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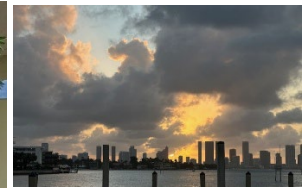



BOMA-NY Codes & Regs Committee
 🌐 📅 **May 2026 –World Cup Issue** 🏆 🏆
Glenn Waldorf, Bell Environmental Services



I Was Going To Take The Month Off

I really planned to take this month off. At least, ease up a bit. A few days in Miami were a good reset: sun, beach, and just enough stimulating weirdness. Manatee zones in the canals. Robot delivery carts. A Kosher Landshark driving a convertible?!? Epic sunsets.



If I was going to write a May report, it would be a light travel piece. Make the theme  y with a “Cliff Clavin at the bar” 🍷 🍹 vibe, overexplaining how Florida’s transportation network is different to friends who didn’t ask.

But then the World Cup kept showing up. It started at the airport: World Cup 2026 gear everywhere. Then a FIFA store in Florida. Then a traffic warning tied to the opening match at Miami’s new stadium: get to the airport early or risk missing your flight because of the opening match at the stadium next to the airport. And that was the moment.

Not dramatic. Not heroic. More like - ~~getting summoned to track down replicants;~~

~~being handed a mysterious diary in the mail;~~

~~being pulled out of a cantina by a farmboy, Jedi, a bounty hunter, and a looming squad of stormtroopers;~~

~~being pulled into a late-night bar conversation, tequila already on the table, by someone in a black dress who’s determined this merger is happening.~~



Actually, none of those.... Because no matter what the setup is, it always ends the same way: Harrison Ford sighs, looks mildly annoyed, and realizes he’s doing the job anyway.

That was this.

So instead of a break, this became a World Cup 🌐 🌐 🏆 issue.

At first it was the fun stuff: brackets, matchups, predictions. But then the headlines started coming in. Ticket prices climbing. Transportation routes restricted. Parking prevented. Penn Station shutdowns. Higher taxes. Calls for more short-term rentals. Airlines cutting flights and raising prices due to higher fuel costs. MetLife giving up its name in favor of the generic “NY-NJ Stadium.” **And then the number that pulled everything together: \$150.** The announced cost of a round-trip NJ Transit ride to the Meadowlands during the tournament.

That number opened the door to bigger things: what it actually costs to run the system, why the New York region experience looks so different from Philadelphia’s, and who ends up paying when a global event lands on a local network.

So here we are. A global event, viewed through a very local lens.

As the line goes: *think globally, act locally.* This is one of those moments where the two collide: on tracks, platforms, and crowded trains heading out to East Rutherford from June 11 through July 19.





Let’s take a closer look at what it really takes - and costs - to get there.



A Tournament Preview

See [what national teams have the best chances per ESPN](#) and [the NYT's Athletic](#) [Make your picks](#) among the 48 squads.

GROUP A

 Mexico
 South Africa
 South Korea
 Czech Rep.

GROUP B

 Canada
 Bosnia and Herz.
 Qatar
 Switzerland

GROUP C

 Brazil
 Morocco
 Haiti
 Scotland

GROUP D

 United States
 Paraguay
 Australia
 Turkey

GROUP E

 Germany
 Curacao
 Ivory Coast
 Ecuador

GROUP F

 Netherlands
 Japan
 Sweden
 Tunisia

GROUP G

 Belgium
 Egypt
 Iran
 New Zealand

GROUP H

 Spain
 Cape Verde
 Saudi Arabia
 Uruguay

GROUP I

 France
 Senegal
 Iraq
 Norway

GROUP J

 Argentina
 Algeria
 Austria
 Jordan

GROUP K

 Portugal
 D.R. Congo
 Uzbekistan
 Colombia

GROUP L

 England
 Croatia
 Ghana
 Panama

Once the group stage of the World Cup is over, the [knockout bracket](#) is larger than in previous tournaments. Here's how it works.

- 48 teams → 12 groups of 4 assigned during the [group draw](#).
- Top 2 from each group + 8 best third-place teams advance (32 teams total)
- Group winners go to one side of the bracket; runners-up to the other
- Top seeds (Spain, Argentina, France, England) are in separate quadrants and can only meet in the semifinals if they win their groups
- Six playoff spots (4 UEFA, 2 inter-confederation) will be decided in March 2026 and slot into Pot 4 positions
-

Knockout Stage Dates and Fixed Venues

- Round of 32: June 28 – July 3
- Round of 16: July 4 – 7
- Quarterfinals: July 10 – 11
- Semifinals: July 14 (Arlington), July 15 (East Rutherford)
- Third-Place Match: July 18 (Miami)
- Final: July 19, 3:00 PM ET – MetLife Stadium, East Rutherford





THE WORLD IS COMING

Schedule, Spectacle, and Why This Matters

The New York/New Jersey region is not just hosting a few games. It is hosting one of the central stages of the 2026 FIFA World Cup, including the final at New York New Jersey Stadium in East Rutherford.

The official NYNJ schedule includes major group-stage matches and knockout rounds, culminating with the World Cup Final on July 19. The local match list includes Brazil vs. Morocco, France vs. Senegal, Norway vs. Senegal, Ecuador vs. Germany, Panama vs. England, and later knockout matches.

1. NYNJ releases official

World Cup schedule and regional event information

The official host committee site provides the local match schedule, venue information, and tournament framework for New York/New Jersey. This should be the primary source for the match list and dates.

[NYNJ World Cup Schedule](#)

2. MetLife becomes “New York New Jersey Stadium” for the tournament

For FIFA branding purposes, MetLife Stadium gives way to the generic “New York New Jersey Stadium” name during the World Cup. It is a small naming change, but it reinforces how the event temporarily reshapes even familiar regional landmarks.

[Where did the MetLife Stadium logo go?](#)

3. The final is the prize — and the pressure point

The July 19 final places the Meadowlands at the center of the global sports calendar. For local operators, that means the largest match will also be the largest transportation, security, and crowd-management test.

June 13, 2026 6:00 PM ET Brazil v. Morocco

June 16, 2026 3:00 PM ET France v. Senegal

June 22, 2026 8:00 PM ET Norway v. Senegal

June 25, 2026 4:00 PM ET Ecuador v. Germany

June 27, 2026 5:00 PM ET Panama v. England

June 30, 2026 5:00 PM ET ROUND OF 32

June 30, 2026 5:00 PM ET ROUND OF 32

July 5, 2026 4:00 PM ET ROUND OF 16

July 19, 2026 3:00 PM ET FIFA WORLD CUP 26™ FINAL



GETTING THERE IS THE STORY

No Parking, Penn Restrictions, and Work-From-Home Warnings

Fans will not be able to treat MetLife like a normal NFL game. There will be no general spectator parking on stadium property, no ordinary tailgating environment, and no casual assumption that driving is the easy answer. The plan depends on NJ Transit trains, special buses, rideshare, limited premium parking, American Dream, and tightly managed pedestrian routes.

This matters because the effects will not stop at the stadium. Midtown commuters, office tenants, vendors, building staff, visitors, and delivery schedules may all feel the pressure.

1. NYNJ Host Committee and NJ Transit announce regional stadium mobility plan

The official plan is designed to move more than 78,000 spectators per match. It includes no general spectator parking at stadium property, match-ticket-required transportation, \$150 ([now \\$105](#)) round-trip rail tickets, \$80 bus tickets, limited premium parking, and NJ Transit service focused on moving 40,000 match-day riders. [NJ Transit / NYNJ Host Committee Mobility Plan](#)

2. Penn Station access will be restricted before World Cup matches

NJ Transit service from NY Penn Station to Secaucus will be limited to World Cup ticket holders beginning 4-hours before kickoff. Regular commuters will be redirected to PATH, Port Authority buses, and other alternatives. This makes Penn Station itself part of the event-control system. [NJ Transit announces plans to close section of Penn Station for World Cup-bound trains](#) [Riders will get a discount to stay home on gamedays.](#)

Penn Station's chaotic World Cup plan could unleash travel hell on New Jersey commuters

3. Transit officials urge commuters to work from home during World Cup congestion

Officials are openly advising some commuters to avoid traveling into the city during the tournament if possible. That is a significant warning. It means the event is expected to affect normal commuter behavior, not just soccer fans. [Gothamist: Work from home to avoid World Cup commuter chaos](#) [Fox 5: Transit officials urge commuters to work from home during FIFA World Cup](#)

4. Even Parking Becomes Premium Access

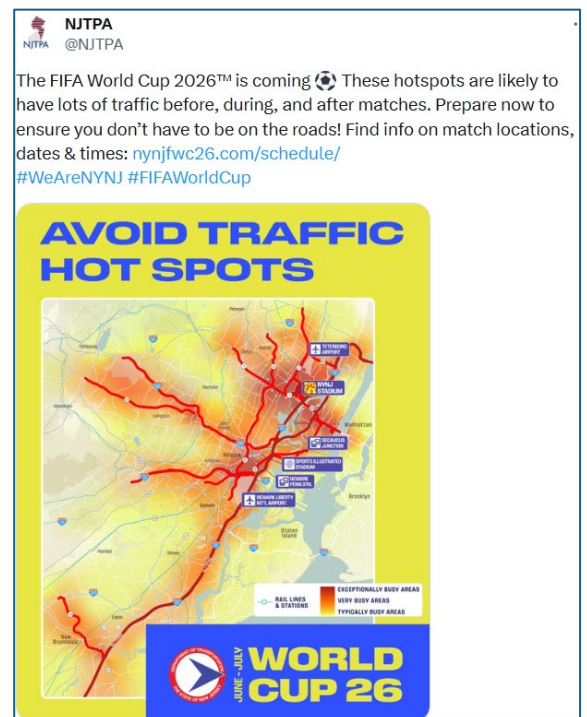
Fans who still want to drive near the Meadowlands may face another form of sticker shock. Parking packages connected to American Dream and premium access areas have reportedly reached roughly \$200 per vehicle during the tournament. Convenience has become a premium product. [No general parking at MetLife Stadium.](#)

5. Fans warned not to walk to MetLife

Social media chatter about walking to the stadium prompted warnings from NJ Transit and officials. This is not a simple "find your own route" event. The access plan is structured, controlled, and designed to prevent unsafe or unmanageable crowd movement. [News12: NJ Transit warns fans not to walk to games](#)

6. Ferries enter the conversation as a possible pressure valve

With rail and buses carrying much of the load, ferry service has been discussed as one possible way to ease regional crowding and offer alternatives. [Transit costs and possible ferry solution](#)



NJTPA @NJTPA

The FIFA World Cup 2026™ is coming 🌐 These hotspots are likely to have lots of traffic before, during, and after matches. Prepare now to ensure you don't have to be on the roads! Find info on match locations, dates & times: nynjfwc26.com/schedule/ #WeAreNYNJ #FIFAWorldCup

AVOID TRAFFIC HOT SPOTS

Map showing hotspots for the World Cup 2026. The map highlights areas with high traffic potential, including the Meadowlands, Penn Station, and the Hudson River. A legend indicates: Blue lines for Rail Lines & Stations; Red areas for Exceptionally Busy Areas; Orange areas for Very Busy Areas; Yellow areas for Typically Busy Areas.


WORLD CUP 26


Property manager takeaway: Match days should be treated like regional disruption days, not just stadium event days. Building teams should watch match timing, Penn Station restrictions, staffing schedules, tenant advisories, vendor access, and delivery windows.




 **\$150 FOR SHORT TRAIN RIDES! BREAKING NEWS - TRAINS NOW MARKED DOWN TO \$105.**

The Math Behind the Fare Shock: The \$150 NJ Transit World Cup ticket is the number that turned this issue from a soccer preview into a transportation report. At first glance, the fare looks outrageous compared with the normal \$12.90 round trip between New York Penn Station and MetLife. But the deeper issue is cost recovery. NJ Transit says the World Cup service requires labor, security, private buses, accelerated train repairs, communication systems, commuter discounts, and parking control well beyond normal event service.

 **Colleen Wilson** @Colleenallreds · 1h ✕
Alt headline: Sherrill drops NJ Transit's World Cup shuttle ticket price with help from donors and no help from FIFA

LINK 
northjersey.com/story/news/tra...

 **Colleen Wilson** @Colleenallreds · 2h
BREAKING: @NJTRANSIT is announcing the new cost of the roundtrip ticket for World Cup will now be \$105, down from the \$150 they announced last month, per Kris Kolluri....

“If NJ Transit had charged the normal \$12.90 during the World Cup, it would have received just eight cents for every dollar it costs to shuttle people on those eight match days.”

The fare may be defensible as math and still painful as public policy. That is the tension.

The economics of NJ Transit’s \$150 World Cup ticket

Colleen Wilson’s April 21 article in North Jersey is the key source for this report. Her later quip about the reduced price is included too. NJ Transit normally recovers only about 25 cents in passenger revenue for every \$1 it costs to run the system. If it charged the normal \$12.90 fare during the World Cup, it would recover only 8 cents per dollar because of special-event costs and displaced commuter revenue. As Colleen Wilson joked, ‘Is the math mathing?’ [on NJ Transit’s \\$150 World Cup ticket?](#)

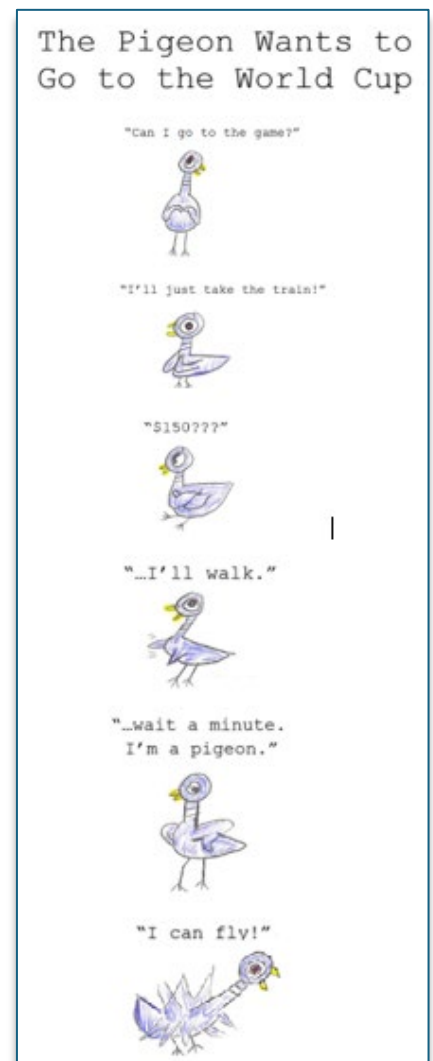
The \$62 million cost breakdown - NJ Transit estimates more than \$62 million in World Cup mobility costs. After a \$10.7 million federal grant and \$3.6 million host committee grant, the net cost is about \$48 million. Divided across 320,000 expected match riders, the math comes to roughly \$150 per rider.

What is inside the cost estimate? The cost categories include roughly \$20 million for labor, \$12.74 million for accelerated train parts and air-conditioning systems, \$12.69 million for private buses, \$10.49 million for safety and security, \$3.6 million for commuter cross-honoring and discounts, \$2 million for signs and communications, and \$760,000 for Secaucus parking control.

Schumer calls for FIFA to cover transportation costs and argues FIFA should absorb more of the transportation cost rather than leaving fans, commuters, or taxpayers with the bill. The politics matter, but the bigger issue is structural: who pays when a private global event depends on public infrastructure? [Schumer says FIFA should cover cost of getting fans to World Cup](#)

NJ Transit pricing becomes a regional flashpoint - Multiple outlets covered backlash to the fare, but the strongest version of the story is not simply outrage. It is the conflict between extraordinary event costs, public subsidy, and the expectation that transit should remain affordable. [\\$150 NJ Transit tickets confirmed](#)

Even if the fare is reduced to \$105 (at time of publication) by a sponsor’s subsidy, the high fare is not just a ticket price. It is a window into how much the region normally subsidizes movement - and what happens when an extraordinary event is priced closer to its actual operating cost.



📑 Taxes, Subsidies, and Who Pays

The \$100+ NJ Transit fare is not the only proposed way to recover World Cup costs. New Jersey lawmakers have also considered temporary taxes and surcharges tied to the tournament, including higher sales taxes, hotel-related charges, transportation fees, and a tax on World Cup sports betting near the Meadowlands. Supporters frame the ideas as ways to make tourism activity help pay for hosting costs. Critics warn that the taxes could spill over onto local residents, workers, and businesses, not just visiting fans. [New Jersey lawmakers propose sales tax for World Cup](#) [Governor backs sales tax hike during World Cup matches](#) [9.6% World Cup sales tax hike proposed for NJ](#)
Bottom line: The World Cup cost debate is not limited to train fares. New Jersey is also testing whether hotels, gamblers, transportation users, shoppers, and local businesses should help absorb hosting costs.



World Cup 2026: FIFA resale site selling final tickets for staggering £1.7m

🚩 THE WORLD'S GAME, PREMIUM PRICED

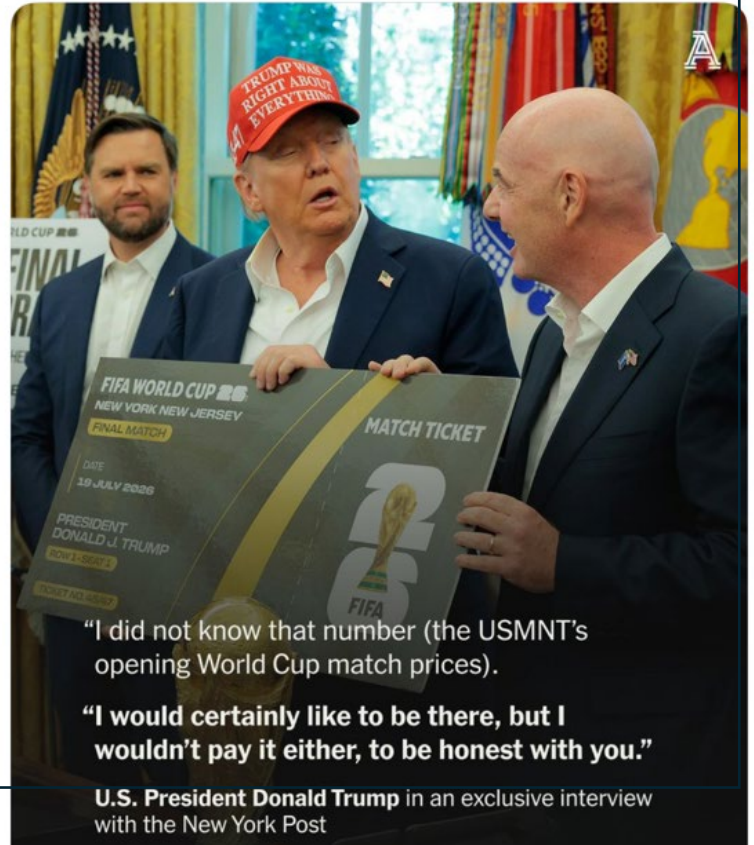
Ticket Shock, Dynamic Pricing, and the Cost of Access

The \$150 train fare is only one part of the World Cup cost story. Fans are also confronting extremely expensive match tickets, shifting pricing structures, staggered seat releases, hospitality-heavy sales strategies, confusing ticket categories, and dynamic pricing systems that increasingly resemble airline tickets or major concert tours. For many supporters, especially international fans traveling long distances, the issue is no longer simply getting to the stadium. It is whether attending the tournament at all remains financially realistic. The World Cup is marketed as the world's game. But for many fans, access increasingly feels like a premium product.

1. 🎟️ **Ticket prices for major matches have reached staggering levels** Prices for high-demand matches, especially the semifinals and final, have shocked many fans. ([FIFA tripled the price to \\$32,970 for its best available tickets to the World Cup final.](#)) Hospitality packages and premium seating for the final have climbed into the thousands and, in some cases, tens of thousands of dollars. Even ordinary seats for early-round matches have remained expensive compared with previous tournaments, and many fans expected prices to fall closer to match dates. Instead, many matches still carry premium pricing months after release. [Fans shocked by FIFA World Cup ticket prices](#) [Expensive tickets for early World Cup games still on sale](#) [Argentiniens stunned by World Cup ticket costs](#)
2. 🎯 **Dynamic pricing turns the World Cup into a moving target** FIFA's use of dynamic pricing has generated widespread criticism. Fans describe the process as unpredictable, stressful, and increasingly similar to airline or concert pricing models. The result is not just higher prices. It is uncertainty. Supporters often do not know whether to buy immediately, wait for another release, or hope prices fall later. [FIFA dynamic pricing for World Cup tickets](#) [Is dynamic pricing ruining the World Cup?](#)
3. 🚩 **Fans complain about shifting seat releases and confusing categories** Many supporters have expressed frustration that FIFA continues releasing additional inventory in waves, sometimes with changing seating classifications or different pricing structures. Some buyers believe seats were initially mislabeled or repositioned into higher-priced categories later in the process. Others describe the sales process itself as exhausting: repeated lotteries, queue systems, changing inventory, and uncertainty over whether better seats or lower prices may appear later. [FIFA website and late ticket releases frustrate fans](#) [World Cup ticket prices frustrate fans](#)



**Even The Winner Of The FIFA Peace Prize
Thinks Tickets Are Too Expensive**



4. 🇺🇸 **Hospitality packages increasingly dominate premium inventory** FIFA’s hospitality offerings continue pushing the tournament toward premium-tier experiences aimed at corporations, luxury travelers, and affluent visitors. Critics argue that large portions of desirable seating inventory are increasingly routed toward hospitality packages instead of ordinary fans. [FIFA Hospitality](#) [FIFA president defends high ticket prices](#)
5. 🌐 **FIFA defends pricing as part of the “special U.S. market”** FIFA President Gianni Infantino has defended the pricing structure by describing the United States as a “very special market” with strong demand and high commercial potential. That explanation has not reassured many supporters, particularly fans traveling internationally from countries where the overall cost of attending the tournament may exceed several months of wages. [FIFA president defends World Cup prices](#) [Ticket prices shock Argentine fans](#)
6. ⚠️ **Ticketing problems become part of the infrastructure story** Fans also reported problems with FIFA’s ticketing website, including queue failures, crashes, inventory confusion, and difficulty completing purchases. For an event this large, ticketing itself becomes infrastructure. If the process feels confusing, expensive, or unreliable, frustration begins before fans ever reach the station. [FIFA World Cup ticket website problems disrupt sales](#)

HOW IMPORTANT IS THE WORLD CUP TO SOME PEOPLE?

A man takes his seat at the World Cup final. He looks over and notices there's an extra seat in between himself and the next guy.

The man says, "Who would ever miss the World Cup final?"

The guy replies, "Well that was my wife’s seat. We have been to the last five World Cup finals together, but sadly she passed away."

The man says back, "That’s terrible, but couldn’t you get another close family member to come with you?"

The guy says, "No. They're all at the funeral."



PHILADELPHIA, BOSTON, AND THE GEOGRAPHY OF ACCESS

Stadium Location Is Destiny

The World Cup commute looks very different depending on where the stadium sits.

Philadelphia has a cleaner model than elsewhere. Lincoln Financial Field is part of the South Philadelphia Sports Complex and is served directly by SEPTA's Broad Street Line. Fans can use NRG Station, and Airbnb is sponsoring free rides home after matches. Philadelphia has crowd-management issues, but its geometry is easier. Boston is more like NY/NJ. Gillette Stadium is suburban, special event service is required, and transportation rules have been controversial. The initial no-tailgating rule at Gillette drew backlash before FIFA reportedly reversed course. Boston shows that other suburban stadiums have problems too.



1. Philadelphia offers free post-match SEPTA rides through Airbnb partnership

Philadelphia Soccer 2026 and Airbnb announced free rides home on SEPTA's Broad Street Line after World Cup matches. Regular inbound fares still apply, but the stadium's direct subway access makes the model much simpler than NY/NJ's Penn–Secaucus–Meadowlands chain. [Airbnb: Free SEPTA rides home during World Cup](#)

2. Philadelphia's stadium transit advantage

The Broad Street Line serves NRG Station at the South Philadelphia Sports Complex. That direct transit connection is the infrastructure advantage. Free rides help, but the location makes them possible. [Free SEPTA rides during World Cup](#)

3. Boston faces suburban-stadium transportation problems

Boston's World Cup plan faces some of the same structural challenges as NY/NJ: a suburban stadium, special event transit, parking constraints, and crowd movement far from the urban core. [Getting to Boston World Cup games](#)

4. Gillette tailgating controversy shows how World Cup rules collide with local habits

Initial reports said tailgating would not be allowed at Gillette Stadium, prompting backlash in a market where tailgating is part of the local stadium culture. Later reports said FIFA reversed course. [No tailgating at Gillette Stadium](#) [Bleacher Report/AP: FIFA reversal on Gillette tailgating](#)

5. Boston: Scottish fans workaround restrictions and rent school buses to reach Gillette Stadium

A group of Scotland supporters arranged private school buses from Providence to Foxborough as a cheaper alternative to official World Cup transportation. The story is funny, but it also reinforces the larger point: suburban stadiums create access problems that fans will try to solve themselves. [Scottish soccer fans aim to skirt World Cup train costs by hiring fleet of school buses](#)

Bottom line: Philadelphia shows what happens when a stadium is wired into an urban transit spine. Boston and NY/NJ show what happens when a World Cup crowd has to be moved to a suburban stadium through special-event systems. Boston is also a preview of what happens when fans see official transportation as too expensive, too limited, or too inconvenient.



What do you call an American in the World Cup Final?

The ref.





🏠 THE STADIUM THAT WASN'T

Hudson Yards, the West Side Stadium, and the Road Not Taken

New York once had a different stadium future on the table. The proposed West Side Stadium would have been built over the rail yards where Hudson Yards now stands, tied to NYC's 2012 Olympic bid. It was opposed by Cablevision and Madison Square Garden interests, who did not want a competing venue nearby. [Public enthusiasm for the Olympic bid was weak, and opposition grew as costs and disruption became clearer.](#) The plan died, and New York's mega-event stadium future remained across the Hudson in the Meadowlands.

This decision still shapes regional mobility today - especially visible in the logistical gymnastics required for the 2026 World Cup at MetLife Stadium. A Manhattan stadium would have created its own problems, but it would have sat inside the city's transit network. Instead, the region is now facing the consequences and is managing a suburban stadium event through Penn Station, Secaucus, buses, special fares, and commuter diversions. [Remnants of NYC Olympics](#) and [Roof-less rap for Cablevision boss.](#)

To Put It In [West Side Story](#) Terms, The Sharks 🗣️ Beat The Jets 🏈.



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THE SPECTACLE ARRIVES

From “Olé, Olé, Olé” to Opening Ceremonies in Every Host Nation

Somewhere between [Ricky Martin shouting “Olé, olé, olé... ale, ale, ale” during the 1998 World Cup](#) and [Shakira and Burna Boy teasing another official anthem for 2026](#), the tournament became something bigger than sports. The World Cup now arrives with opening ceremonies, celebrity performances, fan festivals, sponsorship activations, drone planning, transportation alerts, global broadcasts, and enough security meetings to make a soccer ball need a credentials badge.

[FIFA is planning opening ceremonies](#) before the first matches hosted by each host nation this summer. Performers tied to the festivities reportedly include Canadian artists **Michael Bublé, Alanis Morissette, and Alessia Cara**, along with **Katy Perry, Future**, Los Angeles-based **DJ Sanjoy**, and **Lisa** of Blackpink fame.

The scale increasingly resembles the Olympics or the Super Bowl stretched across an entire continent.

That is a long way from the days when American soccer mostly meant youth leagues, orange slices, the occasional Cosmos memory, and everybody pretending they understood offsides.

The World Cup is also one of the few events that can still make people from different countries, languages, neighborhoods, and political viewpoints stand in the same place, wear absurd hats, argue over flags, sing the same chants, and collectively lose their minds over a ball crossing a line.

That kind of shared experience feels rarer than it used to, despite, or maybe because of, all the extra stresses.

And finding joy in that, even amid all the stress, is a worthwhile **GOOOOAAAALLL** if I ever saw one.



✈️ WILL THE WORLD ACTUALLY COME?

Tourism, Hotels, Flights, Visas, and Travel Friction

The World Cup assumes international demand. But demand is not automatic.

Several articles suggest a more complicated picture: hotel demand is softer than expected, some international travelers are reconsidering U.S. trips, air travel costs may rise with fuel prices, and visa or screening concerns may discourage fans who would otherwise come.

This matters to property managers because tourism affects hotels, restaurants, retail, staffing, airports, public space, and security planning.

1. **Some travelers are rethinking trips to the U.S.: Tourism faces a potential “Trump slump”**

Some international travelers are reconsidering U.S. visits amid political uncertainty, airport concerns, border anxiety, and changing sentiment toward travel to America vs the anticipated World Cup tourist boom. [Why some travelers are rethinking trips to the US](#) [US tourism and the Trump slump](#)

2. **Travel restrictions and social media screening may deter soccer fans**

Travel restrictions, proposed social media searches, and expensive tickets may discourage some international soccer fans from coming to the U.S. [World Cup, U.S. travel, tourism, and soccer fans](#)

3. **Hotel demand is tracking below forecasts in many host markets**

Many hotels are seeing World Cup bookings below expectations. That challenges early assumptions that every host city would automatically see a major tourism windfall. The average summer game-day hotel room rate in New York City fell 24% between Dec. 28 and April 12. So far it's a non-event, but this may change closer to match dates, [World Cup hotel bookings tracking below forecasts](#) [NYC hoteliers are world-class worried over sluggish World Cup bookings](#) [Hotels and World Cup demand](#)

4. **Jet fuel costs may affect international travel and short-term rental demand**

Rising jet fuel costs could increase airfares and reduce long-haul travel demand, especially for price-sensitive international fans. This is not just an airline story; it affects tourism, lodging, and local spending.

[Jet fuel costs and World Cup travel](#)

Bottom line: The World Cup assumes the world will come. High costs, visas, screening, politics, airfare, and hotel softness may determine how many actually do.

🇺🇸 THE EVENT SPREADS ACROSS THE REGION

Fan Zones, Practice Sites, Watch Parties, Friendly Games, and Spillover Crowds

World Cup activity will take place regionwide. That creates opportunity for restaurants, hotels, retail, and downtowns, but also crowd-management and staffing considerations.

1. **Unveiling of the Team USA Squad at the South Street Seaport on May 26! [Register to Attend Here!](#)**



2. **Practice sites across New Jersey announced**

World Cup practice sites in New Jersey will bring teams and tournament activity into communities beyond the stadium. This expands the footprint of the event and creates local opportunities for visibility, visitors, and logistics. [FIFA World Cup practice sites in NJ announced](#)

3. **NYC to host free World Cup watch parties in every borough** featuring live match viewings, local food, and cultural programming. [Hoboken plans 12 days of](#)



World Cup block parties Hoboken businesses are planning a series of block parties tied to the tournament. This is a good example of how the event becomes a local business and public-space story, not just a stadium story.

4. **American Dream Mall World Cup fan festival and watch parties** American Dream is expected to play a major role in Meadowlands-area fan activity, with watch parties and tournament events. This matters because American Dream also sits near the stadium access system.
5. **NYC bars could stay open later and host outdoor watch parties** New York City is considering extended bar hours and expanded outdoor viewing options. That means the tournament footprint could stretch across commercial districts even on days when matches are in New Jersey or elsewhere.
6.  **Ninth Avenue expands pedestrian space ahead of World Cup crowds** New York City is redesigning portions of Ninth Avenue with wider sidewalks, pedestrian improvements, bus-priority features, landscaping, and upgraded public space ahead of the World Cup and other major 2026 events. The changes reflect a larger expectation that Midtown streets will absorb significant foot traffic during the tournament. The project also reinforces a broader trend visible throughout the World Cup preparations: moving more people through public space while relying less on private vehicles.
7.  **MTA plans extra subway, commuter rail, and bus service during the tournament** The MTA has begun outlining plans for expanded subway, commuter rail, and bus operations during the World Cup period. Officials expect unusual travel patterns, heavier evening demand, increased airport traffic, and pressure around Penn Station and Midtown transit hubs. While NJ Transit is shouldering the last leg, some of the tournament's transportation burden still falls on New York City's transit network.
8. **Local businesses prepare for World Cup opportunity** New Jersey business groups are encouraging local businesses to prepare for World Cup visitors and event-related spending. This is the upside of the story: crowds can also become customers. [How local businesses can benefit from the World Cup](#)
9. **Community initiative grants open for World Cup-related projects** New Jersey's World Cup community grant efforts show the state trying to spread benefits beyond the stadium itself. [World Cup community initiative grants](#)

Other Ways To Watch Your Favorite Teams In Person.

A number of cities will be hosting pre-World Cup friendlies, which aren't World Cup games obviously but still provide an opportunity for people to go watch high-level international soccer.

[There are games at the Sports Illustrated Stadium in Harrison NJ on May 30, June 4, June 6 and June 7.](#)

[Get your tickets here!](#)

 <p>INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY SATURDAY, MAY 30, 2026 - 7:30 PM ET ECUADOR VS SAUDI ARABIA BUY TICKETS</p>	 <p>INTERNATIONAL FRIENDLY THURSDAY, JUNE 4, 2026 - 8:00 PM ET CZECH REPUBLIC VS. GUATEMALA BUY TICKETS</p>
 <p>ROAD TO 26 JUNE 6 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED STADIUM HARRISON, NJ - 8:00 PM ET ROADto26 SATURDAY, JUNE 6, 2026 - 8:00 PM ET BOLIVIA VS SCOTLAND BUY TICKETS MORE INFO</p>	 <p>ROAD TO 26 JUNE 7 SPORTS ILLUSTRATED STADIUM HARRISON, NJ - 8:00 PM ET ROADto26 SUNDAY, JUNE 7, 2026 - 8:00 PM ET MOROCCO VS NORWAY BUY TICKETS MORE INFO</p>

Bottom line: The World Cup will not stay inside the stadium. It will reshape streets, transit patterns, business hours, public spaces, bars, malls, parks, practice sites, and commercial districts across the region.



⚠ ENHANCED INFRASTRUCTURE NEEDS:

Security, Health, Drones, Counterfeits, Bathrooms, and Maps

Transportation is only one part of preparation. Large events require security systems, hospital readiness, emergency communication, crowd information, counterfeit enforcement, and public-space planning. For property managers, this matters because crowds move through districts, not just stadium gates.

1. NYPD trains for drone threats ahead of World Cup and America’s 250th

Police are preparing for drone-related risks during a period that includes the World Cup, the Sept. 11 anniversary, and America’s 250th anniversary events. [NYPD drone training ahead of World Cup](#)

2. Hospitals in NYC and NJ prepare for World Cup health issues

Hospitals are preparing for potential medical surges tied to heat, crowds, alcohol, travel, and emergency response. This is part of the tournament’s hidden infrastructure. [NYC/NJ hospitals prepare for FIFA games](#)

3. Counterfeit tickets and jerseys draw enforcement warnings

Federal officials are warning fans about counterfeit World Cup merchandise and tickets. This affects visitors, retailers, and event security. [ICE warns fans about counterfeit FIFA jerseys and tickets](#)

4. Council bills push for bathrooms and maps ahead of World Cup

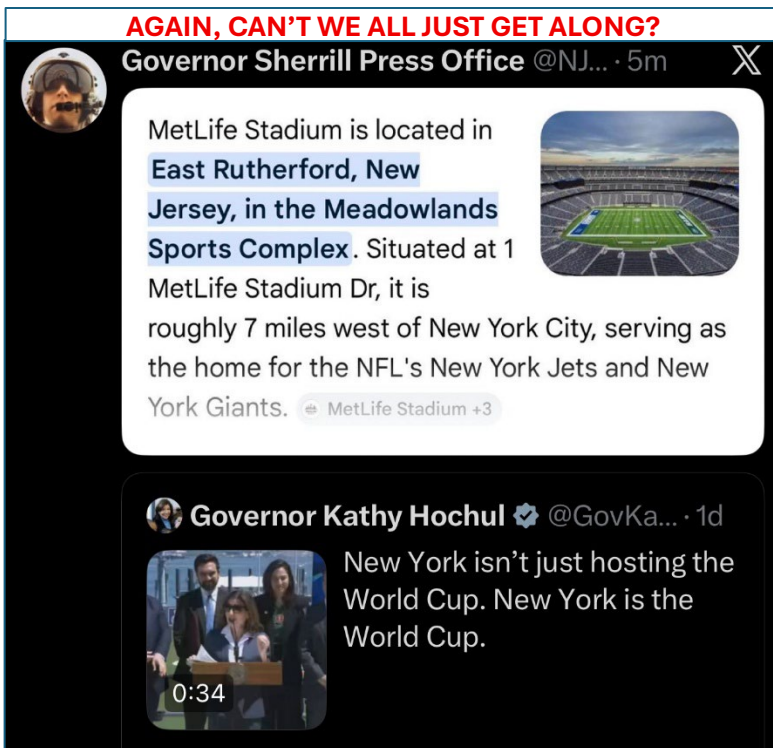
New York City lawmakers are considering bills related to public bathrooms, maps, and visitor information ahead of the tournament. These may seem small, but they matter when crowds are unfamiliar with the city. [City & State NY: Bathrooms and maps ahead of World Cup](#)

5. NYPD prepares for World Cup, America250, and Times Square crowds

Major events are stacking up in 2026, and security agencies are preparing for overlapping crowd and public-safety challenges. [NYPD prepares for World Cup and America250](#)

6. All Sponsor Signs Removed and New Grass Added to MetLife Stadium. [The pitch is all set at New York/New Jersey Stadium for the World Cup.](#)

Bottom line: The World Cup requires more than transportation planning. It requires public safety, public health, public information, and public patience.



The Garden State has already thrown more than \$307 million in taxpayer dollars at the five-week tournament to provide a loan for the host committee, prepare the field and stadium area to FIFA specifications, and build a temporary bus terminal and pedestrian bridge — and has received no aid from New York City, the region's host partner with New Jersey.



📰 WHAT ELSE HAPPENED THIS MONTH?

This is a World Cup issue, but our regular transportation beat goes on. Other Transportation News Worth Noting:

1. Gasoline prices surge nearly 50% as Iran conflict disrupts global fuel markets

Gasoline prices climbed sharply nationwide as the Iran conflict and disruption in the Strait of Hormuz pushed up crude oil and refined fuel costs. The increase is affecting commuting, freight, deliveries, tourism, and household transportation budgets throughout the NY/NJ region. [PBS](#)



2. Jet fuel increases pressure airlines, fares, and international routes

Airlines are facing higher operating costs as jet fuel prices rise, with Delta warning that fuel prices doubled in a month and some costs may be passed to travelers. The fuel crunch is threatening summer flights and route reliability. [Bloomberg](#) [Bloomberg](#)

3. Spirit Airlines collapse reshapes low-cost air travel market

Spirit Airlines' shutdown removes one of the country's largest ultra-low-cost carriers from the market, potentially reducing fare competition on leisure routes heavily used by NY/NJ travelers. The collapse highlights the pressure fuel volatility and debt are placing on budget airlines. [OPB](#)

4. Newark and JFK incidents renew scrutiny of aviation system strain

Recent crashes, close calls, delays, and operational disruptions at Newark and JFK reinforced concerns about runway safety, staffing, air traffic complexity, and aviation capacity in the nation's busiest air corridor. [AP](#)

5. Tariff uncertainty and Chinese EV competition reshape transportation markets

A federal trade court ruling against Trump's 10% global tariff added uncertainty to transportation manufacturing, auto pricing, supply chains, and vehicle imports. Ford and other automakers continue warning about pressure from lower-cost Chinese EV competition. [Reuters](#) [Axios](#)

6. MTA prepares to fund the Interborough Express without relying on federal dollars

The MTA is exploring ways to advance the Interborough Express light rail project without depending on federal funding, reflecting concern that federal transportation money may become unreliable or politically vulnerable. [Streetsblog NYC](#) [MTA](#)

7. Congestion pricing appeal remains unsettled as federal case continues

The Trump administration appealed a federal ruling that allowed New York's congestion pricing program to remain in place. The continuing legal uncertainty affects transit funding assumptions, commuter planning, and Manhattan access costs. NJ may settle. [CBS NJ.com](#)

8. Gateway Tunnel project advances with major Hudson River tunnel contract The Gateway Development Commission awarded a \$1.29 billion contract for the Hudson River tunnel portion of the project, one of the country's most important rail infrastructure investments. [Gateway Program](#)

9. Potential LIRR and subway labor disputes raise commuter concerns The MTA faces tense labor negotiations involving both Long Island Rail Road unions and NYC subway and bus workers. A strike or major service disruption would directly affect regional commuting patterns and operating costs. [Bloomberg](#) [1010 WINS](#)

10. PATH fare increase takes effect as system expands service and upgrades infrastructure PATH fares increased from \$3.00 to \$3.25 in May as the Port Authority moved forward with a broader modernization and



service-expansion program. The increase will help fund infrastructure upgrades, expanded seven-day service, and station modernization work. [FOX5 NY](#)

11. NJ Transit receives first new Multilevel III rail car NJ Transit received the first of 374 new Multilevel III rail cars as part of a fleet modernization program designed to improve reliability, increase capacity, and upgrade the rider experience. [NJ Transit](#)

12. Upper West Side 72nd Street redesign sparks debate over bikes, buses, and traffic

NYC DOT proposed a two-way protected bike lane along 72nd Street connecting the Hudson River Greenway, Central Park, and the East Side Greenway. The proposal includes pedestrian upgrades and bus improvements but would reduce vehicle lanes. [NY1](#)

13. Grand Army Plaza redesign would expand pedestrian and cyclist space New York City proposed a major redesign of Brooklyn's Grand Army Plaza to improve pedestrian access, bike connectivity, bus movement, and public space near Prospect Park. [Streetsblog NYC](#)

14. E-bike speed limits and enforcement remain part of the city mobility debate

New York City's 15 mph speed limit for e-bikes and e-scooters continues shaping debate over pedestrian safety, delivery work, enforcement, and crowded street use. [New York Post](#)

15. "Super speeder" crackdown would require speed limiters for repeat offenders

New York is moving toward requiring intelligent speed-assistance devices for drivers with repeated speed-camera violations as part of a broader push toward technology-based road safety enforcement. [New York Post](#)

16. Park Avenue redesign proposal would turn roadway space into pedestrian space

NYC DOT released concepts for redesigning part of Park Avenue with expanded medians, greenery, benches, crossings, and wider sidewalks, reflecting the city's continued move toward pedestrian-focused streetscape redesign. [New York Post](#)

NOT TO DRONE ON.....

Drone delivery testing expands in New

Jersey with commercial food-delivery pilots in Somerset and Morris counties, The projects are testing how drone technology could eventually support last-mile logistics and consumer delivery systems. [NJ.com](#)
[News 12 New Jersey](#)

Port Authority launches cargo drone trial flights between Lower Manhattan and The

Brooklyn Marine Terminal The flights will test whether drones can support freight movement, medical deliveries, and regional logistics while reducing truck congestion.

[News 12](#)



Joby conducts electric air taxi demonstration flights in New York City Joby Aviation conducted electric air taxi demonstration flights involving JFK and Manhattan heliports with the aim to offer personal helicopter flights for a competitive price. [New York Post](#)



AND FINALLY, A LOST TALE ABOUT ROSCOE'S FAVORITE ACTION HERO....

INDIANA JONES AND THE SWISS TRANSFER

Summer, 1954. Switzerland. As Europe hosts the World Cup for the first time since the war, trains run full, borders stay open, and cities strain under the weight of a continent on the move. Dr. Indiana Jones isn't there for "football." He's there at the quiet request of an insurance firm underwriting the tournament, after something small and extremely important goes missing: the Jules Rimet Trophy.



Not stolen. Not seized. Not even officially lost.

Just... somewhere in the system.

By the time Jones arrives, everything looks fine on paper.

The trophy has been logged, transferred, documented.

Railcars signed. Shipments cleared. Every step accounted for. And yet, it isn't where it's supposed to be.

A Swiss rail scheduler helps Indy trace the movement, someone who knows the system well enough not to fully trust it under this kind of

strain. A FIFA logistics official insists everything is under control.

Both are right, in their own way.

Jones follows the trail the only way you can when everything is technically correct.

A crate 📦 logged in Zürich. A transfer 🚦 in Bern. A railcar 🚂 unloaded in Basel.

The route, later sketched out in a neat red line across a worn map, makes perfect sense. Together, the steps don't. There's no theft to uncover. No rival to chase. Just volume.

Too many people. Too many movements. Too many assumptions that someone else has already checked.

The breakthrough isn't a clue, it's a gap. A transfer that should have been verified... wasn't. A delay that should have been flagged... wasn't. The system didn't fail. It did exactly what it was designed to do.

He finds the trophy in a freight office, properly tagged, correctly logged, waiting for a pickup that had already been rerouted. Not lost. Just absorbed.

Jones doesn't report it. He carries it himself, one train, one transfer, no assumptions, and by the time the final kicks off, it's back where it belongs. The crowd never knows.

No one asks how close it came to not being there at all.

On his way out, one wrong turn sends him sliding down a narrow, darkened sled path carved into the hillside. He steadies himself quickly. No avalanche. No chase. Just a reminder that even here, where everything is supposed to run on time, things can still slip. He makes one last stop at a small alpine station bar. **Tissot**, the St. Bernard who quietly guided him through the rail schedules joins him for a drink.

A quiet finish. A job done.

Jones had spent most of his life chasing things that were taken, stolen, or hidden, and usually losing them along the way.

This was different. Everything worked exactly the way it was supposed to. That was the problem.

Coming Soon:

INDIANA JONES AND THE SESQUICENTENNIAL SECRET

...Summer 1926. United States.



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