



# The Cross Harbor Rail Freight Tunnel

## Critical for New York's Future Critical Benefits for Long Island

### The Problem

- With a population of almost 3 million people, Long Island is one of the nation's largest consumer markets and yet the East of the Hudson area isn't connected to the nation's rail system. Only 1% of freight delivered to Long Island is delivered by rail, compared to the national average of 15%.
- As a result, nearly all of our goods enter and leave the East of Hudson area by truck. Over 90% of those goods come in over a single bridge -- the George Washington Bridge.
- This truck-dependence congests our roads, highways and bridges, and is a major problem for Long Island. Congestion on the Long Island Expressway and local roads results in terrible air pollution, and the highest asthma rates in the nation. It also means that when health emergencies or fires arise, ambulances and fire trucks get mired in traffic.
- The dependence on trucks also means that the cost of doing business in New York, and the cost of our consumer goods -- like food and clothing -- are all much higher than other areas of the country.
- The amount of freight -- from building materials to computers to produce -- coming across the Hudson River will increase by nearly 80% in the next 20 years. The increase in trucks to deliver these goods will completely clog our streets with trucks, creating an immovable lid on economic growth. In other words, the growth of the metropolitan area's economy could come to a grinding halt.
- Because nearly all of our goods come in over one bridge, one bomb-threat could isolate us from the goods we need, including food and medicine.

### The Solution

- The Cross Harbor Rail Freight Tunnel, which will be built under New York Harbor, will link the nation's rail system ending in New Jersey, with the existing Bay Ridge & Montauk lines.
- This Tunnel will allow more goods to move by rail rather than by truck, and offers a safer, more efficient, sustainable way to move goods into and out of Long Island.

## The Tunnel Benefits

- The Tunnel will take as many as 1 million trucks a year off of the Hudson River crossings. These trucks will be removed from the streets of Long Island communities, and will help to solve road congestion, reduce environmental health problems, such as asthma, and allow better movement of emergency vehicles.
- The Tunnel will act as a key engine for economic growth by creating as many as 3,650 new long-term jobs in Nassau & Suffolk Counties, as well as an additional 6,526 direct construction jobs. These are all good jobs with wages and benefits that can support a family.
- The Tunnel will provide significant national security benefits by making sure that essential goods can move into the City, even if a terrorist attack closed the George Washington or Verrazano Narrows bridges to trucks.

Long Island Benefit Type	Single Tunnel	Double Tunnel
Reduced Truck Traffic Across Long Island (per year)	1 million miles	696,000 miles
Long Island Expressway Reduction in Truck Traffic (24 hour period)	1,059 large trucks a day	205 large trucks a day
Reduced Air Pollution (per year)	62,085 tons of greenhouse gas	121,516 tons of greenhouse gas
Increased Employment**	2,670 jobs	3,650 jobs

\*\* does not include construction jobs as a result of the tunnel project. Figure reflects gains from transportation efficiency, reduced costs and improved competitiveness for local businesses, as well as business attraction for warehousing, distribution and manufacturing companies benefiting from vastly improved freight service.

- Trucks take up as much space as 3-4 passenger cars when traveling on the City's highways, roads & bridges. A single truck causes as much road damage as 3,000 passenger cars. This could cost the State \$3.7 billion per year to keep up with roadway maintenance.

For more information visit [www.movenynj.org](http://www.movenynj.org) or contact Elena Conte at (718) 399-4416