



NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM

50 Years of stories at the New York Transit Museum



Founded in 1976 as part of America's Bicentennial, the New York Transit Museum began as a temporary exhibition proposed by NYC Transit employees. Housed in a decommissioned 1936 subway station in Brooklyn, the exhibition was meant to last only a few months but became the largest museum in North America dedicated to mass transit and a beloved cultural institution. Today, it connects New Yorkers and visitors alike to transit history through exhibitions, educational programs, and one-of-a-kind experiences.

A Big Year for Birthdays!



America **1776-2026**



Court Street Station
1936-2026



The New York Transit
Museum **1976-2026**

Bodies that oversaw transit construction contracts/materials inspection & testing:

Board of Rapid Transit Railroad Commissioners/ Rapid Transit Board	1900-1906
---	-----------

Public Service Commission for the First District (PSC)	1907-1923
---	-----------

Also oversaw transit operations:

Board of Transportation (BOT)	1924-1953
--------------------------------------	-----------

New York City Transit Authority (NYCTA)	1953-1968
--	-----------

Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)	1968-present
--	--------------

Predecessor transit operators:

Interborough Rapid Transit Company (IRT) - today's number lines 1-7

Brooklyn Rapid Transit Company (BRT) / Brooklyn Manhattan Transit Corporation (BMT) - today's letter lines J-Z

Independent Subway System (IND) - today's letter lines A-G



Station Guide New York City Transit System Ind. Division, 1946, 2004.19.37, Map collection, New York Transit Museum



[R33S
World's Fair
car at Times
Square
Station],
1964,
XX.2008.168.
1, Archival
collection,
New York
Transit
Museum

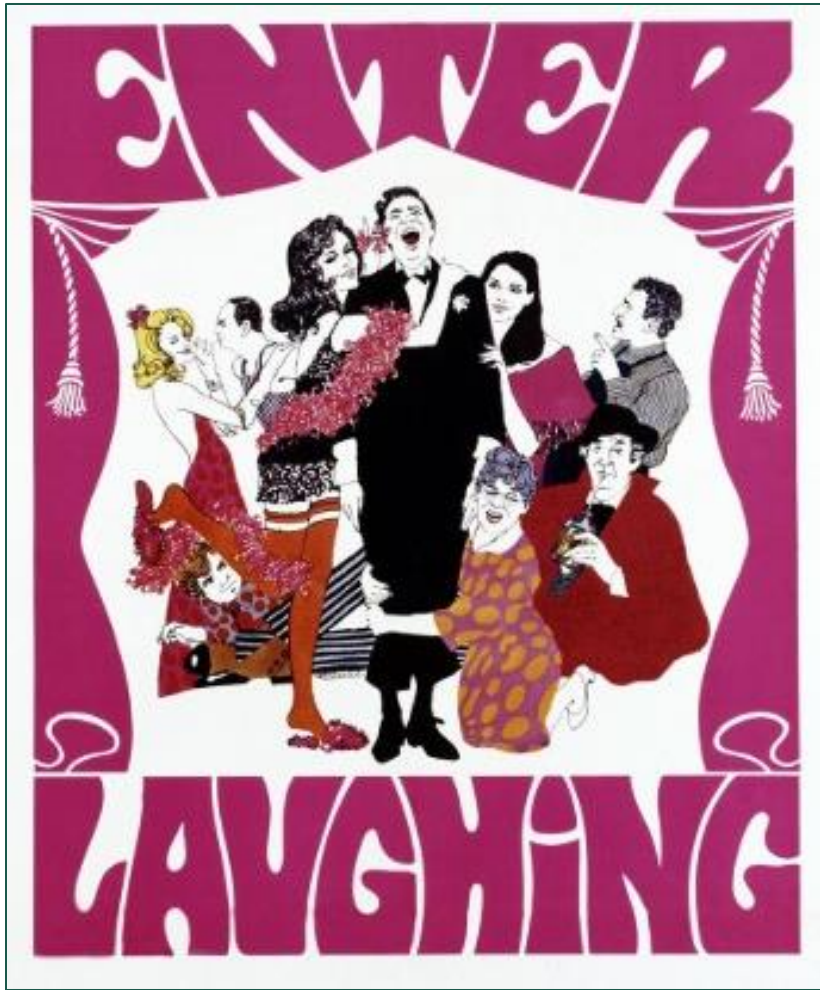


“This is our heritage. We have to remember that these cars were built for lines going into wilderness. They were integral to the development of New York City.”



[World's Fair cars at Corona Yard], 1965, 2012.18.17, Long Island Rail Road Collection, New York Transit Museum



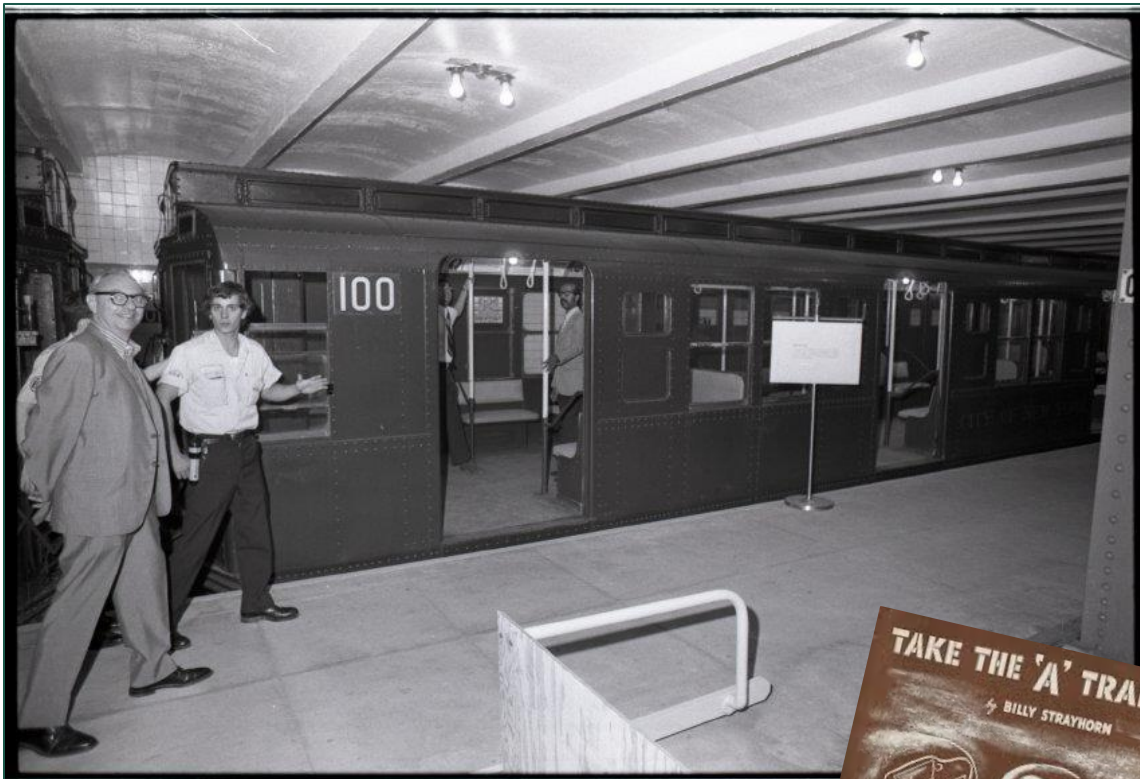


"Enter Laughing", Directed by Carl Reiner
Movie poster, 1967



Lo-V Subway Car
#4902, 1917





[The New York City Transit Exhibition], 7/9/1976, 2005.48.919, NYCTA Photographic Unit Collection, New York Transit Museum



[Subway Car #8019, BMT Brighton Line, Coney Island Yard, Brooklyn, NY], 1949, 2004.20.11.102, Lundin Collection, New York Transit Museum





Old City Hall Station platform



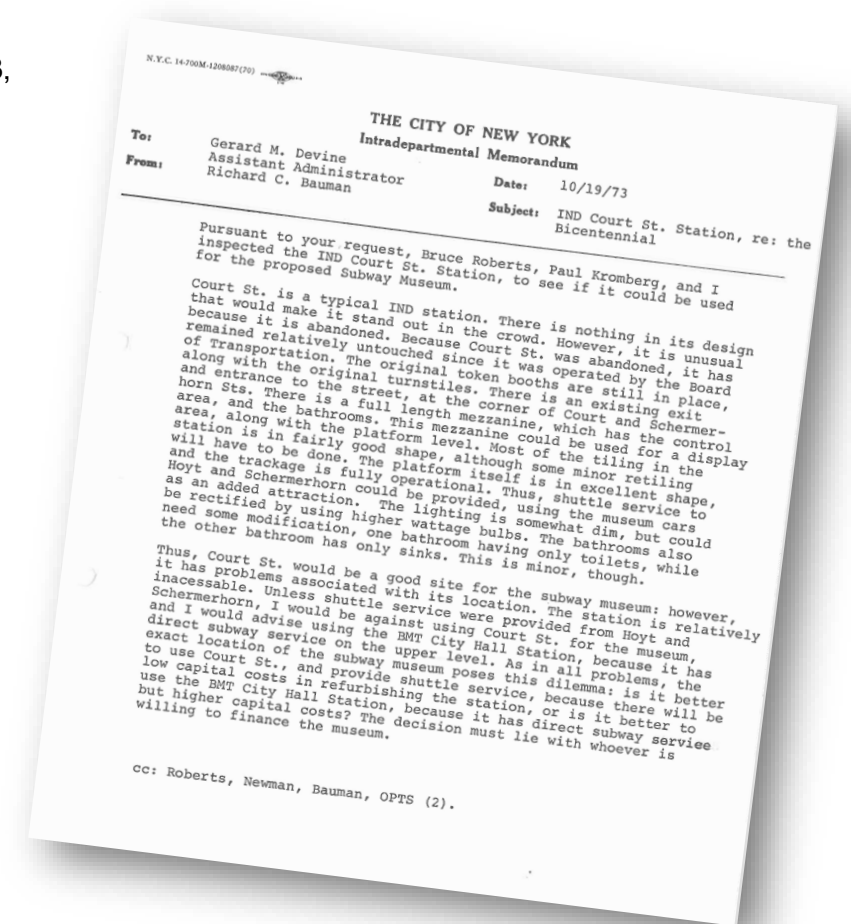
Architectural
renderings, ca.
1990s



[The New York City Transit Exhibition], 1976, 2005.48.923, NYCTA Photograph Unit Collection, New York Transit Museum



[Court Street Station], 5/12/1976, 2005.48.902, NYCTA Photograph Unit Collection, New York Transit Museum



[Intradepartmental Memorandum, Richard Bauman], 7/23/1973



Scene from *Death Wish*, 1974



R30 Car No. 8506, 1961

“The subway system – the steel threads that built New York – is a fascinating chapter in our city’s history and in the history of American railroading. It is quite fitting that we unveil this exhibit at a time when our thoughts go back to our nation’s past.” David L. Yunich (Chair & CEO of MTA)



[Turnstiles], 7/9/1976, 2005.48.918, NYCTA Photograph Unit Collection, New York Transit Museum

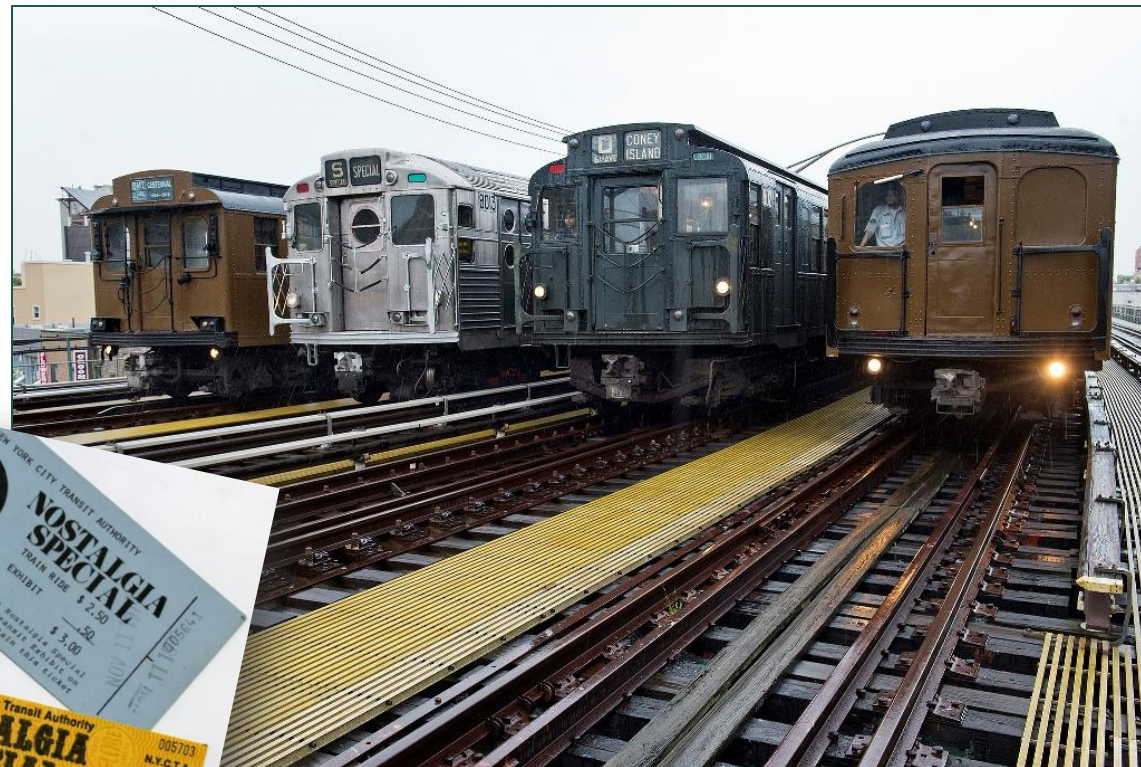


[Nedick's], 7/8/1976, 2005.48.909, NYCTA Photograph Unit Collection, New York Transit Museum



[Sneak peek of the New York City Public Transit Exhibit], 1976, 2025.29.2.3.1.7.16, New York Transit Museum Collection

Nostalgia Rides on the Vintage Fleet



[D-Type Triplex 6019], 5/9/1976, 2016.12.1.2.6, Ralph Curcio
Slide Collection, New York Transit Museum

Parade of Trains,
Brighton Beach,
2019





The 200th R-46 had stars and stripes livery, 8/8/1976, 2016.12.1.40.16, Ralph Curcio Slide Collection, New York Transit Museum



Ode to the Orange Seats Exhibit, 2026 Artist Danny Cortes and MTA Chairman, Janno Lieber, photos courtesy Argenis Apolinaro





Christine Motley from the Bronx, was the 100,000th visitor to the Museum in June 1977



Students enjoying the BMT triplex, ca. 1980s



'Save the Transit Museum' Poster, 1991,
New York Transit Museum Collection



Bus Festival, 1992, "Betsy"



New York Transit Museum Store – Holiday Train
Show, GCT, 2025, Photo courtesy Filip Wolak

The New York Transit Museum today:



- The Museum gladly received 694,000 visitors in 2025, a 13% increase over 2024, and is on track to exceed that number in 2026.
- We welcome visitors from all 5 boroughs, all 50 states, and around the world to celebrate transit history and culture
- In 2025, 90,000+ people met up with friends, and made new ones, at our beloved community events such as our annual Bus Festival and Holiday Nostalgia Rides
- Annually, 1,500 people visited Old City Hall Station on Member Only tours - Tickets sell out in minutes!
- The Museum holds over 5,000 linear feet of manuscripts, photographs and other ephemera in our collection
- The Museum has over 15,000 objects in our collection, including more than 25 buses and 75 subway cars
- In 2024, the Transit Museum's exhibit, *The Subway Is...*, was awarded Best Exhibition of the Year by Time Out New York
- Digital marketing efforts reached more than 25 million people online in 2024, bringing stories of transit history and progress to audiences around the world.





33rd Street station terra cotta ornamentation, 1904, 1999.2.1, Object & Artifact Collection, New York Transit Museum



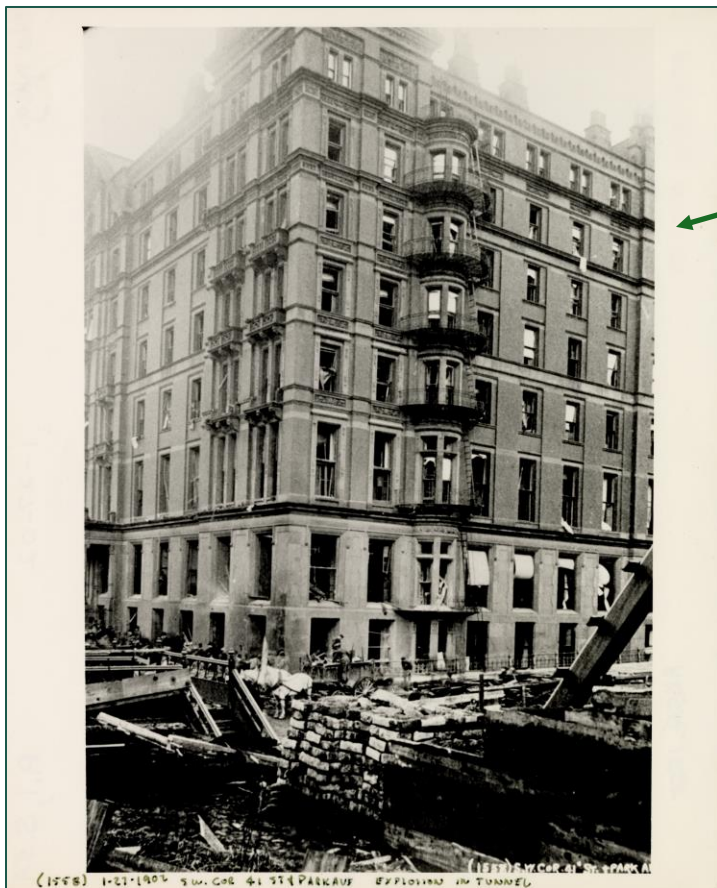
Photograph by David Lubarsky, Eagle Mosaic: 33rd Street Station (IRT East Side Line), ca. 1990s, 1994.21.1, New York Transit Museum Collection



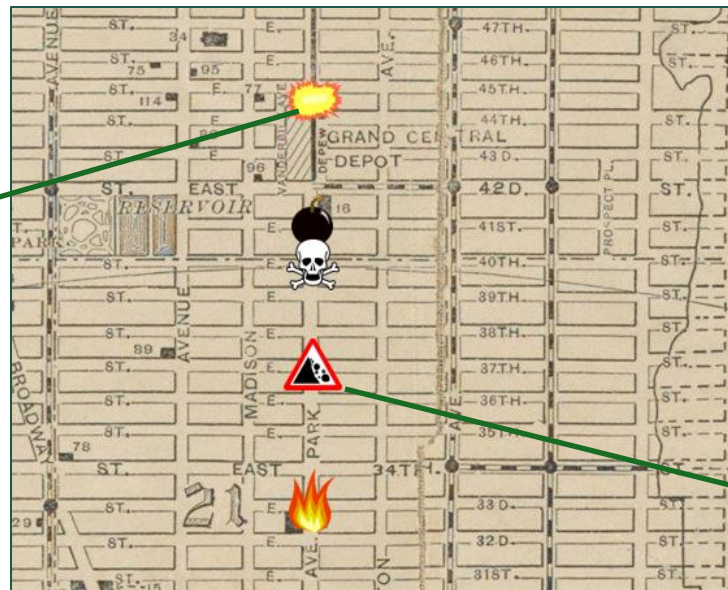
71st Regiment Armory, 33rd St, NYPL Collection



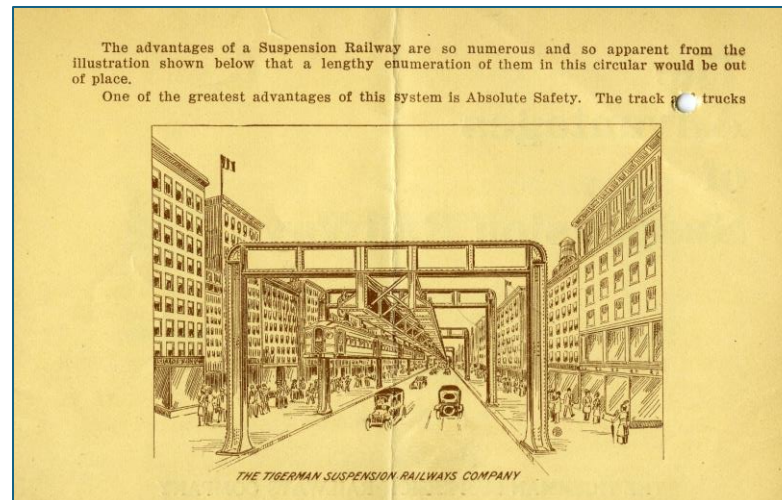
Terra cotta eagle reproduction, 1994, 1999.23.2, Object & artifact Collection, New York Transit Museum



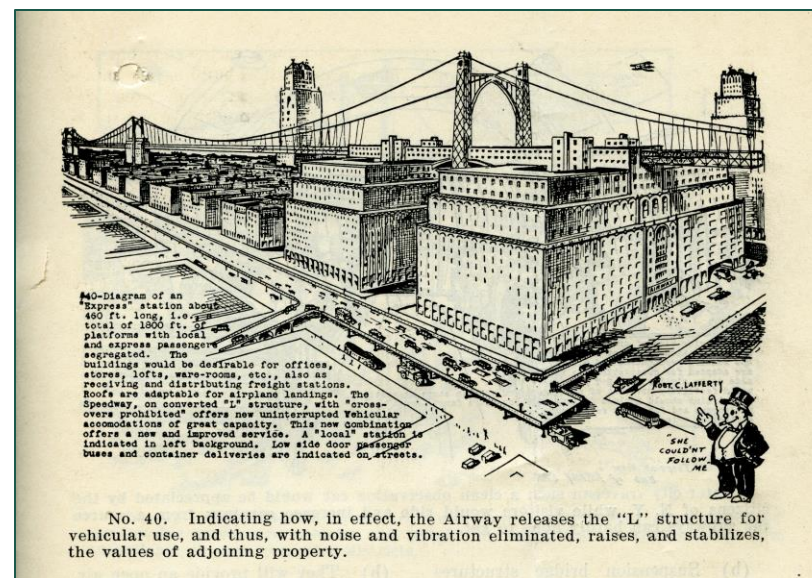
[S.W. cor. 41st St. + Park Ave.], 1/27/1902,
R1S5A_1558, Subway Construction Photograph
Collection, New York Transit Museum



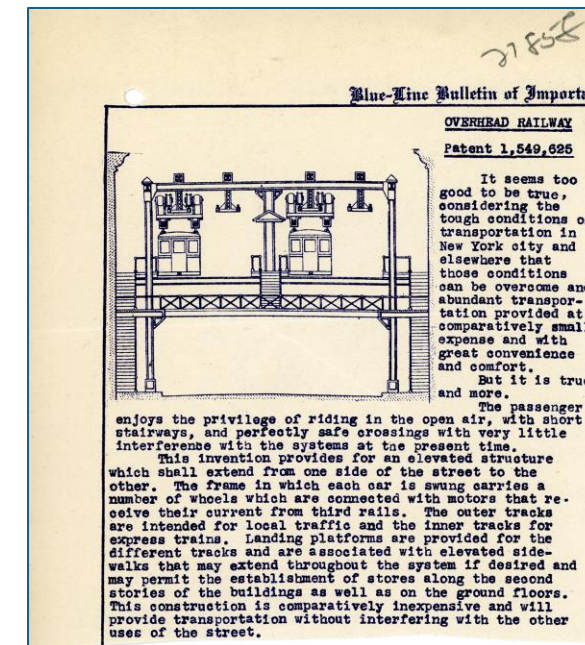
[#55-7 Park Ave.],
3/21/1902, R1S3_1699,
Subway Construction
Photograph Collection, New
York Transit Museum



[Tigerman Suspension Railway proposal], 1925, XX.2024.1.5, Board of Transportation Collection, New York Transit Museum



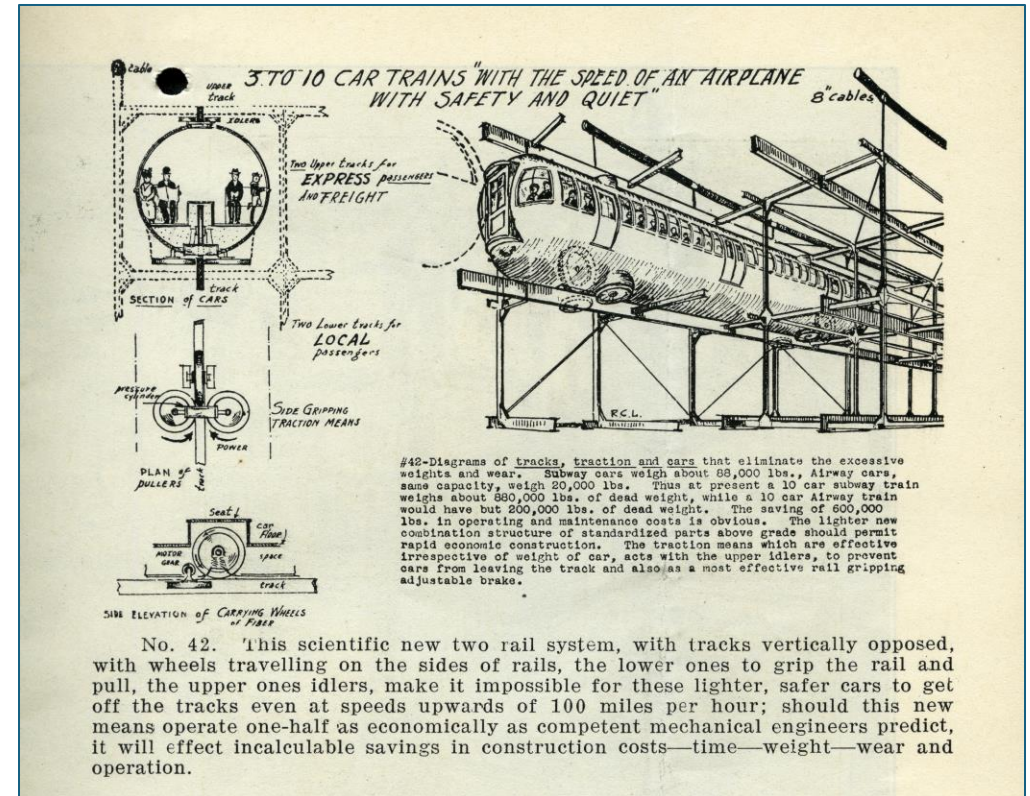
[Airways Proposal], Robert Lafferty, 1927, XX.2024.1.8.13, Board of Transportation Collection, New York Transit Museum



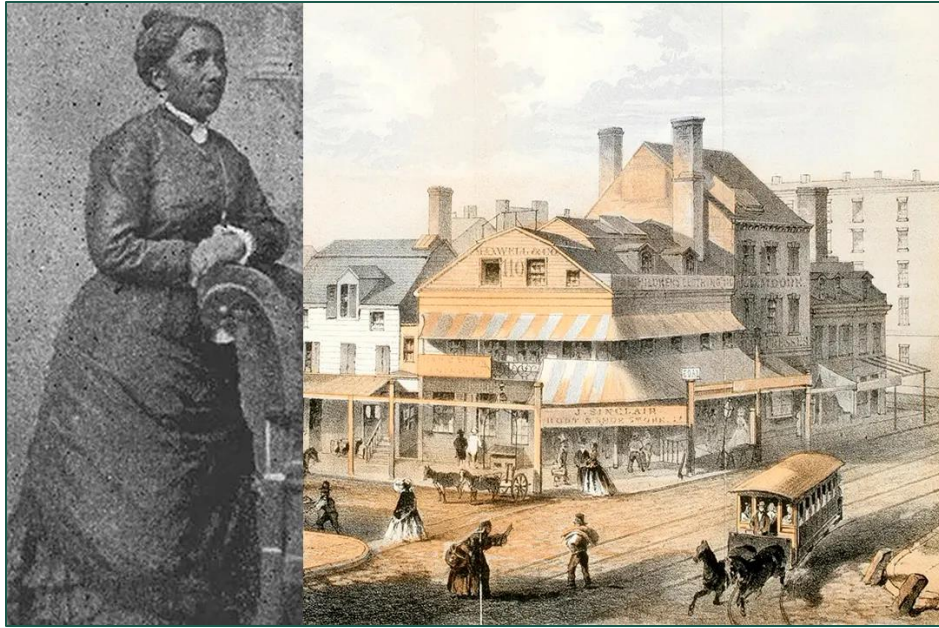
[Overhead Railway proposal], Henry Swift, 1926, XX.2024.1.22.1, Board of Transportation Collection, New York Transit Museum



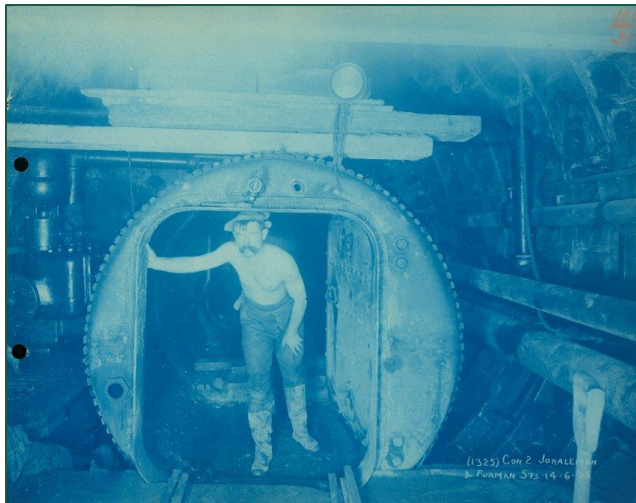
The Wuppertaler Schwebebahn, the [Kaiserwagen](#) (Emperor's car), the original train used by Emperor [Wilhelm II](#)



[Airways Proposal], Robert Lafferty, 1927, XX.2024.1.8, Board of Transportation Collection, New York Transit Museum



Elizabeth Jennings Graham, Pearl Street, Manhattan, 1850s



[Joralemon Street Tunnel: IRT Lexington Avenue Line], R2S2A_1325, 1905, Subway Construction Photograph Collection, New York Transit Museum



[Amelia Opdyke Jones posing with issues of The Subway Sun, talking to Martin Ryan], 1956, 1998.23.10, Amelia "Oppy" Opdyke Jones Collection, New York Transit Museum



The Subway Sun, Vol. XV, No. 9: Bad Manners, 1948, 1998.23.97, Amelia "Oppy" Opdyke Jones Collection, New York Transit Museum



NEW YORK TRANSIT MUSEUM

The New York Transit Museum relies on community support to continue our work. Every gift supports what has become the largest museum in North America dedicated to mass transit. This institution is beloved by so many because it creates meaningful educational and cultural experiences for today's audiences.

As we honor this 50th Anniversary year, please consider making a gift to celebrate this landmark occasion. Your support helps ensure the Museum can continue inspiring future generations through the stories, objects, and innovations that keep New York moving.

Visit nytransitmuseum.org to learn about more upcoming programs, browse our digital collections, and explore special online exhibits.

