



Stopping the \$10.7B Turnpike Extension Widening (I-78)

**And why \$24B in highway widenings around NJ are inefficient,
outdated, and will damage the environment and the climate**

**John Reichman, EmpowerNJ
Jimmy Lee, SafeStreetsJC**



United in Opposition

EmpowerNJ • Safe Streets JC • Bike JC • JC Mayor Fulop • Jersey City City Council • Hoboken City Council • Hudson County Complete Streets • Bike Hoboken • Bike North Bergen • Bike Weehawken • Bici UC • Harsimus Cove Association • Hamilton Park Neighborhood Association • JC Village Neighborhood Association • Journal Square Community Association Board • NJ Bike Walk Coalition • Clean Water Action • Environment New Jersey • Sierra Club NJ Chapter • Tristate Transportation Campaign



NJ's Environmental Goals

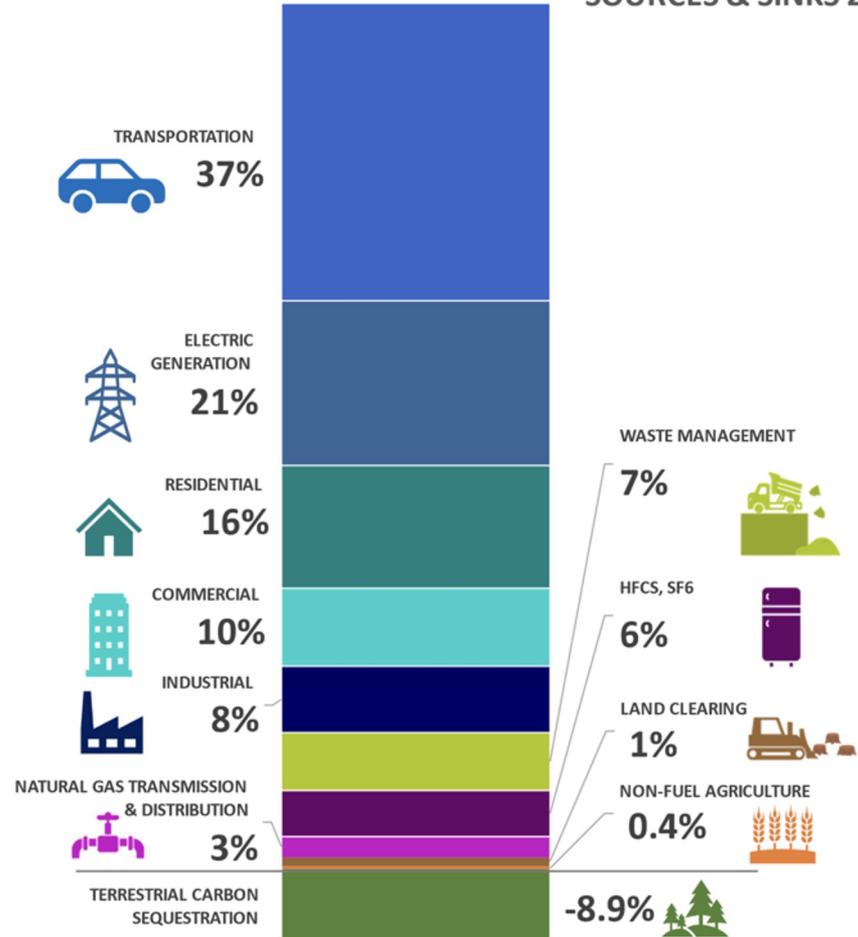
50 x 30

By executive order, Governor Murphy has set a goal of 50% reduction in carbon emissions by 2030 and 100% by 2050.

NJ GREENHOUSE GAS SOURCES & SINKS 2020



Transportation is by far the biggest source of greenhouse gases in NJ
(Not power generation)

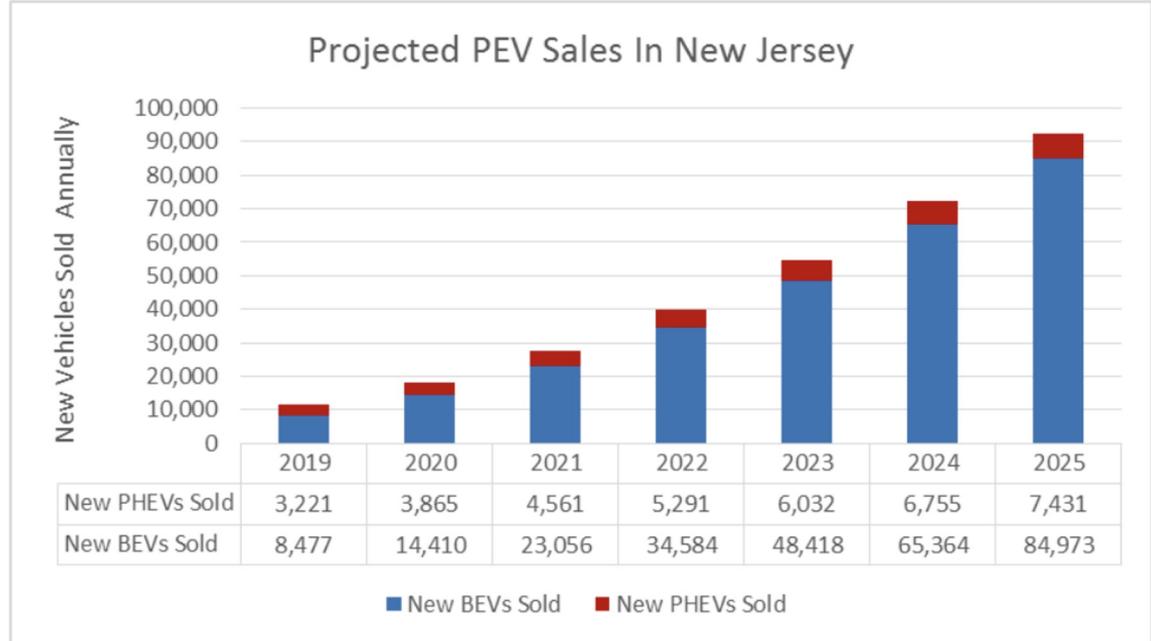


Electric vehicle adoption is predicted to take decades

NJ has 2.5M registered vehicles and existing cars will last 10-20 years.

While growing, the number of EVs adopted each year is still only in single percentages of *new* car sales.

Study by ChargeEVC:
<https://chargevc.org/>





NJ Turnpike Authority has an unprecedented and wasteful \$24B/\$30B capital plan

- Under the cover of Covid, tolls were hiked 36% (+3% annually) to raise \$1B a year and fund an unprecedented \$24B capital plan to build Turnpike widenings all across the state
- Last capital plan was only \$7B
- Opposite of NY's congestion pricing which raises \$1B annually to invest in transit

TRANSPORTATION

NJ Turnpike Authority proposes 36% toll hike amid coronavirus crisis



Colleen Wilson
NorthJersey.com

Published 1:47 p.m. ET March 18, 2020 | Updated 7:39 p.m. ET March 18, 2020





GARDEN STATE PARKWAY

MAINLINE WIDENING BETWEEN INTERCHANGES 142 - 154

The project will widen the Parkway mainline from 3/4 lanes in each direction to 4/6 lanes in each direction with full shoulders. Within the total project length of approximately 12 miles, there will be 47 bridges that will be either replaced or widened.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL / AGENCY COORDINATION

The following environmental permits and agency coordination may be required for this project:

- NJDEP (wetlands, flood hazard, stormwater, SHPO, green acres and site remediation)
- Hudson-Essex-Passaic and Somerset-Union Soil Conservation Districts

LOCATION

Township of Hillside - City of Clifton
 Union County - Passaic County

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$2.5 Billion

SCHEDULE

Planning & Design:



NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

INTERCHANGE 13, EXTEND FOURTH MAINLINE LANE

In the existing condition, the fourth (rightmost) Outer Roadway lane in the northbound and southbound directions ends just after the Interchange 13 exit ramp. Three lanes are carried through the interchange, and the fourth lane is re-added by the entrance ramp. It is planned to connect the existing fourth lane in each direction along the Outer Roadway through Interchange 13 to meet projected traffic needs. This would require reconstruction of an existing railroad overpass and several bridges associated with Interchange 13, including Relocated Bayway. The improvements proposed along this corridor project would impact 13 bridges. Seven bridges are local overpass structures that will need partial reconstruction or full replacement to accommodate the mainline widening. Four bridges would need to be widened to accommodate the corridor improvements.

LOCATION

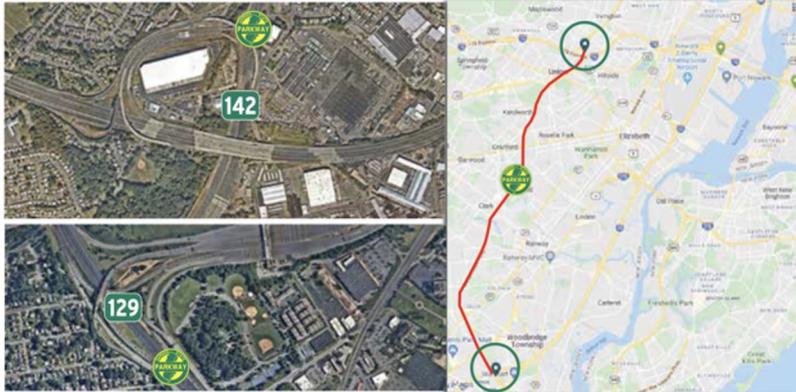
City of Elizabeth
 Union County

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$270 Million

SCHEDULE

Planning & Design:
 48 months
 Construction:



GARDEN STATE PARKWAY

MAINLINE WIDENING BETWEEN INTERCHANGES 129 - 142

This project would widen the Parkway mainline from five lanes in each direction to six lanes in each direction with full shoulders along the entire length of the project. The project will replace or widen 36 bridges to accommodate the widening. The total project length is approximately 13 miles.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL / AGENCY COORDINATION

The following environmental permits and agency coordination may be required for this project:

- NJDEP (wetlands, flood hazard, stormwater, SHPO, green acres and site remediation)
- Freehold and Somerset-Union Soil Conservation Districts

POTENTIAL RIGHT-OF-WAY IMPACTS

Right-of-Way acquisitions are anticipated and estimated at \$30 Million

LOCATION

Woodbridge Township -
Hillside Township
Middlesex County - Union
County

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$800 Million

SCHEDULE

Planning & Design:
72 months
Construction:
60 months

GARDEN STATE PARKWAY

MAINLINE WIDENING BETWEEN INTERCHANGES 98 - 125

This project would widen the Parkway mainline from 5/6 lanes to 6/7 lanes in each direction. The project would also provide full shoulders for safety. The total length of the project is approximately 27 miles and will include replacing or widening of 65 bridges.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL / AGENCY COORDINATION

The following environmental permits and agency coordination may be required for this project:

- NJDEP (wetlands, flood hazard, CAFRA, stormwater, SHPO, green acres and site remediation)
- Freehold Soil Conservation District
- USACE (Sections 10 and 404)
- US Coast Guard

LOCATION

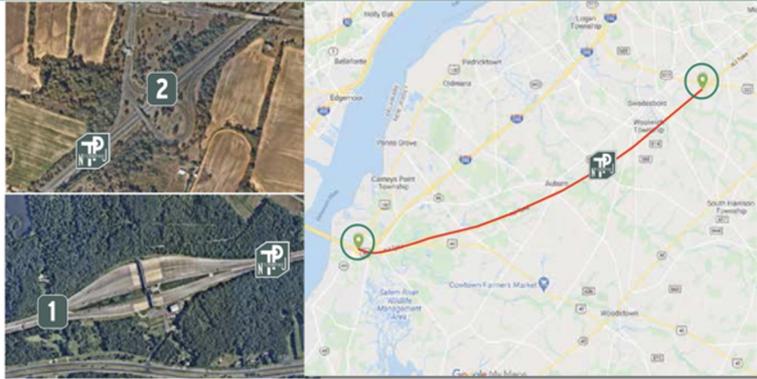
Sayreville Township - Wall
Township
Middlesex County -
Monmouth County

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$1.35 Billion

SCHEDULE

Planning & Design:
66 months



NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

MAINLINE WIDENING BETWEEN INTERCHANGES 1 - 2

The project will widen the Turnpike mainline from two lanes in each direction to three in each direction. The 12-mile project will provide full shoulders on mainline and replace or widen 18 bridges.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL / AGENCY COORDINATION

The following environmental permits and agency coordination may be required for this project:

- NJDEP (wetlands, flood hazard, CAFRA, waterfront dev., stormwater, SHPO, green acres and site remediation)
- Delaware River Basin Commission
- Gloucester County and Salem County Soil Conservation Districts
- USACE (Sections 10, 404 and 408)
- US Coast Guard

LOCATION

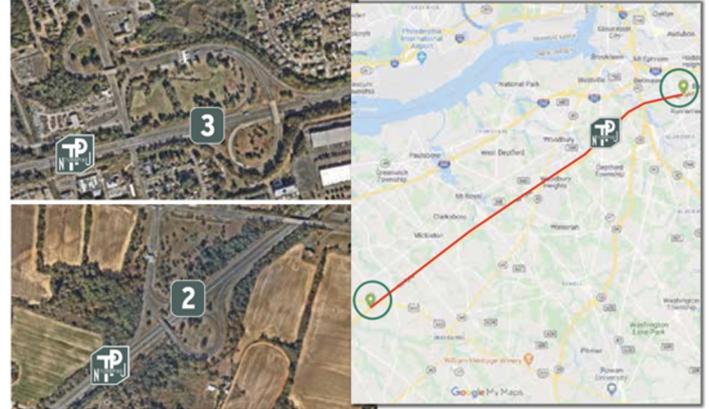
Carneys Point Township -
Woolwich Township
Salem County - Gloucester
County

TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$400 Million

SCHEDULE

Planning & Design:
60 months
Construction:



NEW JERSEY TURNPIKE

MAINLINE WIDENING BETWEEN INTERCHANGES 2 - 3

This project would widen the Turnpike mainline from two lanes in each direction to three in each direction. The project will also provide full shoulders on the mainline. The total length of the project is approximately 13 miles and 24 bridges will be replaced or widened.

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL / AGENCY COORDINATION

The following environmental permits and agency coordination may be required for this project:

- NJDEP (wetlands, flood hazard, waterfront dev., stormwater, SHPO, green acres and site remediation)

LOCATION

Woolwich Township -
Runnemede Borough
Gloucester County -
Camden County

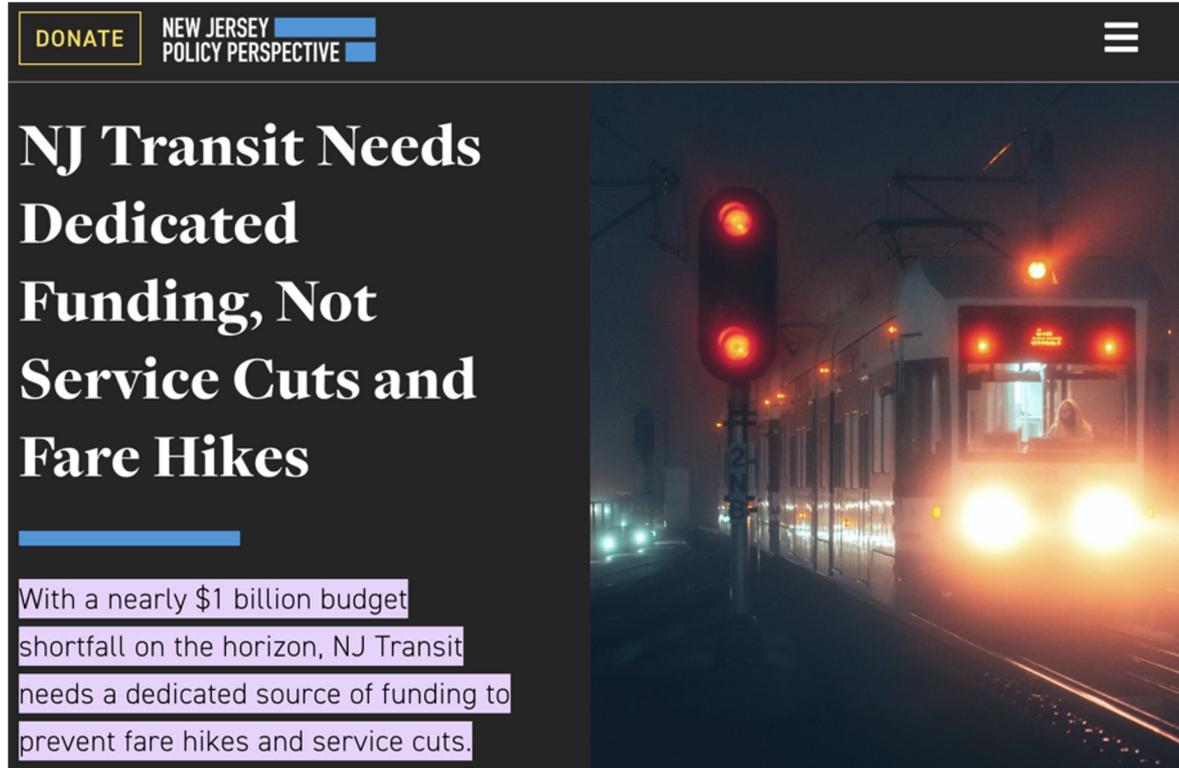
TOTAL PROJECT COST

\$400 Million

SCHEDULE

Meanwhile...

NJ Transit has
looming \$1B
shortfall in 2026
and annual
transfers away
from capital to
operations



The image is a screenshot of a webpage. At the top left, there is a yellow button labeled 'DONATE'. To its right is the logo for 'NEW JERSEY POLICY PERSPECTIVE', which consists of the text and two blue horizontal bars. In the top right corner, there is a white hamburger menu icon. The main content area features a large, bold title: 'NJ Transit Needs Dedicated Funding, Not Service Cuts and Fare Hikes'. Below the title is a blue horizontal line. The text of the article is displayed in a light purple color against a dark background. The background image of the webpage shows a train at night with its headlights on, and a red traffic light is visible on the left. The text of the article reads: 'With a nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall on the horizon, NJ Transit needs a dedicated source of funding to prevent fare hikes and service cuts.'

DONATE NEW JERSEY POLICY PERSPECTIVE

NJ Transit Needs Dedicated Funding, Not Service Cuts and Fare Hikes

With a nearly \$1 billion budget shortfall on the horizon, NJ Transit needs a dedicated source of funding to prevent fare hikes and service cuts.

Missing transit projects

- After 16 years, the Bergen still doesn't exist as a part of Hudson Bergen Light Rail and the EIS has to be restarted
- Glassboro Light Rail in South Jersey remains an uncertainty yet proceeding with \$2B in Turnpike Widening from exits 1-4
- Long segment of North Jersey Coast Line and many others remain unelectrified
- No bus lanes for the Holland Tunnel or GWB, no weekend or evening bus lanes for the Lincoln Tunnel

Many more projects are more cost effective, higher capacity, and environmentally friendly than highway widenings

TRANSPORTATION

Lawmakers 'furious' after feds tell NJ Transit to start over on Bergen light rail project

4-minute read



Colleen Wilson
NorthJersey.com

Published 2:37 p.m. ET Aug. 30, 2023 | Updated 6:57 p.m. ET Aug. 30, 2023



A proposed extension of the Hudson-Bergen Light Rail into Bergen County has hit another hurdle that will delay planning on the project for at least two more years, outraging local politicians who have spent three decades fighting to expand the service north.

The Federal Transit Administration decided Monday to rescind a "notice of intent," which was granted in 2007 and gave NJ Transit the green light to begin working on a required environmental report for the project, known as an environmental impact statement.

Congestion Pricing will raise billions of dollars for transit, reduce traffic, create cleaner air and safer streets and directly benefit the vast majority of NJ residents who commute into NY

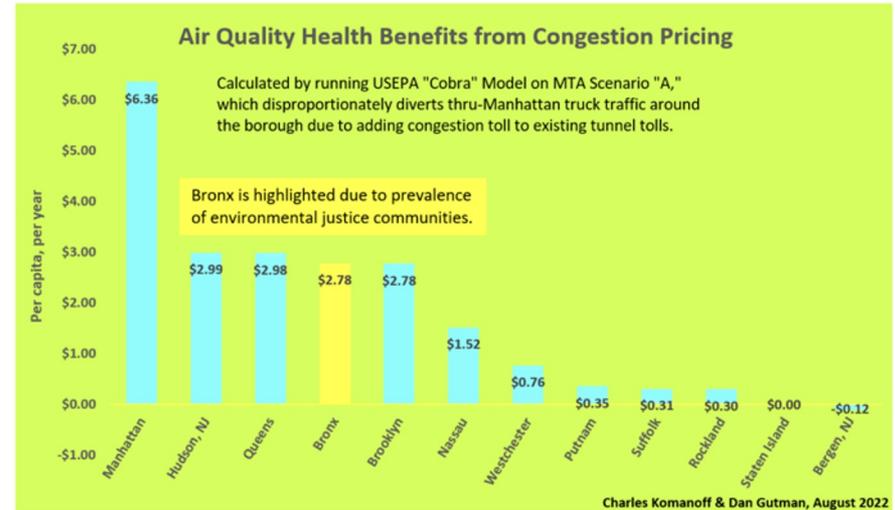


Chart: Charles Komanoff

Widening of the I-78 Turnpike Extension



\$10.7B for just 8 miles leading to more pollution, more noise, and unsafe streets feeding into the Holland Tunnel bottleneck

What is the Project?

- \$10.7B to tear down and rebuild wider the 8.1 miles of the Turnpike Extension. \$1.3B per mile (subway money: 20X the capacity of a highway lane)
- Phase 1: \$6.2B replacement of the Newark Bay Bridge, and build 2 new bridges for 8 lanes. But actually can be repaired for \$260M and last 40 years. Begin in 2026.
- Phase 4 in Downtown Jersey City would be next a couple of years later



What is the Project?

- Repair/replacement of the structure due to age and wear ✓
- Reducing congestion ?
- Additional capacity for freight trucks coming from expanded port capacity in Bayonne/Greenville ?
- But truck traffic is only single digit percentage points of total traffic and Port Authority has switched to an appointment system

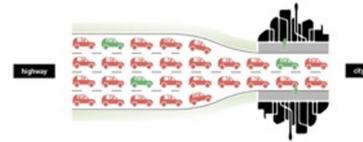


Several Problems

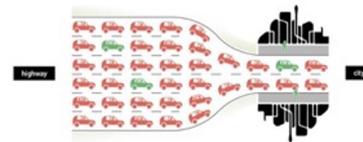
1. Highway widening doesn't fix congestion and never has because of induced demand
2. EVs won't save us especially in cities and freight truck electrification is even further away
3. Environmental justice is currently just lip service when it comes to highways.
4. We need a holistic approach to transportation
5. Trucks are not the only way to transport freight - New Jersey's freight rail network is world class
6. Investments in public transit have worked and will work and can power the next generation economy of NJ

The Bottleneck

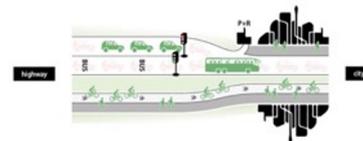
If this is your problem...



... then this isn't your solution...



... this is!



Original Verkeids, T 0820, June 2015. De oplossing voor het Rijkprobleem nu hebben we hem echt. De Correspondent.
Enhanced by @Rijk_n_itee (1 Oct 16)



Induced Demand

<https://www.wired.com/2014/06/wuwt-traffic-induced-demand/>

- Time = Money so we can think of congestion on the highway as the price people are willing to pay
- Reduced demand and less traffic when highways are removed (Embarcadero in SF)



During the last two or three years before [the entrance of the United States into World War II], a few planners had...begun to understand that, without a balanced system [of transportation], roads would not only not alleviate transportation congestion but would aggravate it. Watching Moses open the [Triborough Bridge](#) to ease congestion on the [Queensborough Bridge](#), open the [Bronx-Whitestone Bridge](#) to ease congestion on the Triborough Bridge and then watching traffic counts on all three bridges mount until all three were as congested as one had been before, planners could hardly avoid the conclusion that "traffic generation" was no longer a theory but a proven fact: the more highways were built to alleviate congestion, the more automobiles would pour into them and congest them and thus force the building of more highways – which would generate more traffic and become congested in their turn in an ever-widening spiral that contained far-reaching implications for the future of New York and of all urban areas.^[10]

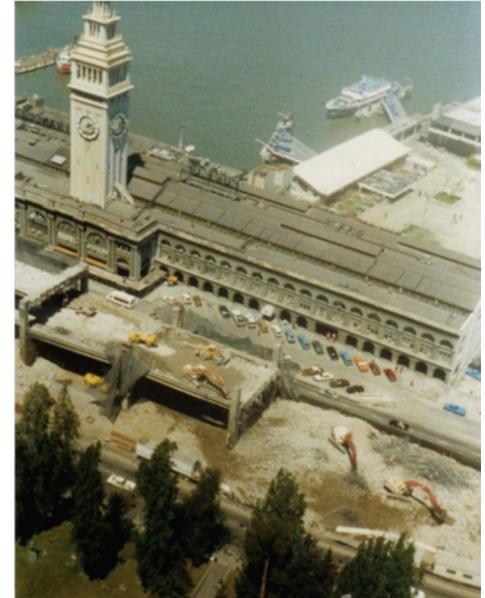
Reduced Demand

In San Francisco, after the highway above the Embarcadero was damaged in 1989 after a major earthquake, the decision was made to demolish it. While traffic spiked for a short-time, in a mirror image of induced demand, afterwards, the traffic simply evaporated as different trips were made and some travellers decided to use public transportation.

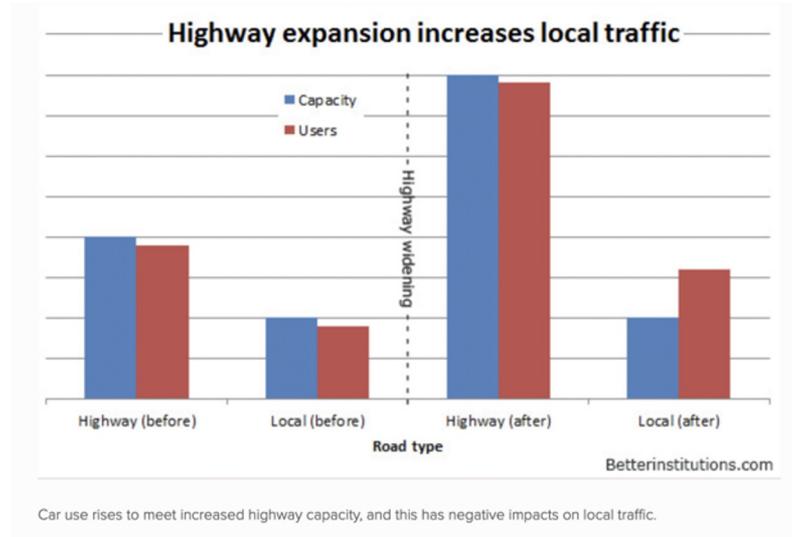
Similar circumstances surrounded the closing of the Alaskan Viaduct. Predictions had been originally of “Carmeggedon”

<http://www.preservenet.com/freeways/FreewaysEmbarcadero.html>

<https://www.planetizen.com/news/2019/01/102520-carmageddon-myth>



Increased Congestion on Local Streets



<http://www.betterinstitutions.com/blog/2013/07/freeway-expansion-doesnt-improve>



Clean Air, Safer Streets, Mass Transit



PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLES
600–1,600/HR



MIXED TRAFFIC WITH FREQUENT BUSES
1,000–2,800/HR



TWO-WAY PROTECTED BIKEWAY
7,500/HR



DEDICATED TRANSIT LANES
4,000–8,000/HR



SIDEWALK
9,000/HR



ON-STREET TRANSITWAY, BUS OR RAIL
10,000–25,000/HR

Why invest in public transit?

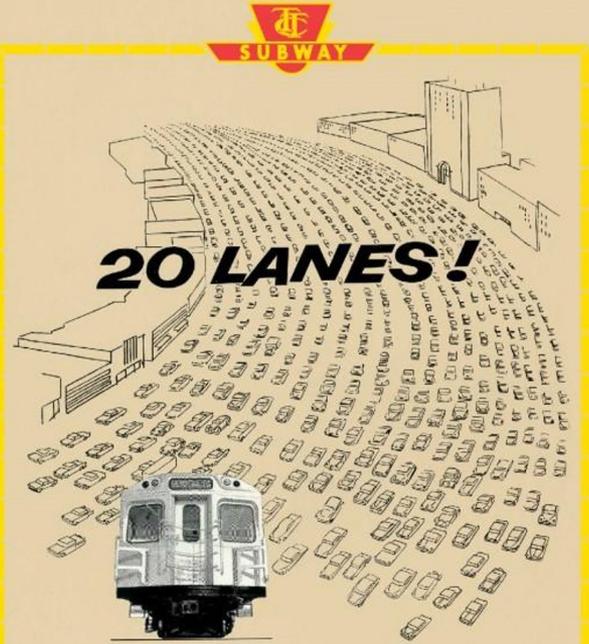


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1
GCL

4.23
BUSES

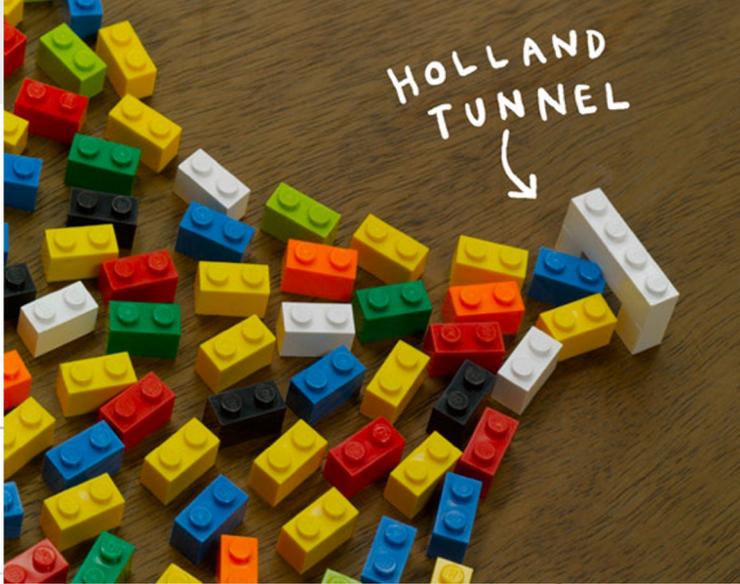
100
CARS



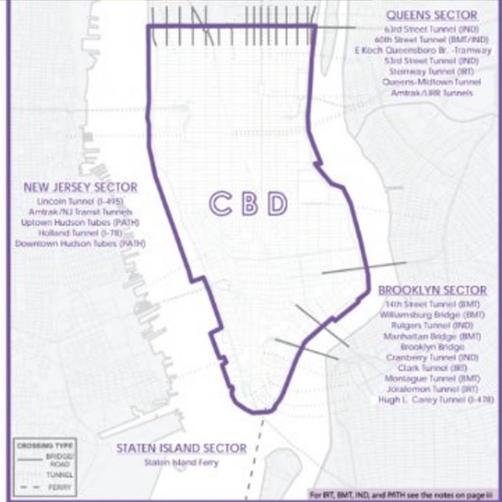
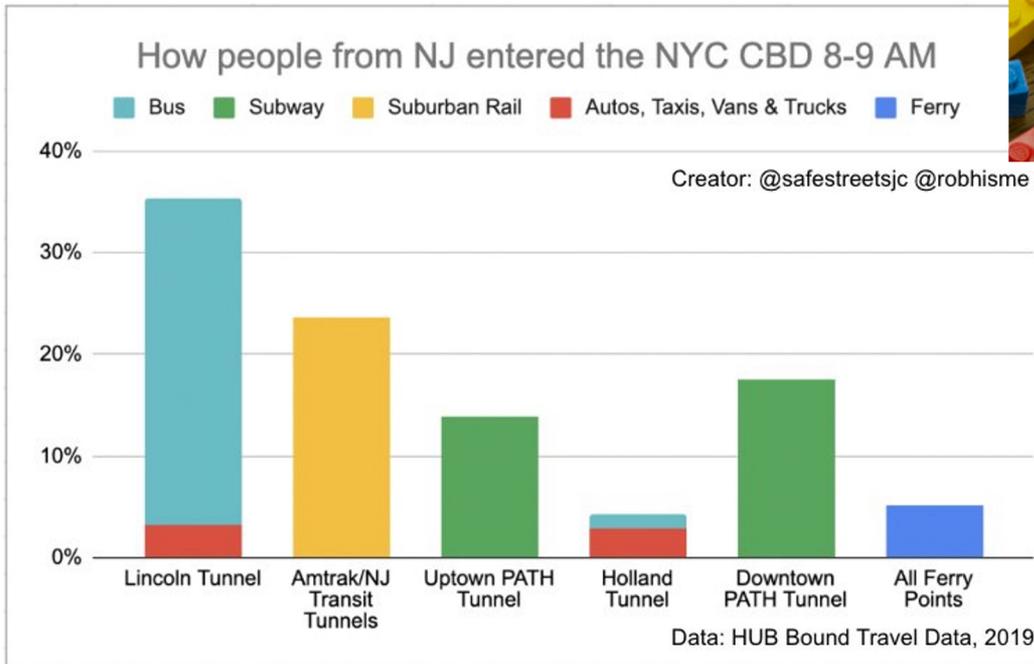
20 LANES!

A highway 20 lanes wide would be required to carry in automobiles the number of people now being served by Toronto's Subway.

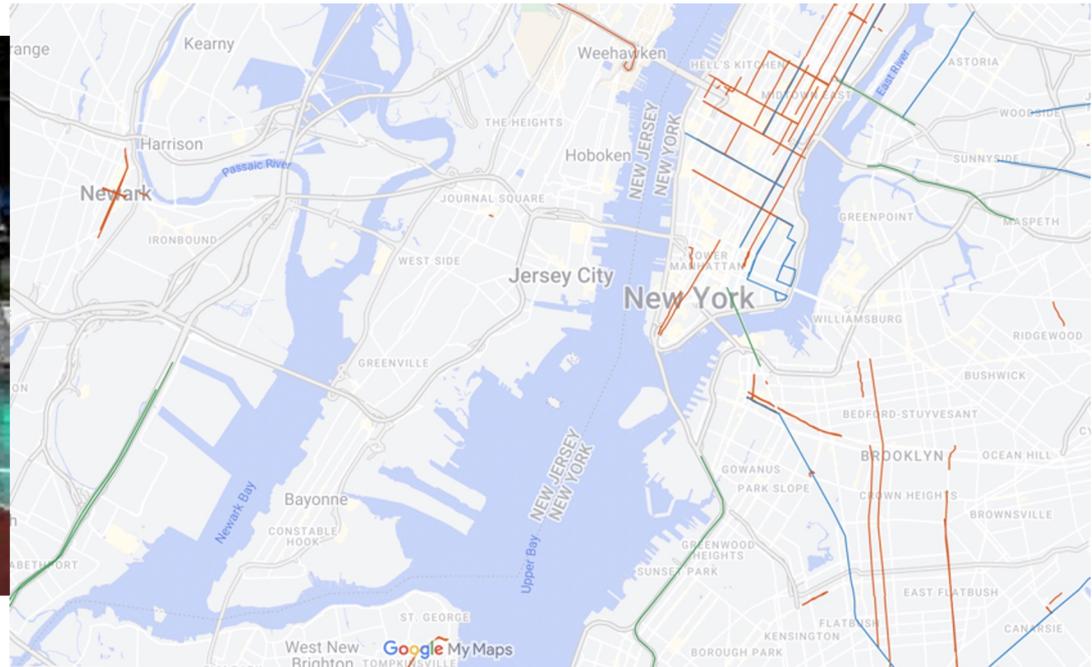
HOLLAND TUNNEL



Holland Tunnel is only 3%



Why invest in public transit? Dedicated Bus Lanes, NJ vs NY





Truck and heavier vehicle contributions to road damage

Setting aside diesel exhaust, the vast majority of road damage is done by trucks because damage has been studied to vary to the 4th power of weight. Road expansions for trucks are a giveaway to one industry at the expense of another.

<https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2017/06/22/murphys-law-how-trucks-destroy-our-roads/>

$$\left(\frac{W_1}{W_2}\right)^4$$

In the equation, W_1 is the weight of an axle on vehicle 1, which we would compare to W_2 , the weight of an axle on vehicle 2.

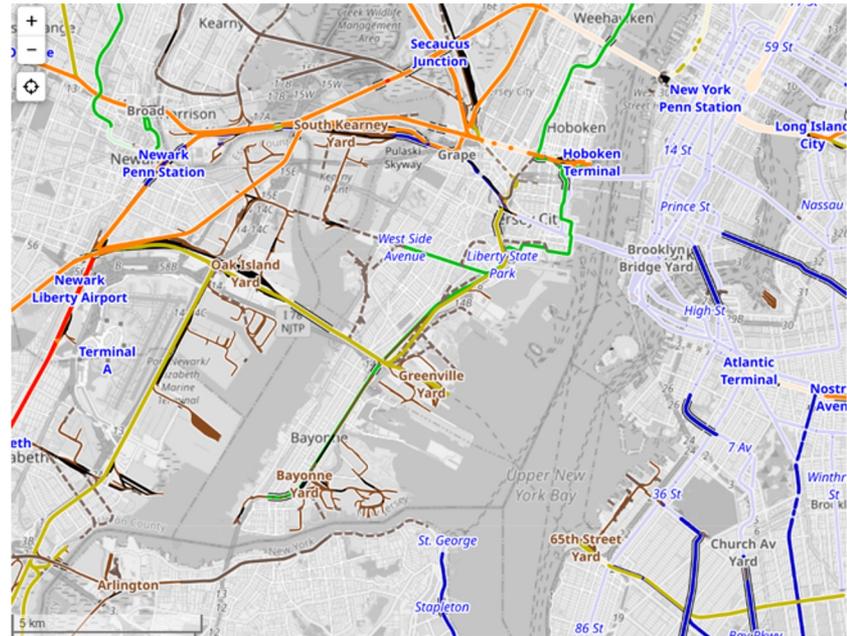
Let's look at some numbers for comparison.

Consider a standard sedan with two axles and a total weight of 2 tons. Assuming an even distribution, each of its axles would bear the weight of 1 ton. Now consider a semitruck with eight axles and a weight of 40 tons -- each of its axles would weigh 5 tons. The relative damage done by each axle of the truck can be calculated with the following equation, and comes out to 625 times the damage done by each axle of the sedan.

$$\left(\frac{5 \text{ tons}}{1 \text{ ton}}\right)^4 = 625$$

Freight rail: The antidote to warehouse sprawl

- U.S. freight railroads can, on average, move one ton of freight nearly 500 miles per gallon of fuel
- Strong existing network across NJ
- No tire dust and little brake dust
- Easy to electrify in the future
- Unlike roads, historically we have spent very little public money on freight rail
- [NYNJ Railcar Float](#)
- [Cross-Harbor Freight Program](#) needs New Jersey support



Environmental Review and Issues



Two States Cancel Highway Expansions After Years of Planning

A Better Future

LA cancelled the widening of the 710 freeway in Long Beach and is investing \$1.5B in freight rail for an inland port instead. If even LA has cancelled their worst highway widening project...

We can win.



A view of the 710 freeway in Long Beach, California. ROBERT GAUTHIER/L

RAIL

\$1.5B project will boost rail capacity at Port of Long Beach

6/22/2022

0

8 MIN READ

By Jay Landers

In fall 2021, as supply chain disruptions began reaching crisis proportions, national attention turned to the problem of the increasing numbers of massive container ships waiting off the Southern California shore, unable to enter the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach in a timely manner. Bedeviled by labor shortages due to COVID and an insufficient number of truck drivers, the two ports, which together handle about 40% of the goods entering the United States, could not keep up with the surge of cargo arriving from Asia.

Undoubtedly, the situation was enormously frustrating for the [Port of Long Beach](#), which by then had been working for nearly 15 years to significantly expand its rail capacity. Fortunately, the Maritime Administration within the U.S. Department of Transportation released, in April, its record of decision certifying the federal environmental impact statement for the port's planned \$1.5 billion program known as the Pier B On-Dock Rail Support Facility. Along with boosting the port's rail capacity, the project will make the facility more competitive while reducing traffic congestion on local roadways and improving air quality.



NJTA's strategy and why full review is needed

- State-level, no teeth EIS
- Segmentation strategy
- Lack of examination of mass transit and freight rail alternatives

Not just GHGs: Growing awareness of particulate pollution from brake and tire dust

EU and UK are starting to regulate brake and tire dust pollution due to impact on health

Heavier vehicles, especially trucks cause greater amounts of wear

Tire additives were just found to have been killing half of salmon eggs in Washington State

Toxic Tires



Particles shed from tires as they age contain 6PPD-quinone, a new chemical compound that has been linked to death of Coho salmon. Photo Kiyomi Taguchi/University of Washington.

After nearly 20 years of searching for clues, researchers have made a stunning discovery. A previously unknown chemical created as tires age is linked to the death of Coho salmon. Studies have shown that more than half, and sometimes all, adult Coho salmon returning to many urban creeks in the Pacific Northwest, die before they can spawn. Now we know why.

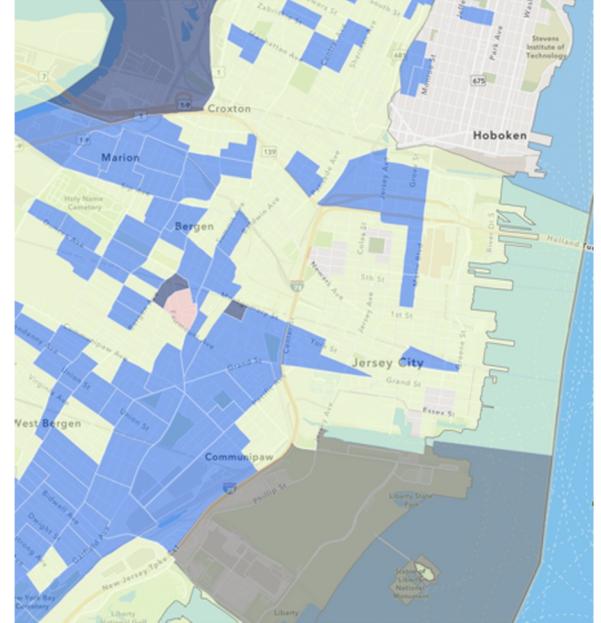
, based in Puyallup, er.”

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Traffic related sources are a significant contributor of particulate matter, particularly in urban environments and major cities. Traffic related particles can be distinguished into: **exhaust traffic related particles**, which are emitted as a result of incomplete fuel combustion and lubricant volatilization during the combustion procedure, and **non-exhaust traffic related particles**, which are either generated from non-exhaust traffic related sources such as brake, tyre, clutch and road surface wear or already exist in the environment as deposited material and become resuspended due to traffic induced turbulence. It is estimated that exhaust and non-exhaust sources contribute almost equally to total traffic-related PM₁₀ emissions. However, as exhaust emissions control become stricter, relative contributions of non-exhaust sources to traffic related emissions will increasingly become more significant. The aim of the present literature review study is to present the state-of-the-art of the different aspects regarding particulate emissions resulting from non-exhaust sources and particularly from brake and tyre wear. For this reason several different literature sources such as peer reviewed papers, research project reports, technical publications, as

Environmental Justice issues

“All New Jersey residents, regardless of income, race, ethnicity, color, or national origin, have a right to live, work, and recreate in a clean and healthy environment. Historically, New Jersey’s low-income communities and communities of color face a disproportionately high number of environmental and public health stressors and, as a result, suffer from increased adverse health effects. New Jersey seeks to correct these outcomes by furthering the promise of environmental justice.”





Conclusion

Q&A

Learn more and take action
at: <https://turnpiketrap.org>

Contact:
hello@turnpiketrap.org

Resources: Vision Zero and Complete Streets in Jersey City

