as part of a handful of last minute transit and streetscape changes](#) for congestion pricing.

NYC STREETS:

Deep Dive: [The Battle for The Streets of NY – Click Here Or The Icon To Read](#)



Residential Parking Permits For NYC?

Proposed by Manhattan Borough President, Mark Levine, in the NY Daily News. "Every inch of curb space in this crowded city is precious. So why are we giving so much of it away for free?"

Is Curbside Parking An Endangered Species?

There are approximately three million parking spaces in New York City, and 97 percent of them are free. But with so many cars in the city these days — more than 2.2 million registered in New York and plenty more commuting in — it's getting harder for drivers to find parking spots. And as exasperated drivers circle the block in frustration, some experts question whether New York should have any free street parking at all. (See above.)

Outdoor Dining: This Summer Is The End Of Outdoor Dining In NYC As We Know It.

August 3, 2024 is the deadline for restaurants to either [APPLY HERE!](#) for the city's new outdoor dining program or take down their roadway dining structures, which occupy parking spaces or other parts of the street.

NYCDOT Explanation

The new program overseen by the NYCDOT will add fees, limit sidewalk seating and make roadway sheds hew to a few pre-approved designs, which must come down by December but can go back up in April.

OVERHEARD ON 34TH STREET....

***Woman crosses the street on a red light**

Father, with kids: "You're setting a bad example for kids..."

Woman: "Really? I'm setting a bad example!? You're wearing crocs!!!"

@overheardnewyork

SPEAKING OF WHICH – DID I REALLY SEE A CROCS STORE 🙌 ON 34TH STREET? *IT'S ANYTHING BUT A MIRACLE!* 🤪



NYC DOT Fixing Up Second Avenue...



NYC DOT
@NYC_DOT

57k daily bus riders & 6k daily cyclists are getting a better commute!

Construction has started on a redesign of Manhattan's 2nd Ave. The new design will bring a wider bike lane, an enhanced bus lane, & additional pedestrian space for 2.9 miles from E 59th St to Houston St.



Too Bad The "Second Avenue Deli" Moved To The Ultimate "*New Yawk*" Address of *Toidy Toid and Toid*.



SECOND AVENUE DELI

162 E 33rd St New York, NY
10016

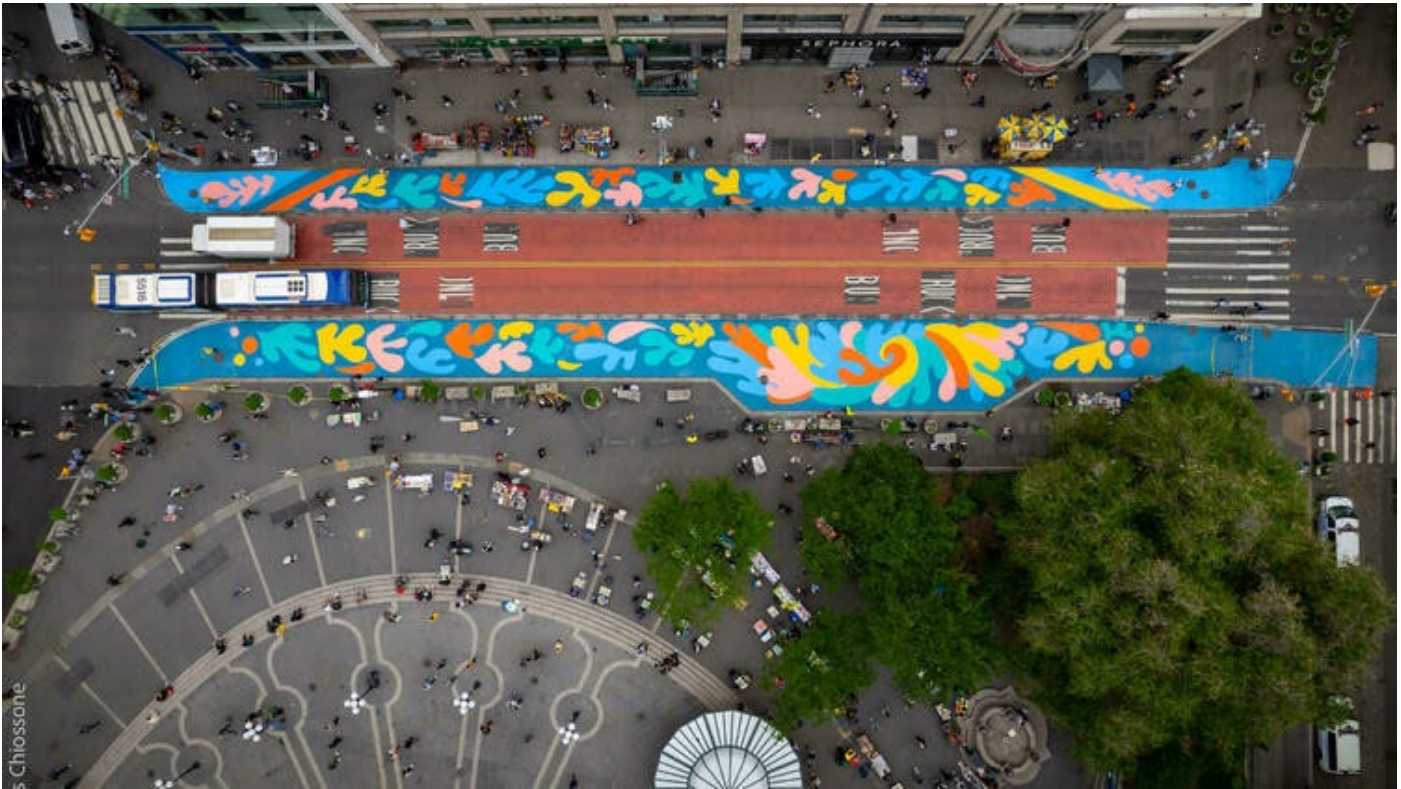


THE LIGHTER SIDE OF OUR STREETS

This gorgeous 7,500-square-foot street mural is now in Union Square

["Flowing Together" is the work of New York artist Talisa Almonte.](#)

In 2024, the 7,500-square-foot mural unveiled in partnership with Union Square and the New York City Department of Transportation Art Program (NYC DOT Art) is the work of New York artist Talisa Almonte, who was selected among almost 30 submissions.



BIG PICTURE: CLIMATE CHANGE → MORE HURRICANES

[2024 Hurricane Season Is Expected to Be Abnormally Busy, NOAA Predicts](#)

Earth marks [12 straight months of record heat](#), a bewildering climate change milestone: Every month for a year straight has been the hottest ever recorded!

AIRPLANE TURBULENCE

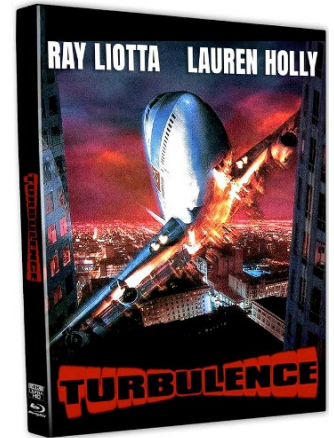
Turbulence Caused Trouble And Injuries On 2 International Flights – And Not The Forgettable 1990s Ray Liotta Thriller

[Severe turbulence during Singapore Airlines flight leaves several people badly injured.](#) One man died.

Qatar Airways: [12 people injured during turbulence on Doha-Dublin flight](#)

Most people associate turbulence with heavy storms, but the most dangerous type is so-called clear air turbulence. Wind shear can occur in wispy cirrus clouds or even in clear air near thunderstorms, as differences in temperature and pressure create powerful currents of fast-moving air.

The problem of turbulence became US news in December 2023, when a total of 41 people on two separate flights hit by turbulence in the United States were hurt or received medical treatment on two consecutive days. According to a 2021 report by the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board, turbulence accounted for 37.6% of all accidents on larger commercial airlines between 2009 and 2018. The Federal Aviation Administration, another U.S. government agency, said after the December incidents that there were 146 serious injuries from turbulence from 2009 to 2021.



The Science: [How Climate Change Brings Dangerous Turbulence](#)

From 2009 to 2023, turbulence has resulted in 185 serious injuries aboard commercial planes, but there were no turbulence-related deaths in the U.S. in that time, officials said.

The uptick in turbulence likely owes to the effect of climate change on wind speeds in the upper levels of the atmosphere, researchers found. Some of the most pronounced increases in clear-air turbulence in recent decades were over mid-latitude regions, including over the North Atlantic and flight routes over the United States, according to the study.

The results suggest that global warming may be driving instability in the jet stream, a conveyor belt of fast-moving air that encircles the globe over the Northern Hemisphere.

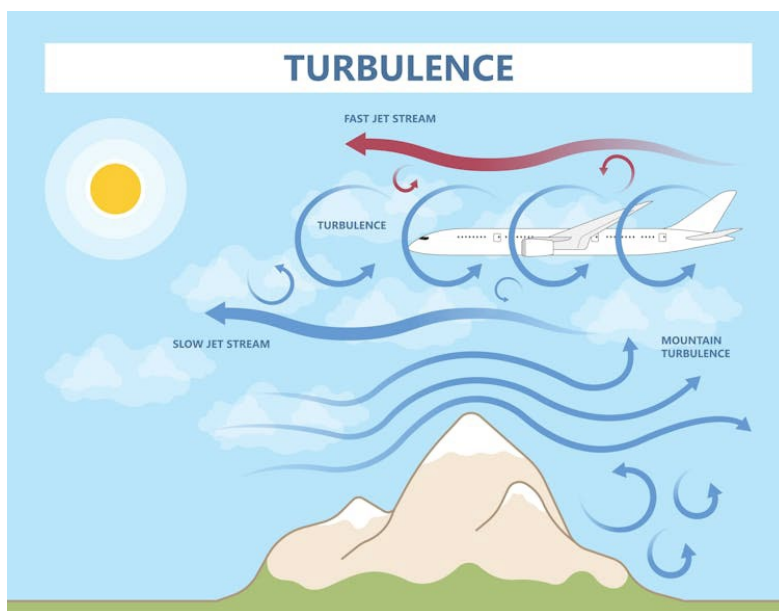
The jet stream, which flows like a river of air from west to east, is fueled by temperature differences between cooler regions to the north and warmer air masses to the south. Climate change may be throwing the jet stream off-kilter,

which could have enormous implications for future air travel.

“Planes like to fly with the jet stream, but where planes like to fly is also ironically where all the turbulence is.”

That instability is expected to increase as the world warms. The University of Reading separately used climate models to project how clear-air turbulence in the latter half of this century may shift if global warming continues. The researchers found that increasing greenhouse gas emissions also increased turbulence and instability.

“If you compare the climate of 2050 to 2080 with the climate before we started emitting greenhouse gases — so, preindustrial times — there was a doubling, or tripling sometimes, of the amount of clear-air turbulence in the atmosphere,” Prosser said.



MORE TRAFFIC - IN THE NAME OF IMPROVING OUR AIRPORTS

Brace for JFK Airport traffic nightmare as \$19B construction plans begin: What to know

[Summer will see an increase in travelers, according to the TSA, but the Port Authority is apologizing in advance for the longer waits for terminal access due to massive road constructions underway.](#)

"When coming to JFK this summer leave extra time," said Port Authority Executive Director Rick Cotton. "We apologize in advance." Cotton is saying sorry for what likely will be an additional 15 to 30 minutes of driving — or even more — for those doing a drop off directly at the terminal (that also applies to cabs and rideshare apps like Uber and Lyft). Lane closures and detours will be likely. Getting to the airport could be even tougher for folks coming from Suffolk and Nassau counties on Long Island.

Construction May Make Getting to JFK Airport a Nightmare for 3 Years: [What to Know](#)

Good news: There are plans to get the makeover at JFK Airport back on track and completed in a timely manner.

Bad news: It will make getting to the airport a bit of a nightmare for at least the next three years, as much of it will be a construction site.

- \$9.5 billion for Terminal 1, which will be the most extensive part of the project, as it becomes a the new international terminal.
- \$1.5 billion Terminal 4 for Delta, which is already done.
- \$4.2 billion for Terminal 6, with investors like JetBlue.
- \$425 million Terminal 8 for American Airlines, which is now finished.

Phase one is expected to be completed in 2026. Construction is already underway, but will get started in earnest on May 1. There may be other challenges as well. The Air Train won't stop at Terminal 1 for the next seven months, so workers can build a steel frame over it. A taxi stand at Terminal 5 will also be moved, creating a 10-minute walk for a cab.

JetBlue Will Help You A Choice To Avoid JFK Starting In Fall 2024

JetBlue is bringing service to Long Island this fall — and tickets are on sale now. [Starting in October, JetBlue will begin offering flights from MacArthur](#) to Orlando International Airport, Fort Lauderdale-Hollywood International Airport and Palm Beach International Airport

A NEW [NY DIGITAL MOBILE ID WILL GET YOU THROUGH AIRPORT SECURITY](#) New York DMV is rolling out a secure mobile ID that residents can download and use on their phones, whether at airports or bars that accept it. Officials say it serves the same purpose as valid, state-issued driver licenses, learner permits and non-driver IDs, and can currently be downloaded on [Apple](#) and [Android](#) phones.

AIR TRAFFIC EXPECTED TO REACH RECORD LEVELS THIS YEAR

The world is flying again. [In 3Q2024, 10.5 million flights are scheduled to crisscross the skies.](#) The International Air Transport Association is anticipating record passenger numbers this year, and planes that will be about as full as they were before the virus using record amounts of fuel. For environmentalists, the trend will be met with dismay as it drives an accompanying surge in carbon emissions and another watermark in a resurgence of tourism. For the oil industry, the revival is a welcome boost, though.

FORTHCOMING GRAND CENTRAL DINING



Samantha Liebman
@SamiLiebman

...

Some positive [@mta](#) news, new tenants coming soon to Grand Central including New York City institution [@melbasharlem](#). [@NY1](#) [#nyc](#) [#transit](#) [#nycfood](#)

OVERHEARD AT PENN STATION...

"Hey, do you know which train is going to Montauk?"

"Just find someone wearing Golden Gooses and follow them."

[@overheardnewyork](#)

MTA AND SUBWAYS

'Frustrated' NYC Transit Chief Richard Davey Reportedly [Fleeing Job For Massachusetts Post](#)

NYC Subway [Delays Rising, Equipment Failing](#) 137,000 weekday subway trains had delays during Jan-April 2024 up 30% from last year.

Citing Safety, [New York Moves Mentally Ill People Out of the Subway](#)

MTA Trying To Crack Down On Fare Evasion [Taking steps to stem a problem that cost the transit agency \\$690 million in lost revenue last year.](#)

MTA Demotes OMNY Contractor Cubic In Hopes Of Speeding Up Commuter Rail Fare Integration
[Officials are giving up on Cubic's delayed plans to bring Metro-North and the LIRR into the OMNY-verse.](#)

Another contractor, Masabi, will instead oversee the incorporation of bus, subway, and commuter rail fares and schedules into the LIRR and Metro-North's popular trip planning and ticketing app MTA TrainTime, with the commuter rails running their own back-end software for fare collection, officials said. The MetroCard's official end date — initially scheduled for 2023 — is "indefinitely" postponed.

Oh G! This Summer The G Train Is Shutting Down To Replace 90 Year Old Signals: [Here's What You Need To Know!](#)

EBIKES

Have E-Bikes Made New York City a 'Nightmare'? E-bikes zoom down streets, zigzag around cars and zip across sidewalks, [changing the way some residents view the streets](#). Mayor Eric Adams and the NYPD [announced a crackdown on illegal bikes, scooters, mopeds and any other unregistered vehicles](#) after a Rabbi injured in a hit and run. The NYPD has already confiscated nearly 42,000 such vehicles— the largest number of illegal vehicle seizures in a 30-month span in NYC history. "We are not going to allow [these vehicles] to be introduced on our streets, and to continue to be a menace to our city," Adams said. NYPD stats show that among the seven most serious crimes, [scooters, mopeds and motorcycles were involved 790 times so far this year](#) — compared to just 156 times over the same span in 2022. The NYPD [recently seized 39 mopeds and motorcycles](#), issuing dozens of summonses and arresting one individual.



Meanwhile, [The Parks Department quietly extended its e-bikes pilot program](#) allowing electric bikes and scooters on drives and greenway in NYC parks. Program was initially expected to end May 31, 2024. It will now continue until May 31, 2025.

And E-cargo bikes are pedal-assisted "micromobility" vehicles that can fit in a bike lane and transport supplies and small packages. [The NYC DOT recently authorized their use on city streets.](#) Their use would lessen big, giant trucks on already-jammed Manhattan streets. [NYC struggles with handling millions of packages being delivered](#) every single day and is trying to figure out just how to reduce congestion or reduce emissions, while also keeping the streets safe for both pedestrians and cyclists and drivers as well.

Are NJ / NY / CT State Lawmakers [Waging War On E-Bikes?](#)

Tri-state area lawmakers appear intent on waging a war against electric bikes, a move that threatens to undermine progress towards safer, more sustainable, and equitable transportation in the region. Their latest weapon of choice? Proposed legislation to mandate registration and insurance for users of low-speed e-bikes and e-scooters.

Brooklyn Startup's 'Mad Max' [Solution To Make Any Bike Electric](#)

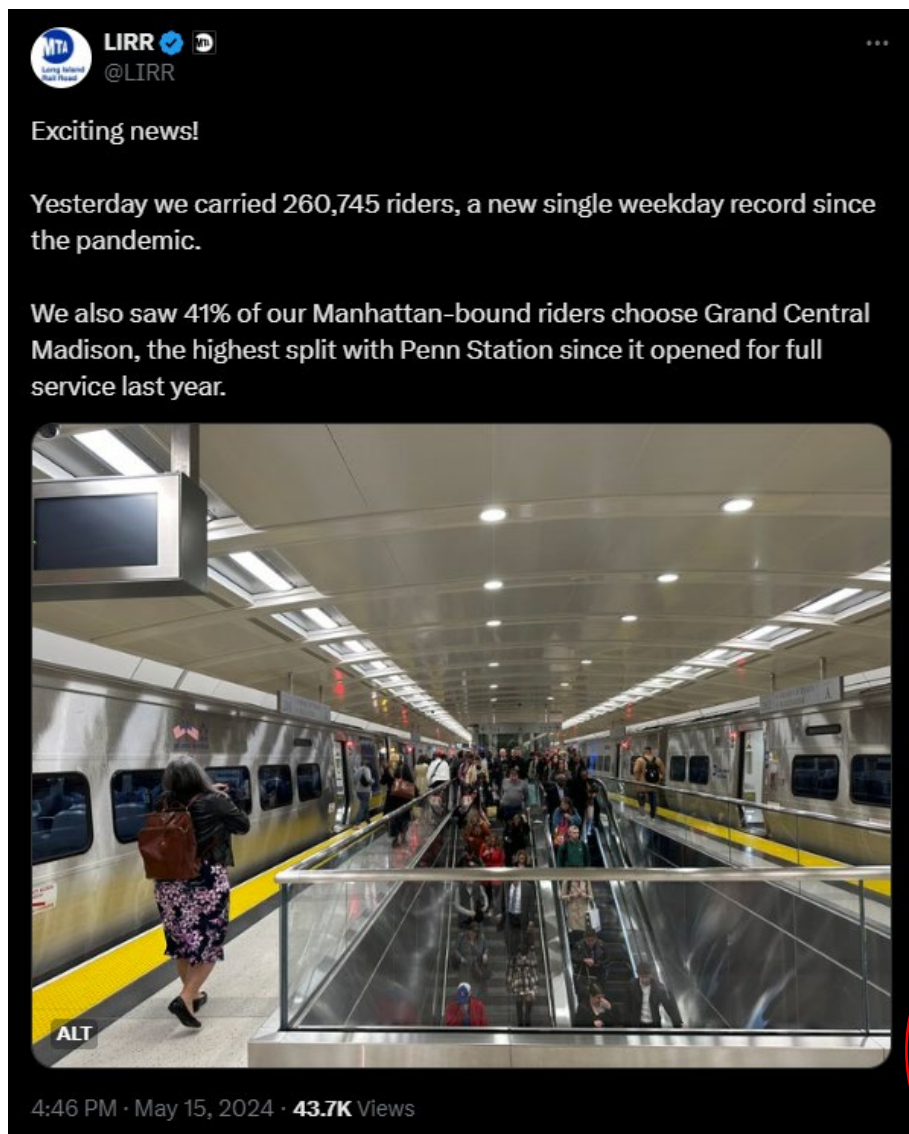
CLIP co-founders Som Ray and Clem de Alcala have raised \$4.75M across three seed rounds to create electric motors that attach to bicycle wheels.



LIRR

While the LIRR touts good news and high ridership, not all is as good as it seems:

'Late' Island Rail Road: LIRR's on-time rating obscures thousands of blown connections at Jamaica that have fueled rider furor over Grand Central schedule rewrite. [Streetsblog analysis shows](#). And can it please take accountability and not blame passengers for issues?

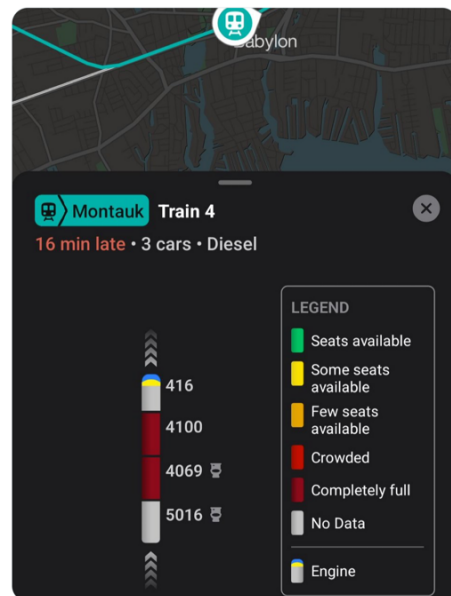


Air Conditioning In The Summer Would Be Nice Too!

@LIRR no air conditioning in the car either. This is a hot, sweaty, miserable group of people. Unacceptable for how much your rides cost. Y'all really dropped the ball on this one.



The LIRR Today @TheLIRRToday · 4h
3 cars for a summer Friday train to Montauk... It's incredible how bad @LIRR is at its job.



The LIRR Today @TheLIRRToday

Follow

And then LIRR blames the delay on riders (this train runs via the Main Line and does not go through Copiague)

LIRR @LIRR · 3h

There are delays along the Montauk Branch due to a high volume of customers traveling and debris on the tracks at Copiague.

See the TrainTime app or visit new.mta.info to plan your trip.

Service Alert

Long Island Rail Road

Montauk Branch

9:51 AM · 6/7/24 From Earth · 2.4K Views

NEW JERSEY

NJ Transit Also Tries To Share Good News Even As It's Had a Rough Few Weeks

New Jersey commutes have also been difficult lately because of frequent problems with the rail infrastructure in and around New York City, much of which is owned by Amtrak, the national railroad.

On May 22 a downed power cable [caused hourslong delays](#) along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor south of the city, resulting in hellish commutes home for many New Jerseyans.

On June 4, [hundreds of commuters were left](#) standing for more than an hour in Pennsylvania Station in Manhattan because of a "track condition" near Secaucus, N.J., on Wednesday night. On June 5, a disabled train in a tunnel under the Hudson River caused delays as long as 30 minutes.

Congressman Andy Kim (and Senate Candidate) Criticizes NJ Transit Rail-Fare Increase, Turnpike Expansion. Vows Support for \$16 billion Gateway Tunnel Plan

["Raising those fares - which is often affecting communities that are already more vulnerable when it comes to their pocketbooks and affordability challenges - you're making it harder on them."](#) Fare increases are a move Governor Phil Murphy has defended as necessary. Kim said he'd fight for more federal funding for the rail system and to expand trains

into the "public transit desert" of South Jersey. He also questioned Murphy's support for a more than \$10 billion highway expansion of the New Jersey Turnpike that critics say will increase pollution.

The Mayor Of Hoboken Also Opposed Plans To Widen The NJ Turnpike Spur Between Exit 14 And The Holland Tunnel.

Activists held a rally in late May ahead of a New Jersey Turnpike Authority listening session about the first stage of a turnpike expansion project in Hudson County. The \$11 billion expansion project is being met with strong opposition from environmental activists and adjacent communities. The rally was hosted by the Turnpike Trap Coalition, Empower New Jersey, local activists and elected officials. They are demanding that the project be stopped and that the funds be reinvested in public transportation. Phase 1 of the project involves expanding the Newark Bay Extension with two wider bridges between Bayonne and Newark. But activists say a wider span means more cars and more pollution – particularly for communities of color that sit adjacent to that 8-mile stretch of road.

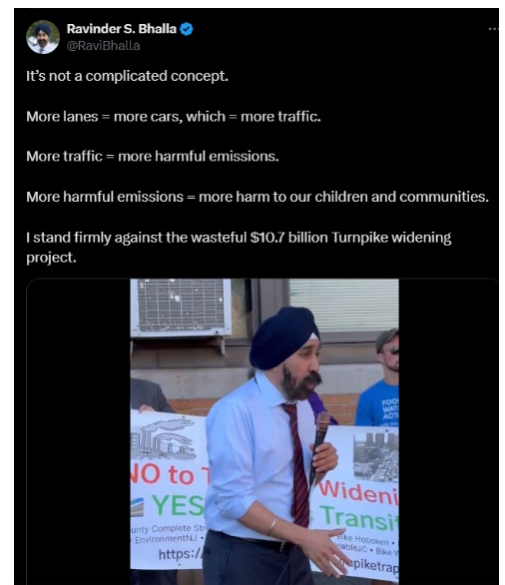
Laborers who are in support of the project say it will mean more jobs for the region. "From beginning to end of this project it's 25,000 jobs...they're middle-class jobs," says Todd Heuer, of Hudson County Building Trade. **The Coast Guard is the lead federal agency that will give the final green light for the project if it meets environmental standards. The public comment period is open until July 11.**

BTW- The Mayor [lost the June 2024 primary election](#) for a NJ Congressional seat to incumbent Robert Menendez Jr.



Testing of the new NJ TRANSIT multi-levels train cars is moving along! The new cars feature increased seating capacity and other amenities, including USB charging ports & new onboard information displays.

The new railcars are expected in late 2024 for testing and commissioning!



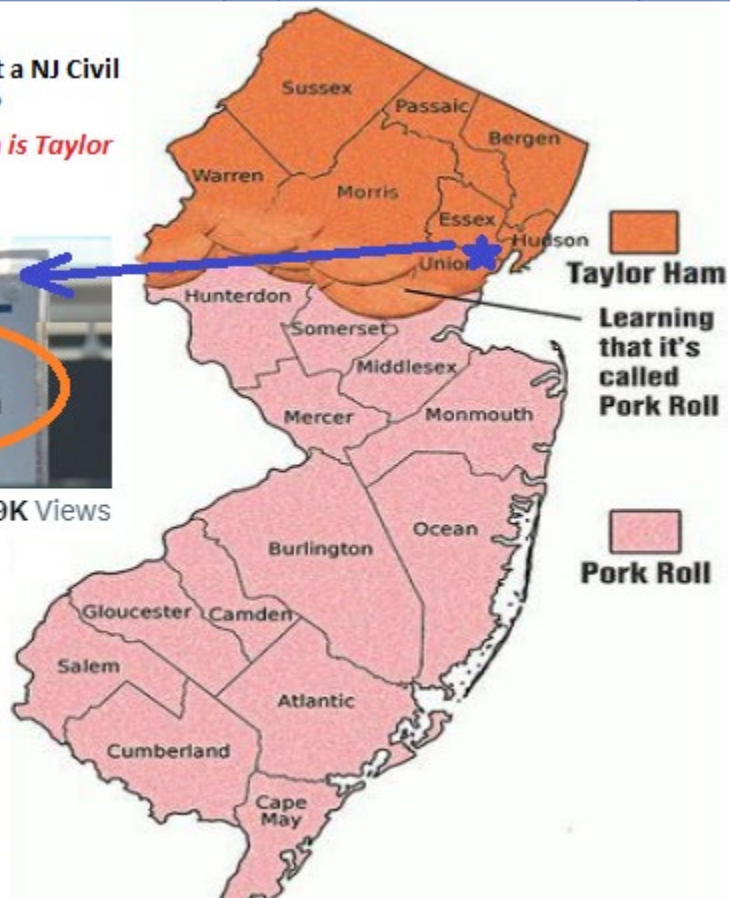
FORGIVE ME FOR HAMMING IT UP...

Is United Airlines Trying To Start A NJ Civil War At Newark Liberty Airport? (BTW, Civil War is an Oxymoron.)

Is United Airlines trying to start a NJ Civil War at Newark Liberty Airport?
(Located in North Jersey- which is Taylor Ham Country.)



9:52 AM · May 11, 2024 · 35.9K Views



SOMETHING FUN TO DO!

Don't Be Late To New York Botanical Garden's 'Wonderland' Exhibit May 18–October 27, 2024 [From 10a-6p](#)



At the first sight of spring, the state flower can be seen blooming on every roadside.



THE NEW TESLA TRUCK: PICTURED AT A NEW JERSEY WAWA - AND PICTURED INSIDE A NYC OFFICE



MORE RED LIGHT CAMERAS COMING TO NYC

NY State Senate and Assembly passed legislation allowing the city's Department of Transportation to install red light cameras at 600 intersections [up from the current 150 intersections with red light cameras today](#). Instances of drivers running through red lights and crashes have dropped at intersections that have a red light camera, according to the DOT. [City data shows](#) that intersections monitored by the cameras have seen 73% fewer violations since the first devices were installed in 1994. The legislation keeps the program in place [through December 2027](#).

OUR CARS: 1 - REALLY ARE SPYING ON US AND COLLECTING DRIVING DATA,

[Is Your Driving Being Secretly Scored?](#) The insurance industry, hungry for insights into how people drive, has turned to automakers and smartphone apps like Life360.

2- WILL SOON WARN US WHEN WE'RE SPEEDING,

California lawmakers are considering a bill that [would require all new cars to be equipped to signal drivers when they exceed the speed limit by more than 10 m.p.h.](#) The requirement would be phased in. Half of all new passenger vehicles, trucks and buses sold in California in the 2029 model year would have to have these intelligent speed assistance systems; in the 2032 model year, they all would. (Emergency vehicles would be exempt.) Note: California is such a large car market that changes made for this state often become standard in the rest of the country.

3- MIGHT SOON BE DRIVING US!

[Waymo](#), which is owned by Alphabet (Google's parent company), is currently the only company offering rides for the public in San Francisco. They're becoming the must do tourist attraction in this Bay City. Waymo vehicles are all-electric Jaguar I-PACEs outfitted with radar, lidar, sensors, and internal and external cameras. You use the app to unlock the car when it arrives and to play music during your ride. Four seats are available to passengers — you can sit up front, but you're not allowed to sit in the driver's seat (if you try, the car will not move). A real-life customer support team remotely monitors your ride for unsafe activity and is available should you require assistance. According to safety data from the company, Waymos are significantly safer than human drivers.



BTW - ARE YOU IN THE MARKET FOR A NEW CAR? THINGS ARE LOOKING UP, BUT MANY BUYER WANT OLDER MODELS

Pricing Is Getting Better: [Car Deals Vanished During the Pandemic. They're Coming Back](#). And even Electric Cars [are suddenly becoming affordable transportation](#). But Americans don't [have the appetite for new cars right now](#).

THE FUTURE OF THE ELECTRIC VEHICLE MARKET

I've mentioned how there are concerns about Chinese companies taking over the US car market. The Biden Administration took action- [by hitting Chinese Electric Vehicles, chips and other goods in strategic industries with Higher Tariffs](#). The tariffs built on former President Trump's tariffs. (Donald Trump, not to be left out, pledged even [higher tariffs](#).) The penalties effectively block Chinese companies from bringing their cars to America and prompt U.S. auto makers to invest in domestic EV component manufacturers. [Europe also announced 17-38% tariffs on China on top of a 10% car levy](#). China has a lead in key markets and [in the mineral production](#) to get materials for their manufacturing. [The reasons include: denying Beijing a new monopoly; shoring up national security; and using the energy transition to create jobs](#). Critics point out that Biden is prioritizing competition with and the [economic threat from China over environmental progress](#). Is this [is all future proofing as there aren't any Chinese EV imports coming into the US](#)? And is this effort doomed as the Chinese will undergo fierce competition at home before taking dominant roles abroad? ([A Deep Dive From the Asian Times](#).) Meanwhile US automakers are reaching out to Chinese companies for EV tech and know-how.



NEW TARIFFS ON CHINA

- 100% ON ELECTRIC VEHICLES
- 25% ON EV & NON EV BATTERIES
- 50% ON SOLAR CELLS & SEMICONDUCTORS
- 25% ON STEEL, ALUMINUM, & SHIP TO SHORE CRANES
- 25% TO 50% ON SOME MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

WHITE HOUSE

Harvard Government Professor [Graham Allison](#) boiled down his view of the future global electric vehicle [car market](#) (click for a quick thread) and China's strong positioning in it.

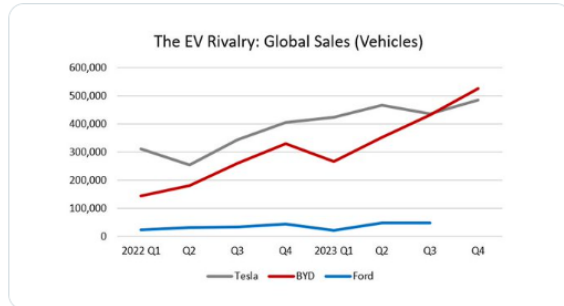


Graham Allison
@GrahamTAllison

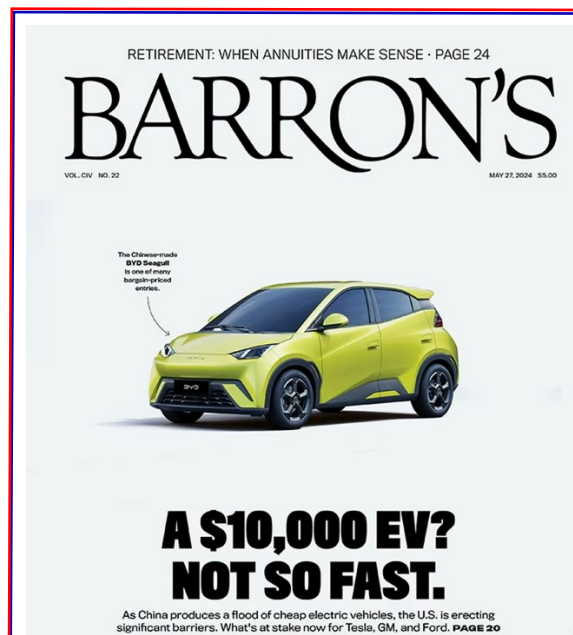
Who is winning the global EV race?

The answer: China, China, and China.

In 2023, China sold over nine million EVs—six times the US. In Q4, China's EV champion, BYD (which is backed by Warren Buffett among others), overtook Musk's Tesla to become the #1 global EV automaker.



1:36 PM · Jan 3, 2024 · 45.6K Views



Barron's, a weekly publication that is the sister to the Wall Street Journal, recently countered the view that China's car companies are poised to take over the US market: [China's Cheap EVs Aren't a Threat to Tesla, Ford, and GM. Here's What Is](#). *U.S. auto makers have a fighting chance against a flood of inexpensive cars from China. But better vehicles might pose a problem.* That U.S. auto makers need protection has been widely accepted as fact—memories of the devastation caused by Japanese companies in the 1980s are still fresh, if a little skewed, despite 40 years of distance—and there is good reason to fear the Chinese auto makers. China is now the largest market for new cars and EVs, and it's also the largest exporter of cars. U.S. auto executives, including [Elon Musk](#), extol Chinese automotive quality and innovation. Cheap vehicles, though, pose no threat to the U.S. manufacturers—it's better cars they need to worry about. And those cars will be coming even if tariffs delay them for a while. US auto makers must use the time to design and build [affordable electric vehicles](#) or risk seeing history repeat itself. Hyperlinks to Barrons are above- If you'd rather just watch a video, watch the author [Barron's associate editor Al Root join 'Barron's Roundtable' panelists](#) on Fox Business Channel.

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WHERE'S THE NEAREST BATHROOM?

A more livable city means having more places to go... when you gotta go! Eric Adams, our rat mayor, now wants to be the bathroom mayor and announced the “*Ur in Luck*” initiative. NYC Parks will build and renovate 82 public bathrooms over the next five years. The City also announced a new [Google maps layer showing all public bathrooms: on.nyc.gov/restroom](#) you can use to find a restroom near you. The City’s map is an upgrade of the [Got2Go](#) bathroom map created by [Teddy Siegel](#).

By the numbers: 82 bathrooms = 46 new restrooms to be built in parks + 36 restrooms in parks to be renovated.

The plus: it’s improvement over begging a Starbucks employee for the bathroom code. The minus: [46 new bathrooms over 5 years is not much - yet typical of the glacial pace at which the city usually builds anything](#). But the administration promised prefab design and an improved process to bring the new bathrooms online sooner.

BTW - Seinfeld was way ahead on this:

[George Costanza always knew the most magnificent facilities to use anywhere in the City](#). (Better than having to rent a toilet through [Airpnp](#) – really, that was a thing 10 years ago.



Jerry: Anywhere in the city?

George: Anywhere in the city - I'll tell you the best public toilet.

Jerry: Okay Fifty-fourth and Sixth?

George: Sperry Rand Building. 14th floor, Morgan Apparel. Mention my name - she'll give you the key.

Jerry: Alright Sixty-fifth and Tenth.

George: (*Scoffs*) Are you kidding? Lincoln Center. Alice Tully Hall, the Met. Magnificent facilities.

E-SCOOTERS

E-Scooter Share Program [Expanding To Queens In Late June](#)

The expansion, [first announced in June 2023](#), will serve approximately 20 square miles from Flushing and Auburndale to Rochdale Village and Springfield Gardens, providing e-scooter access for about 600,000 residents. The expansion in eastern Queens will serve approximately 20 square miles.

- The department [piloted the program in the East Bronx](#) in 2021
- The city will continue to work with e-scooter share operators Bird, Lime and Veo as it rolls out the program in Queens

All three companies will charge a dollar to unlock the scooters. Following the unlock fee, Veo will charge 39 cents per minute, while Lime and Bird will charge 42 cents per minute.

PORTS

Port Authority of New York and New Jersey To Get Upgrades: Goals Are To Make Operations Faster And Safer.

[The Port Authority and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers announced more than \\$50 million through the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund for the seaport's berth maintenance dredging, berth rehabilitation and berth reconstruction.](#) A berth is a location in the water where ships can pull up and dock.

A separate \$32 million project will deepen and widen the Gravesend Anchorage outside the Kill van Kull waterway from its current depth of 47 feet to 50 feet. The work is expected to be completed in 2025.

"This particular port, largest on the East Coast, needs to be able to handle that level of capacity. At the same time, improves safety for the navigators. That's an important aspect of what we're doing here and long term, we're also looking at taking the dredge material that we do from this deepening project and reinvesting it into environmental benefits," said Michael Connor, assistant secretary of civil works of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Further ahead is a project to deepen the harbor from 50 to 55 feet. 28-miles of federal channel will get dredged as part of that project. Officials say the project would help increase capacity, and it will also help make the port more competitive in the future.

"Long-term effort to make sure that this particular port can handle the largest container ships, the largest cargo barring vessels overall that we see the future is moving too," said Connor.

"We have to be doing it today so that we're ready in the 2040-2045 timeframe," Rooney said.

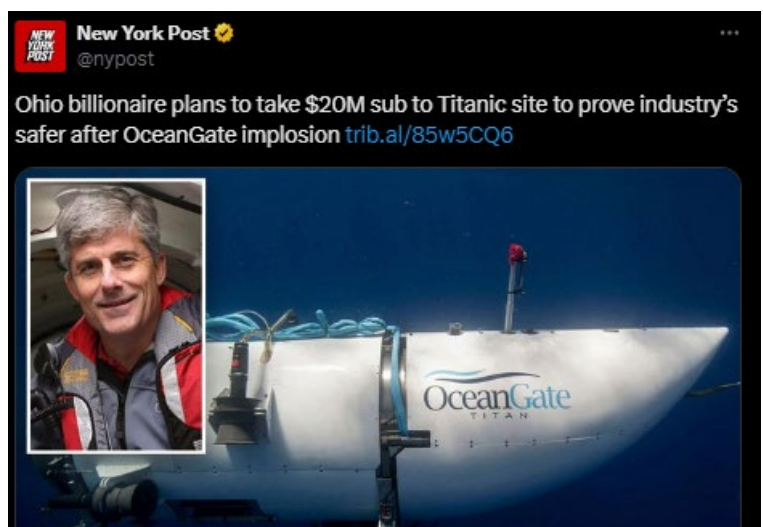
Officials believe these investments will continue to help the country's second-busiest port play a critical and crucial role in people getting their goods.

SUBMARINES

DIDN'T WE LEARN OUR LESSON? OR DO THE SEA GODS REQUIRE ANNUAL TRIBUTE OF BILLIONAIRES?

In summer 2023, the Titan Submersible disaster shocked the world. [The Exclusive Inside Story Is More Disturbing Than Anyone Imagined.](#) A year after OceanGate's sub imploded, thousands of leaked documents and interviews with ex-employees reveal how the company's CEO cut corners, ignored warnings, and lied in his fatal quest to reach the Titanic.

And now Ohio billionaire Larry Connor is planning to take a new \$20 million sub to Titanic site to prove the industry's safer after OceanGate implosion. [The Wall Street Journal](#) has the full story of his plan to launch a new submarine – but the date of his voyage is still undetermined.



MAYOR PETE, SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION.

Three Good Reads:

One: big picture on his performance as a cabinet secretary beyond just being the Biden Administration's best spokesperson. [Is Mayor Pete Doing a Good Job Overall?](#)

Two: On Making Airlines More Consumer Friendly: [Pete Buttigieg's View From The Middle Seat](#)

The transportation secretary sees an airline industry that isn't doing enough for passengers.

Backed by a flurry of new policies, rule proposals and pressure campaigns — the Secretary of Transportation's view is that airlines have gotten a pass from regulators and need to do better by passengers.



And Three: How the FAA (Part of the DOT) Is Trying to Resolve Issues With Boeing's Quality Controls Feds Reining In Boeing

3-hour meeting ends with FAA saying [Boeing can't increase Max plane production until quality is fixed](#)

AND SPEAKING OF BOEING

Two more Boeing whistleblowers go public over plane safety: ['Like a ticking timebomb'](#)

Should we worried about this? [FAA Investigating How Counterfeit Titanium Got Into Boeing and Airbus Jets](#)

BE WARNED – THERE'S A GOOD REASON TO USE AIRTAGES IN YOUR CHECKED LUGGAGE

[Spirit Airlines flyer tracks down her stolen luggage to airport employee's Florida house with her pinging Apple Watch](#)

AND FINALLY – WHY DID THE CAMEL CROSS THE ROAD?



BECAUSE THERE ARE NO CHICKENS IN THE DESERT.

[A camel landed on the windshield of a car during an accident in India.](#)

Local authorities in northern India reported the car was traveling at a moderate speed when the camel unexpectedly crossed the rural road. *(Was it camel-flaged?)*

The vehicle collided with the animal and the impact caused significant damage to the car – with the camel partially entering through the windshield. All passengers inside the car were unscathed. Emergency services were called to the scene to assist with the removal of the camel and to provide medical attention to the injured animal.

