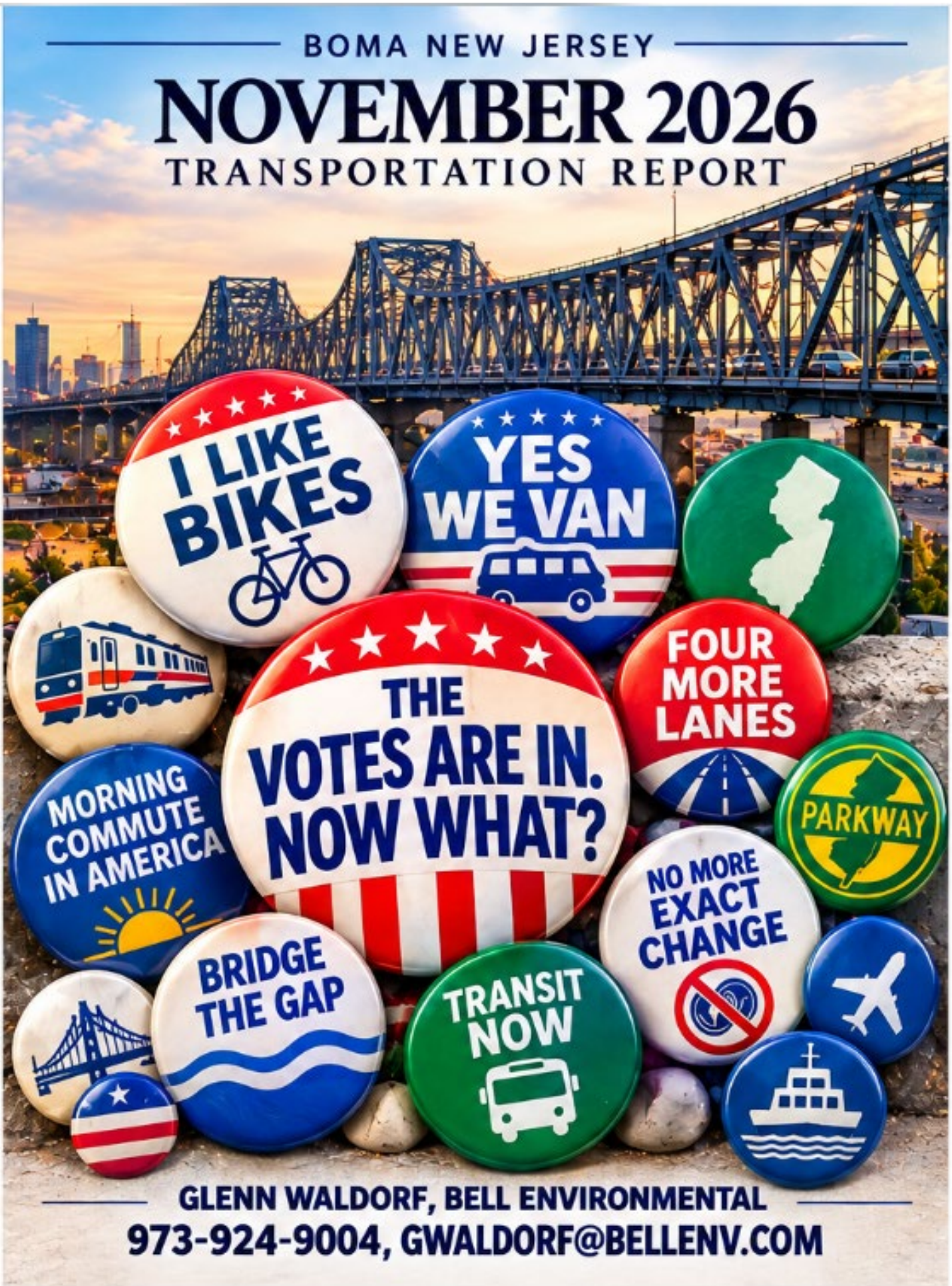
BOMA NEW JERSEY

NOVEMBER 2026

TRANSPORTATION REPORT



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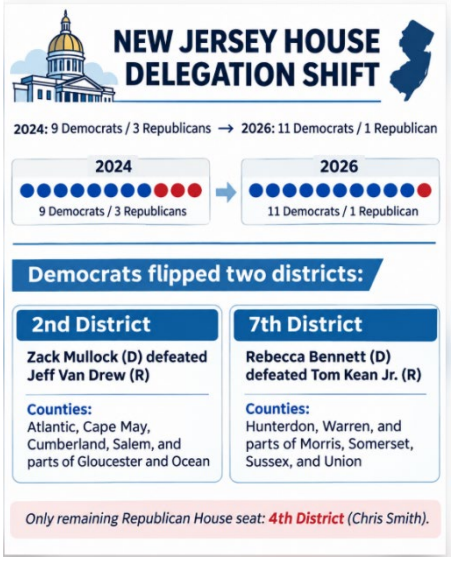
THE VOTES ARE IN. NOW WHAT?

THE CAMPAIGN ENDS. THE COMMUTE CONTINUES.

We're touching the third rail: politics in a transportation newsletter. Don't worry. We'll be careful. The candidates elected will help determine what commuting costs, how reliably the system works and which improvements actually get built. For the next two years, expect cooperation, confrontation and the familiar muddle.

The results and the regional stakes - Democrats will control both chambers of Congress. As of November 8, they won more than 250 House seats and at least 54 Senate seats, with Alaska and Mississippi unresolved. In New Jersey, Democrats flipped two House seats, leaving just one Republican in the delegation. Senator Cory Booker was reelected.

Two New Yorkers are positioned to lead Congress: Hakeem Jeffries is in line to become the first Black speaker and Chuck Schumer returning as Senate majority leader. That could give our region considerable influence over transportation funding and policy. But influence isn't a construction contract. Democrats still have to hold together a broad caucus, find Republican partners when needed, and deal with the president.



The first signals - Trump accepted the results, but his early governing signals point toward confrontation. He posted a red "VETO" hat and named Stephen Miller as his next chief of staff. Reuters reported before the election that the White House was preparing possible executive actions involving tariffs, immigration and spending. Schumer is proposing action on tariffs and energy costs and expects some Republican support. Jeffries says the larger House majority creates opportunities to pass legislation. In an ABC-7 interview, New Jersey 7th District Representative-elect Rebecca Bennett identified Gateway, a one-seat Raritan Valley Line ride to New York, air traffic control modernization and fewer Newark Airport disruptions as priorities for bipartisan work.

What to watch - Federal surface-transportation authority expires December 11, forcing the outgoing Congress to negotiate a longer agreement or another extension. For New Jersey, that reaches directly into Gateway, NJ Transit, cross-Hudson bus service, Newark Airport and the roads and bridges carrying the region's commuters and freight. Costs matter too. Tariffs can raise the price of railcars, buses, construction materials and electrical equipment. Higher borrowing costs can make major capital projects more expensive. War and energy policy affect gasoline, diesel, jet fuel, deliveries and building costs.

Other decisions concern the rulebook and workforce: airline passenger protections, vehicle standards, charging infrastructure, airport screening and air traffic controllers. Congress can fund, legislate and investigate. Agencies still have to deliver. Closer to home, the test is execution. Portal North is nearing completion, Gateway is moving into construction, the Port Authority Bus Terminal rebuild is creating short-term disruption for long-term capacity, and Newark Airport continues to struggle with access and reliability. NJ Transit must keep aging infrastructure running while modernizing around it.

Our accompanying table shows how cooperation, confrontation or muddle could play out across these issues. Gateway's history reminds us that one project can experience all three. The election changed the balance of power. But elections are only part of the transportation system. Money, markets, regulation, engineering, world events and execution will determine what actually gets built, what it costs and whether it works. Roscoe's commute continues.

AFTER THE ELECTION: WHICH WAY DO WE GO?

POSSIBLE TRANSPORTATION OUTCOMES FOR 2027–2028

ISSUES & OUTCOMES	*COOPERATION?*	*CONFRONTATION?*	*THE FAMILIAR MUDDLE*
1. Federal transportation funding - What happens when the current extension expires, and what follows?	A: Congress and the president agree on sustained funding for roads, bridges, transit and rail.	B: Disputes over spending and priorities delay an agreement or reduce support.	C: Short extensions keep programs operating while larger decisions wait.
2. Tariffs and equipment costs - How much will approved transportation budgets actually buy?	A: Bipartisan action or negotiated exemptions ease costs for vehicles and components.	B: The administration maintains or expands tariffs, while Congress challenges them.	C: Agencies seek exemptions, absorb higher prices and adjust purchases case by case.
3. War and fuel prices - What will it cost to commute, deliver goods, fly and heat buildings?	A: Agreements over war policy and funding help reduce conflict and pressure on energy supplies.	B: War and funding disputes continue, prolonging uncertainty and cost pressures.	C: Policy shifts and temporary arrangements leave fuel prices volatile and budgets difficult to plan.
4. Air traffic control and Newark Liberty operations - Can staffing and technology catch up with demand?	A: Sustained funding supports controller training, modern equipment and coordinated upgrades.	B: Budget, staffing or procurement disputes delay improvements.	C: Hiring and upgrades advance, but shortages and disruptions persist during the transition.
5. Airline passenger protections - What assistance should travelers receive when something goes wrong?	A: Congress and the administration agree on clear, enforceable protections.	B: Legislative, regulatory and court battles keep additional requirements contested.	C: Existing rules and differing airline policies leave passengers navigating a patchwork.
6. Electric vehicles and charging - Will vehicles, chargers and electrical capacity arrive together?	A: Agencies, utilities and manufacturers coordinate funding and installation.	B: Funding and policy reversals delay projects and discourage investment.	C: Some locations advance while others wait for power, permits or equipment.
7. International travel and regional business - How will visa and entry policies affect visitors, employers and tourism?	A: Targeted agreements improve processing and address security and business needs.	B: Restrictive policies and disputes create additional barriers to travel.	C: Changing requirements and uneven processing complicate planning for visitors and businesses.
8. Federal grants and accountability -Will awarded money move predictably from announcements to completed work?	A: Clear standards, effective oversight and timely decisions support delivery.	B: Congress and the administration clash over grant conditions, spending authority and document requests.	C: Some awards move forward while others face reviews, delays or litigation.
9. Gateway and cross-Hudson capacity - Will the new political alignment keep Gateway, Portal and Penn moving?	A: Federal, state, Amtrak and NJ Transit coordination keeps funding and construction on schedule.	B: Funding, oversight or responsibility disputes slow work.	C: Major contracts keep moving, but individual pieces encounter delays, cost pressures and political fights.
10. NJ Transit and the daily commute - Will investment translate into more reliable trains, buses and light rail?	A: Capital investment, equipment upgrades and operating improvements produce visibly better service.	B: Funding, labor, equipment or policy disputes interfere with progress.	C: Infrastructure improves project by project while riders still experience disruptions from aging assets and construction.

NOVEMBER'S NEWS YOU CAN USE

🚌 **THE BUS TERMINAL REBUILD HITS THE COMMUTE -** Construction of the new Midtown Bus Terminal is now changing traffic patterns for buses entering and leaving the existing Port Authority terminal. The Port Authority warns of intermittent afternoon departure delays and heavier bus traffic on 39th and 40th Streets and Ninth Avenue. NJ Transit says the multi-year project will continue to affect bus operations as construction advances. For New Jersey commuters, rebuilding the terminal means living with the construction before enjoying the replacement. NJ Transit construction advisory

🚆 **PORTAL NORTH NEARS THE FINISH LINE -** After five weeks of reduced NJ Transit service, the final Portal North Bridge cutover is scheduled to finish November 14, with regular schedules returning November 15, subject to safety testing. The work moves the final active track from the 116-year-old Portal Bridge onto the new fixed span. This is the other side of the construction story: substantial short-term inconvenience to finally eliminate one of the Northeast Corridor's most notorious bottlenecks. NJ Transit

🌉 **ANOTHER OLD DRAWBRIDGE REMINDS US WHY PORTAL MATTERS -** Just as the 116-year-old Portal Bridge approaches retirement, another aging movable bridge demonstrated the problem. The Newark Drawbridge became stuck upright during the November 5 evening rush, suspending service between Newark Broad Street and Hoboken on the Morris & Essex, Gladstone and Montclair-Boonton lines. Limited service returned that night, but some disruptions continued into Friday. Sometimes the strongest argument for new infrastructure is the old infrastructure. CBS New York

🏢 **NJ TRANSIT GETS INTO THE REAL-ESTATE BUSINESS -** NJ Transit is advancing transit-oriented development projects in Jersey City, Bound Brook and Morristown that are projected to produce more than 1,000 homes, including affordable and workforce housing. The projects include development near Liberty State Park Light Rail, 218 apartments and retail at Bound Brook Station, and parcels adjacent to the Morristown train station. For BOMA readers, this is the other side of transportation investment: stations do not just move people, they can reshape the real estate around them. NJ Transit TOD announcement

🚋 **HUDSON-BERGEN LIGHT RAIL: $65.6 MILLION MORE FOR CAPITAL WORK -** NJ Transit's November 12 board agenda includes authorization for up to $65.6 million in additional Hudson-Bergen Light Rail capital improvements. The investment comes as the system faces growing maintenance and accessibility needs while continuing to serve one of New Jersey's fastest-growing urban corridors. NJ Transit Board agenda

✈️ **BUILDING THE NEW AIRTRAIN MEANS TAKING A BUS -** Through November 13, AirTrain Newark is not serving the airport rail station on weekdays from 5 a.m. to 3 p.m. while work proceeds on the replacement AirTrain. Travelers connecting between NJ Transit or Amtrak and the terminals must use free shuttle buses and are advised to allow an extra 10 to 15 minutes. Sometimes the path to a better train involves a bus.
Newark Airport AirTrain advisory

🚉 **PENN STATION: A NEW ENTRANCE, ANOTHER NEGOTIATION -** Amtrak's Penn Station concept would require purchasing and demolishing Madison Square Garden's roughly 5,600-seat Infosys Theater to create a major Eighth Avenue entrance. MSG executives say proceeds from a sale could be reinvested in another entertainment venue, potentially in New York City. With Amtrak seeking substantial federal support for the station redevelopment, the theater adds another financial and political wrinkle to an already complicated project. Gothamist



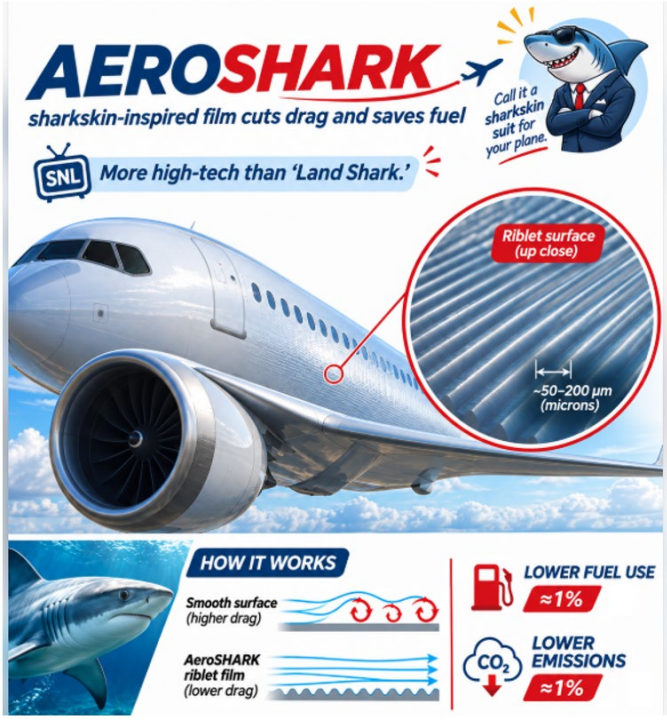
🚍 **ONE BLOCK, MILES OF TRAFFIC -** An intrepid NJ reporter, Colleen Wilson, traced weeks of miserable Lincoln Tunnel delays largely to emergency sewer repairs on a single block of West 42nd Street. Three eastbound lanes were squeezed into one, backing traffic through the tunnel and miles into New Jersey and doubling some bus commutes. After the problem was identified, tighter separation of the exclusive bus lane helped improve travel times. **The larger lesson is almost more interesting than the traffic story: one block in Manhattan was able to disrupt thousands of commutes across the Hudson.** Colleen Wilson, NorthJersey.com

🚨 **A VERY ROUGH WEEK AT THE GWB -** The George Washington Bridge endured an extraordinary series of disruptions in October. A driver was killed in an apparent road-rage shooting, a separate motorcycle crash was fatal, and construction-related closures later produced another morning of severe backups. The incidents showed how quickly trouble on one of the region's critical crossings can ripple across both states. The road-rage case subsequently became even more serious, with the retired NYPD detective accused in the shooting facing a murder charge. News 12 New Jersey | ABC News

✈️ **BAGS COST MORE WHEN FUEL COSTS MORE**
JetBlue raised checked-bag fees for the second time this year, explicitly citing higher fuel and operating costs. A first checked bag now starts at $50 and can reach $70 during peak periods for passengers who wait until the last 24 hours. JetBlue expects fourth-quarter fuel prices to be about 85% higher than a year earlier. Associated Press

✈️ **"I'M GONNA HIJACK"**
A Newark-bound United flight returned to Las Vegas after a flight attendant saw a passenger text that he was going to hijack the aircraft. The flight carried 150 passengers and six crew members. A New Jersey man was charged with making a terrorism-related threat; he later told police the message had been poorly worded banter between co-workers. FOX5 Las Vegas

🦈 **PLANES BORROW A TRICK FROM SHARKS**
The first Airbus A330 equipped with AeroSHARK has entered regular service. The transparent film mimics the ribbed texture of sharkskin to reduce aerodynamic drag, with Lufthansa Technik estimating fuel and CO_2 savings of around 1%. Lufthansa Technik



✈️ **GROUNDED JET ENGINES FIND ANOTHER JOB**
Retired aircraft engines are increasingly being stripped from parked planes and converted into natural-gas generators for power-hungry AI data centers. The attraction is speed: developers can obtain power faster than waiting years for new utility connections or conventional turbines. The tradeoff is poorer efficiency and higher pollution than modern purpose-built generation. The New York Times

🟣 **E-ZPASS MAY LOSE THE BOX -** New Jersey is testing thin windshield stickers that could eventually replace the familiar plastic E-ZPass transponders. The Turnpike Authority expects to decide in early 2027 after additional testing. The stickers cost about $1.25 compared with roughly $6.54 for a transponder, require no battery and are designed to break if someone tries to peel them off. After decades of sticking a box to the windshield, New Jersey may simply stick on a sticker. NJ 101.5

🚶 **OLD RAIL BRIDGE GETS A SECOND ACT -** Passaic County broke ground October 27 on a $4.3 million project converting an abandoned railroad bridge over the Passaic River into a pedestrian crossing between Passaic and Garfield. The bridge will connect Garfield with Dundee Island Park and its riverfront trails and recreation areas. Not every abandoned railroad gets to become the High Line, but this one is getting another life. News 12 New Jersey

🚙 **BYE-BYE, CYBERTRUCK**
Tesla announced it will wind down Cybertruck production at its Texas factory around mid-2027 as it shifts capacity toward Cybercab. The truck never came close to Elon Musk's earlier prediction of 250,000 annual sales: Cox Automotive estimated 38,965 U.S. sales in 2024 and just 20,237 in 2025. The 2024 model was also subject to 11 voluntary recalls. One big buyer of the Cybertruck was another Elon Musk-controlled company, Space X, which bought $131 million of the trucks and paid Tesla's suggested retail price. This makes the already modest sales totals look even less like broad consumer demand.

And then there is the historical insult: the much-mocked AMC Pacer lasted from 1975 through the 1980 model year and produced roughly 280,000 cars. In other words, the Pacer lasted longer and sold vastly more units than the Cybertruck has so far. Maybe the loser car of the 1970s deserves an apology.
And let us not forget that the Pacer got a second life with Wayne and Garth singing "Bohemian Rhapsody" in their Mirthmobile. Maybe the Cybertruck's second act will be as an office swivel garbage can. *Party on!* Cybertruck production report | AMC Pacer history | CNBC



VOTE
FOR YOUR FAVORITE
★ TRANSPORTATION QUIRK ★

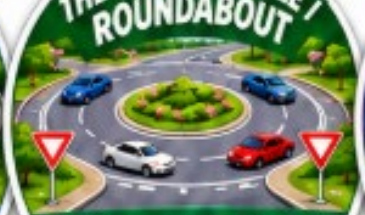
THE JUGHANDLE



Because making a left should require three rights.

☐

THE TRAFFIC CIRCLE / ROUNDABOUT



Enter confidently. Exit eventually.

☐

E-ZPASS®



The rare transportation innovation almost everybody agrees made life easier.

☐

FULL-SERVICE GASOLINE



The only thing that unites NJ.

☐

THE JERSEY BARRIER



Named for us. Used everywhere.

☐

SNARKY ROAD SIGNS



Safety advice, with Jersey attitude.

☐

CELEBRITY REST STOPS



Where even a bathroom break gets a celebrity name.

☐

MYSTERY DRONES



Because apparently New Jersey needed an air-traffic lane too.

☐

DRISCOLL BRIDGE



Fifteen lanes. Still traffic.

☐

"WHAT EXIT?"



The unofficial way New Jerseyans locate one another.

☐

TURNPIKE CARS / TRUCKS / BUSES



Choose your highway before entering the highway.

☐

HELICOPTER PILOTS IN HIGH PLACES



In New Jersey, elected office apparently comes with rotor time.

☐

AND FINALLY...


★ THE 2028 CAMPAIGN STARTS NOW. ★
U.S. TRANSIT PASS
"It's not the years, honey. It's the mileage."
★ "Never tell me the odds." ★
"Get on my plane!"
GET ON BOARD WITH FORD.
★ PRESIDENTIAL EXPERIENCE ★
He's already played the President.
And he promises not to Hulk out on you.
WE'VE HAD A HARRISON. WE'VE HAD A FORD.
WHY NOT HARRISON FORD?