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NYMTC's 4th Quarter Travel Patterns Report Shows a
Notable Drop in Vehicle River Crossings to/from
Manhattan's Congestion Relief Zone in Q4 2025
Transit Ridership Continues to Rebound but Remains Below
Pre-Pandemic Levels

NEW YORK, June 15, 2026 – Bridge and tunnel crossings to and from Manhattan's Congestion Relief Zone (CRZ) by car decreased almost across the board during the fourth quarter of 2025 compared to the same period in 2024, according to the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's (NYMTC) [Travel Patterns Report for the 4th quarter of 2025](#).

NYMTC's quarterly Travel Patterns Report provides a snapshot of travel activity throughout New York City, Long Island, the Lower Hudson Valley and northern New Jersey using data collected from the agencies operating the region's bridges, tunnels, and public transit systems.

Among the crossings serving Manhattan's CRZ, the Ed Koch Queensborough Bridge reported the sharpest traffic decline at -23.2% when compared to the same period in 2024. That was followed by the Manhattan Bridge, which experienced a -11.1% decrease; the Lincoln Tunnel, which fell 5.2%; and the Williamsburg Bridge, which lost 3.6% of its vehicle volume.

Outside of the CRZ, the most notable increases in vehicular traffic were across the Atlantic Beach Bridge, which grew by 5% and the Bear Mountain Bridge, which increased 4.7%.

Public transit ridership across the NYMTC region continued its gradual recovery during the fourth quarter of 2025, increasing 1.1% over the same period in 2024. Among the biggest gainers were Rockland County Buses with a whopping 25.5% increase; the Long Island Railroad at 8.3%; and the New Jersey Transit Rail System's River Line at 7.2%. The biggest decreases in transit ridership were with the Nassau Inter-County Express (NICE) bus system at -11.8%; the Westchester County Bee-Line Bus at -7.3%; and the MTA Bus Company at -6.8%.

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Despite year-over-year gains, transit ridership remains well below pre-pandemic levels. The report found that the average weekday transit ridership during the fourth quarter report of 2025 totaled 7,175,979 passengers, which is 27.1% less – or 2.7 million less passengers - than it was pre-COVID in 2019.

Ferry ridership across the region declined 1% compared to the fourth quarter of 2024, although performance varied significantly by route. Several NYC Ferry routes took the biggest hit, with Governor's Island experiencing the biggest passenger loss at -53%. The Rockaway route followed next, declining -37% during the fourth quarter, which was followed by the Soundview route at -33%. Conversely, the biggest passenger increases were found within the NY Waterway routes, with Hoboken to/from the World Financial Center/ Brookfield Place boasting a 32% passenger gain. This was followed by the Pier 11 to/from Port Liberte route, increasing 24% and the Pier 11 to/from Edgewater-Downtown, increasing 23%.

"Tracking the enormous amount of travel in our region is vital to everything we do here at NYMTC and a key element in servicing the region's future transportation needs," said Adam Levine, executive director of NYMTC. "We are grateful for the cooperation and assistance of our member agencies who analyze and provide the data for this report and many others."

A complete list of all NYMTC Travel Pattern Reports dating back to 2002 can be found on our Travel Patterns Report page [here](#).

ABOUT THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL (NYMTC)

NYMTC is the federally mandated council of governments that directs the use of billions of dollars in federal transportation funds for New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley. As the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), NYMTC provides a collaborative planning forum that addresses transportation-related issues and develops regional plans and goals through a shared vision for its regional transportation network. NYMTC has nine voting members and seven advisory members representing 2,440 square miles and serving a population of 13 million – approximately 65% of New York State's residents. Between fiscal years 2026-2030, nearly 1,000 transportation projects will be funded in the NYMTC region totaling almost \$40 billion.