## BOMA NJ TRANSPORTATION REPORT

**SEPTEMBER 2025** 

**JUDY BLUME EDITION** 

THEN AGAIN, MAYBE I WON'T TAKE THE PARKWAY

SUPERFUDGE AND OTHER WORDS I YELL ON NJ TRANSIT

ARE YOU THERE, GOD? IT'S ME, MIDTOWN DIRECT

FOREVER...
WAITING
FOR A RIDE
AT NEWARK
AIRPORT

GLENN WALDORF BELLENVIRONMENTAL GWALDORF@BELLENV.COM 973-924-0004

### BOMA-NY Codes & Regs Committee September 2025

#### Glenn Waldorf, Bell Environmental Services

🔚 🧎 Judy Blume's 10 NJ Transportation Books:

- 1. "Then Again, Maybe I Won't... Take the Parkway This Weekend"

  (Because if I hear one more traffic report say 'Asbury backup to the Driscoll Bridge,' I will turn this minivan around.)
- 2. "Superfudge and Other Words I Can Say Around My Kids When NJ Transit Is Delayed Again" (Rated PG for train-induced parenting stress.)
- 3. "Are You There, God? It's Me, Gov. Murphy (Please Let the Buses Run on Time Just Once)" (Also available in audiobook: narrated by the sound of 8 honking horns in Hoboken.)
- 4. "Double Fudge and Other Curses Overheard at Newark Airport Security" (Gate changed, line closed, and yes, that was your last granola bar confiscated.)
- 5. **"Frecklejuice, Frecklejuice"**(Say it three times fast and a NJDOT road crew magically appears and blocks your driveway for six hours.)
- 6. "Blubber: What I Yelled After Sitting in Shore Traffic for 4 Hours Behind a Camper from Quebec" (Also, why are they always towing a boat the size of Staten Island?)
- 7. "Deenie Missed the Bus Again"
  (She was last seen waiting by the CVS in Montclair, trying to guess if the 66 DeCamp was coming or just a shared delusion.)
- 8. "Just As Long As We're Together... in This Parkway Merge With Our Blinkers On" (A story of friendship, survival, and hand gestures.)
- 9. "Iggie's House Was Only 12 Miles Away—So Why Did It Take Us 2 Hours?" (Featuring the dreaded words: "there's no good way to get there.")
- 10. "Forever... Stuck in the Lincoln Tunnel"

  (The most romantic thing anyone's said in New Jersey: "I saved you a seat on the 107.")

#### **Mewark Airport**

- FAA wants to extend Newark flight cap through October 2026
- Thousands of flights were delayed at Newark. Investigators want to know if moving this FAA facility caused it
- <u>United CEO Says Newark Airport Is Back To</u> Normal
- <u>US Travel Rebounds With UAL-Newark</u> Turnaround as flights rise to 380 daily and ontime tops all NY Airports
- Fiber optic line installation completed at Newark Liberty International Airport



#### Airplane Safety: Look Out Above and Below!

- Delta passengers stranded overnight on island in the middle of Atlantic Ocean
- CBS News analysis finds warning signs of collision danger before deadly D.C. plane crash
- Inspector General to Review F.A.A.'s Handling of D.C. Airspace After Crash
- Delta Flight Forced to Make Emergency Landing In Florida Over Lithium Battery Fire
- <u>Terror as Spring Airlines Japan flight from Shanghai to Tokyo flight plummets</u> 25,000 feet in minutes
- 25 Hospitalized After Delta Flight Is Hit by Strong Turbulence
- Southwest Airlines jet dives when collision alarms sound as a fighter jet crosses its path near Los Angeles
- <u>Passengers flee on emergency slide after American Airlines Boeing in Denver suffers landing gear fire</u>
- Passenger describes moment SkyWest flight turned to avoid B-52 bomber: Like "a sharp turn on a roller coaster"
- Delta Boeing 767 engine bursts into flames after takeoff from LAX airport: video
- American Airlines flight returns to airport due to mechanical issue flames seen shooting out of engine

#### Fly The Unfriendly Skies

- <u>Trump drops Biden flight disruption reimbursement rule</u>: Passengers whose flights are delayed would no longer be entitled to compensation from airlines under a DOT plan to kill off a Biden-era rule on disruptions caused by carriers.
- Southwest's C.E.O. on Why Now Is the Time for Bag Fees and Assigned Seats
- Southwest changes rules for Plus-Sized-Travelers
- Real IDs are being rejected at airports by TSA due to 'sporadic' scanning issues

#### Vs. X The Friendly Skies

• Flight Attendant Shows Kindness to Family Whose Son Had Meltdown

#### Air Traffic Control

- Overhaul of nation's air traffic control system has started, Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy says
- Watchdog to audit FAA relocation of Newark, NJ air traffic controllers
- Air Traffic Control Recruits Describe 'Hazing' Atmosphere
- Many air traffic controllers fail or drop out, adding to FAA shortages

#### **Air Force One**

• What Will It Cost to Renovate Trump's 'Free' Air Force One? Don't Ask.





#### Tariffs

- Trump Signals Imminent Supreme Court Appeal to Protect Tariffs That Lower Courts Ruled Illegal
- <u>De Minimis Exemption Ended As Full Tariffs Were Put In Place</u>
- Staggering U.S. Tariffs Begin as Trump Widens Trade War
- Detroit Automakers Blast U.S.-Japan Deal Lowering Auto Tariffs
- Ford paid \$800 million in tariff costs, despite building most cars in America. Ford cuts profit forecast
- Trump's tariffs are pummeling top automakers. The hit is \$11.7 billion: and climbing
- What the US-EU Deal Means For The Auto Sector
- Automakers Are Revealing How Much Trumps Tariffs Are Costing
- Volkswagen Suffers \$15-Billion Loss From Trump's Tariffs

#### Electric Vehicles

- Why China Is Trying To Tame Its Electric Car Frenzy
- Cadillac Is A Luxury EV Giant Can It Keep Up Under Trump?
- Trump Will Slow, but May Not Stop, the Rise of Electric Vehicles
- You Can Now Lease an EV for Less Than \$100 a Month
- Remember the \$7,500 Tax Credit/Subsidy Ends In September 2025
- That was biggest factor that caused the big Trump Musk rift in June.
- BMW Kicks Off €10 Billion Line of Revamped EVs With New SUV

#### ◆ Tesla

- Yet another bad three months as Tesla reports its Q2 2025 results
- Tesla's response to cratering sales? A deals blitz
- Tesla's future murky as Musk pivots
- Musk Has a New Master Plan for Tesla. Uh Oh.
- "Tesla Diner Just Opened In LA" How does it compare to NJ's Best Diner?
- Will Elon become the world's wealthiest diner owner? Tesla board wants to pay him 1 Trillion dollars!
- Car Technology "You know what would make this car perfect? Microsoft Teams."
- Mercedes-Benz Expands Collaboration with Microsoft to Boost In-Car Productivity with Enhanced Meetings for Teams App, Intune Integration and Microsoft 365 Copilot
- Mercedes Believes Making Video Calls While Driving Is

OK, As Long as You Do It for Work. 2



Ford (Motor Co.) Had A Rough 2025, But At Least It Can Take Credit For This Truck Name And Top Gun Joke



Would Coffee and Classic Car Aficionado Jerry Seinfeld Say: "There's Nothing Finer Than Being In Elon's Diner"?





SAGAL: ...Driving the latest Mercedes models, you'll be able to use the indash screen and camera to have Zoom meetings.

GROSZ: Did they take out the airbag to put in the Zoom part?

SAGAL: Probably.

SAGAL: Think of the meetings you'll be able to enjoy now that you don't have that excuse, and think of the fun your colleagues will have trying to distract you into having a crash during the meeting. Whoa, boss, thanks for buying lunch for anybody who gets here within 15 minutes.

BURKE: It's good, though, 'cause you could call your boss an a-hole and say, no, I just got cut off.

#### 🚚 Tell 'Em Large Marge Sent'cha!

• <u>Pee-wee Herman's iconic red bicycle to be permanently displayed at the Alamo</u>, but not in the basement! →

#### **Bridges**

• MIT researchers discover game-changing solution for America's \$200 billion failing bridge crisis: 'This is a huge milestone'

#### Environment

- The EPA proposes gutting its greenhouse gas rules. Here's what it means for cars and pollution
- E.P.A. Is Said to Draft a Plan to End Its Ability to Fight Climate Change
- Japan just built a robot fish that swims through sewage and cleans microplastics as it goes! It sounds like science fiction, but Japan has engineered a robotic fish that swims through dirty water...
- Hundreds of gallons of fuel spilled at Wildwood Wawa next to bay





#### **Infrastructure**

- 5 projects, including one in the Hudson, on track for new NJ-NY Gateway rail tunnel
- America's Most Critical Rail Tunnel is Failing—Here's the \$16 Billion Plan to Fix The Hudson Rail Tunnel: Watch
- A \$2B Bergen County Light Rail NJ Transit project is stuck in limbo and officials, riders are losing patience with an unstarted project that was supposed to be done in 2023

#### Mationwide Rail

- Amtrak launches 'new era' of high-speed trains From Boston To DC
- The US May Soon Have A 3-Day Transcontinental Train Route Connecting These Major Cities
- LA to NYC high-speed train proposed ahead of FIFA World Cup
- America's high-speed rail fail Today, Explained Worth a Podcast Listen
- Maglev train from D.C. to Baltimore killed by Trump administration
- Union Pacific and Norfolk Southern reach \$250 billion merger deal

#### rightarrows News of The Weird – Maryland ightarrow

• Wind turbine blade crashes into Maryland traffic on Interstate 70

#### Mew Jersey - The Earthquake Capital Of The Summer!

- A third of new members on the US DOT advisory committee have NJ ties
- These are the ugliest public buildings in New Jersey!
- NJ drivers can now get a digital license on their phones. Here's how.
- After nearly dipping below \$3, NJ gas prices are rising again
- NJ Radio legend Dennis Malloy bids goodbye to New Jersey 101.5 WKXW FM
- New law requires driver's ed on bike, pedestrian, exam questions come next year
- Jersey Shore beach replenishment gets no federal funding
- The Greenway: Construction begins on NJ's newest rail-to-trail park







- Jersey Shore drawbridges from 1930s failing, causing traffic problems
- Future of N.J.'s 'evil clown' sign in question after court ruling
- Boxcar: New Shoreliner Special: One Seat Ride From NYC to the Jersey Shore
- <u>Made in NJ: "All Points West" Distillery brings bold new spirits to cocktail scene</u> (with a name taken the announcements at the legendary Hoboken train station)

#### MJ Highway Signs

• NJ's Summer 2025 Highway Signs Of Course There Were Two Bon Jovi References: Who says you can't go home? The police if you drive drunk!" and "Don't let your speed be to blame / Don't give our roads a bad name." Four of the other signs contain music references across multiple genres and decades:

- Turn down for what? The speed limit."
- "We like cold butts and we cannot lie / Don't toss out lit cigarettes!"
- "Summer lovin', having a blast / Get pulled over if you're driving too fast."
- "If you drive drunk, you're in for summertime sadness."
- The left lane is not for vacationing! Move over!"
- "If you drive slow like a sea turtle, get out of the left lane!"
- "Help us keep the shore secure. Report suspicious activity to NJOHSP, 866-4-SAFE-NJ."
- "The only thing cornier than these signs is paying a speeding ticket."
- "Be a HERO / Be a designated driver,"

BTW - We're still sentimental about some of NJ's greatest road sign hits.

#### **Road Signs Coming Next Summer?**

#### Springsteen-Inspired

- "Meet me tonight in Atlantic City—if you're speeding, you won't see it pretty."
- "Sprung from cages on Highway 9—don't speed and lose your own run."

#### Whitney Houston-Inspired

- "I wanna dance with somebody—not crash into everybody."
- "Learning to love yourself is the greatest safety of all."
- "I will always love you—if you slow down in work zones."
- "How will I know... if you're texting behind the wheel?"

#### Jonas Brothers-Inspired Road Signs

- "I'm burnin' up, burnin' up—slow down, it's just the sun."
- "S.O.S. if you're tailgating, back off!"
- "Cool? Not if you're speeding in the left lane."
- "Only human? Then drive like it. No texting."

#### **Road Signs For Fall And Winter**

- <u>Drivers advised to watch for kids as school year begins</u>. There's a new sign on South Orange Avenue warning: "Back To School, Eyes Up-Phones Down, Kids Around."
- NJ's Fall Highway signs are shorter and lean into an 80's Vibe like this whole report. Though we haven't seen Mr. T standing next to a road sign in real life.

#### What's Next?

- Halloween: "Haunted Parkway? Nah, just Jersey traffic." & "Witches ride brooms, not bumpers. Slow down."
- Thanksgiving: "Don't be a turkey use your blinker." & "Thankful for safe drivers. Belt up, Jersey."
- 🤎 Valentine's Day: "Don't Text Your Ex 💔 📱 ... Not Even While Driving 🚙 🤻 "



#### NJ Highways

- Gov. Murphy announces expanded transportation options for South Jersey
- Garden State Parkway: Hidden toll-free exit at Connie Chung service area closed
- How extreme heat affected Highway Route 287 In Morris County, NJ
- I-80, Mile Marker 41.6 Parsippany-Troy Hills Twp, Morris County was the scene of a 4 to 5-acre wildfire burning along the westbound side of Interstate 80.

#### Scary sight/site along my route home! →

- Is New Jersey or Massachusetts to blame for the dreaded traffic circle?
- NJ Turnpike board settles dispute over \$3.1M Academy bus subsidiaries owed
- Impact of SEPTA service reductions on NJ commuters
- What's the faster Jersey Shore commute Route 9 or the Parkway?



# TOLLOF, COMMUTING © 9 0 0 4

#### Are you also a transportation nerd?

News 12 - NJ has a whole series on "The Toll of Commuting"

#### MJ Transit

- NJ Transit fare revenue: Will 2026 finally break 9-year shortfall streak?
- NJ Transit fares for trains and buses increased by 3% on July 1, 2025
- U.S. Supreme Court to decide whether NJ Transit can be sued in other states
- Groundbreaking on the next critical phase of the new Raritan River Bridge.

#### NJT Trains

- NJ Transit Trains Have The Worst Performance In The Region: By The Numbers
- This Comes After NJ Transit Was Delayed Over And Over Again Due To Amtrak Signal Issues
- Amtrak Officers Save NJ Transit Conductor Having A Heart Attack At Penn Station
- Hackensack wants NJ Transit to improve crossing safety after recent fatalities
- Tired Of NJ Transit? Hoboken Mayoral Candidate Floats \$5 NYC Ferry Rides
- NJ Transit Launches Interactive Map Showing Historical Sites Across The State
- Meadowlands Rail Line temporarily renamed for the Jonas Bros.
- Feds investigating N.J. train fire that injured 9 and snarled morning commute
- Will AC problems cancel NJ Transit trains when heat waves approach?
- NJ Transit: 2 drawbridges stuck open due to extreme heat, service suspended
- Service to MetLife Stadium Begins for Jets & Giants Games: What To Know.
- NJ Transit takes over troubled, 34-mile light rail Camdem-Trenton River Line from operator Alstom.

#### MJT Buses

- New NJ Transit Bus Schedules Aim To Improve On Time Performance
- Temporary NJ Transit bus terminal opens in Hoboken as part of \$900M development
- NJ Transit bus collides with PSE&G truck in Newark, 14 injured
- Police: 36 passengers, 2 drivers treated for minor injuries after 2 NJ Transit buses collide in Manhattan
- Port Authority Bus Terminal closed after NJ Transit crash injures 17 people



#### We Need Some Harrison Ford In This Report- So Will They Ever Set An Indiana Jones Movie In NJ? How About:

🧰 Indiana Jones and the Liberty Bell Conspiracy 🔔



**Summer, 1976.** As America celebrates its Bicentennial with fireworks and flag-waving, Dr. Indiana Jones is pulled into a shadow war unfolding beneath the red, white, and blue bunting.

The artifact: **The True Liberty Bell Clapper** — a long-lost Revolutionary War relic said to carry an inscription from George Washington himself. Legend claims it was removed during the war to keep it out of British hands and hidden somewhere in Morristown, NJ, near Jockey Hollow which served as Washington's winter headquarters. According to whispers in the National Archives, the clapper contains encoded battle plans... and a cipher that could unlock hidden caches of Continental gold left to fund future rebellions.

v But Indy's not alone. A rogue CIA faction believes the clapper could expose secrets that would undermine the myth of American independence—and they'll kill to keep them buried. Racing from Trenton's old barracks through the Great Swamp to hidden tunnels beneath Morristown's Ford Mansion, Indy teams up with Melissa "Molly" Pitcher, a punk-rock Princeton grad turned archivist, and Frankie Dellucci, a Vietnam vet who now moonlights as a fireworks technician.



As parades roll and Sousa marches blare, Indy uncovers Revolutionary booby traps, Masonic codes hidden in statehouse architecture, and a secret society called The Sons of the Silence, who have protected the clapper for generations.

The finale explodes on the Fourth of July—literally—as Indy tries to retrieve the clapper from a trap-rigged bell tower in Princeton just as fireworks ignite the night sky. The question: Can the truth survive 200 years of patriotic legend?

What do you think should be next summer's NJ blockbuster? Indiana Jones and the...

- Jughandle of Doom
- Shadow of the Ironbound
- Cannon of Cape May
- Curse of the Jersey Devil
- > Silverball Cipher
- Vaults of Edison
- Missing Springsteen Tapes
- Curse of The Asbury Oracle
- Diving Horse of Steel Pier

- Crown of Miss America
- Ghosts of Ong's Hat
- Dinosaurs of Sussex
- Diner of the Damned
- Disco Fries of Destiny
- Hoffa Underpass
- Paramus Mall of **Shadows**

- Cranberry Bog Secret
- **Greystone Whisper**



#### 😼 News of the Weird – Florida – You Knew We Had To Include Florida

Florida man arrested for allegedly driving lawn mower drunk down busy highway →

#### PATH

- Newport PATH train fire sends 9 to hospital; PATH train service restored
- Riders Criticize Port Authority For Service Failure
- Workers repair switch problems at Hoboken PATH Station causing delays
- Hoboken PATH delays: Defective track junction won't be fixed until after Labor Day
- Malfunctioning switches cause PATH train derailment, 12-hour service suspension

#### NY's Penn Station - Destination of So Many Frustrated NJ Commuters

- U.S. Department of Transportation and Amtrak Unveil Timeline for New York Penn Station Transformation Project -
- New Plan To Address Penn Station Will Address Biggest Issues: The Train Platforms
- Per Crains, Penn Station rebuild to start in 2027, Trump officials say, but no price tag yet
- Bloomberg has the scoop though Penn Station Overhaul Will Cost \$7-Billion

#### **Dorts**

• Port of NY-NJ Claims Title of Busiest U.S. Port in May



• Connecticut pizza state license plate now available (Welcome to our 80's issue.)



#### **Tolls**

Port Authority Tolls: A 2<sup>nd</sup> 2025 increase on July 6 for drivers whose tags were mounted poorly or have no EZ-Pass

#### Wait Wait! You Read This Far! Laugh + Learn About Changes In Airline Security 🛃 & Baggage 🍿

- Delta Luggage Scam
- Airline Lost Your Bags? Your Luggage Is Probably in Alabama
- TSA Busts Woman with 2 Turtles Seemingly Hidden in Her Bra
- ( Does this belong in News of the Weird?)
- TSA No Longer Requires Fliers to Take off Their Shoes 🛝 👠 🛌 👢
- TSA May End Restrictions on Liquids in Carry-Ons, DHS Head Teases After Eliminating Shoes-Off Rule 🧴 💧

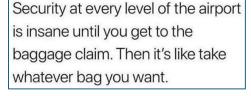


• NPR's Game Show Addressed TSA allowing people on planes

without removing shoes:

Flip To The Next and Last Page For A Good Read - And Even Better If You Follow The Hyperlink To Listen!

If not, then that's the news, and I am outta here!







#### 📻 From NPR and WBEZ Chicago, this is WAIT WAIT... DON'T TELL ME, the NPR news quiz. - July 12, 2025 📻

HOST PETER SAGAL: You're going to play Who's Bill This Time? Announcer Bill Kurtis is going to read for a quotation from this week's news.

SAGAL: All right. Your first quote is a traveler talking to NPR.

ANNOUNCER BILL KURTIS: "I don't like my feet on floors that I don't know about."

SAGAL: She was celebrating the fact that as of this week, you no longer have to take your shoes off before you do what?

CONTESTANT OLIVIA: Is it go through the TSA check?

SAGAL: Yes, going through airport security. That's right, everybody, our long national nightmare is over. The TSA just announced they'd be ending the policy of making travelers take off their shoes to go through security. It's great that we can finally leave our shoes on, but why are they making everyone take off their underwear?

FAITH SALIE: You know, for the past whatever it is, 20 years...... have assumed shoes were a security threat. But now that Secretary Kristi Noem has assured us they are not, I feel so safe. I think it is Kristi Noem's gravitas that makes me...... Feel comforted.

EMMY BLOTNICK: And she's said that we can put e-cigarettes in any bag we want now?

SALIE: This is America.

SAGAL: Well, Kristi Noem just got tired of, like, peeling off her thigh-high stilettos.

*SAGAL*: Now, as you may remember, this policy was instituted more than 20 years ago after just one guy tried to blow up a plane with a bomb in his shoe. So one failed bomb meant us seeing 10,000 gross toes we will never be able to forget.

*BLOTNICK:* No, it's like, it was how humanity connected. We'd all put our gross toes on the same thing. It's like, you know, we're all the same.

SAGAL: Yeah, I guess we're all...

BLOTNICK: A beautiful ritual we're losing.

*SAGAL*: It's true. Frequent travelers are celebrating, but let's not forget what a huge day this is for the shoe-bombing community. We are back, baby.

HARI KONDABOLU: I mean, isn't the whole model of TSA PreCheck that, oh, I don't need to put my shoes off anymore. So if they take - if everyone can go through the metal detector, that's everything.

SAGAL: I know.

KONDABOLU: They're done for.

SAGAL: Good point. Some of the news articles raised this, that not having to take off your shoes was a huge incentive to pay the \$80 to join TSA Pre. Some people think they kept the policy just to keep that program going. Now that it's gone, what will they use for an incentive to sign up? Every passenger gets to bring on one little gun.

KONDABOLU: Do you think they'll raise it to four ounces of shampoo?

SAGAL: Maybe.

SAGAL: Oh, the parties we'll have.

KONDABOLU: Oh, brother.

#### AT THE SHOW'S CONCLUSION

*SAGAL:* Panelists, now that we can leave our shoes on, what would be the next thing we will be allowed to do at the airport? Now, panel, what will we be finally allowed to do at the airport next?

EMMY BLOTNICK: Fly with explosives.

HARI KONDABOLU: Use your Costco card as a valid form of identification.

FAITH SALIE: Check your child in the overhead compartment.

BILL KURTIS: And if any of that happens, panel, we'll ask you about it on WAIT WAIT... DON'T TELL ME.

Glenn Waldorf, Bell Environmental Services, 973-924-9004, gwaldorf@bellenv.com