



In 2019 the New York City subway had a daily ridership of approximately 5.5 million and an annual ridership of roughly 1.698 billion. On Thursday, September 4, 2020 daily ridership was 1.5 million, the highest since March.



Though ridership is down, 90% of current subway riders, including essential workers going to and from their jobs, wear masks. The culture of avoidance of contact with others may help reduce the risk of contagion.





Thinking ahead ten years - or more - Gov. Cuomo vowed in January that the Second Avenue Subway extension up to 125<sup>th</sup> Street in East Harlem despite the budget uncertainties at the MTA caused by the pandemic.



The #7 Flushing Line of the NYC subway system was extended to the Hudson Yards development, opening to the public in September, 2015. There have been several proposals to extend it further, to New Jersey.





The Fulton Center, which opened in 2014, links twelve subway lines. Natural light from the skylights illuminates the platform level. The freestanding building is unusual for the MTA as is the retail space.



Natural light, massive volume, and commercial space are also defining features of the Oculus, designed to serve 250,000 New Jersey commuters daily as terminus of the Port Authority Trans Hudson (PATH) regional line.



At the other end of the PATH tubes, the Hoboken regional rail station is at the center of a redevelopment plan that includes affordable housing put on hold after the devastation of Super Storm Sandy.





The Erie Lackawanna station in Hoboken is intermodal as it brings together trains, buses and NY Waterway ferries serving Wall Street and the World Financial Center. A location for boat maintenance remains contentious.





The Staten Island Ferry, before the pandemic, had 22 million passengers annually, that is 70,000 every weekday. With 117 trips every day between St. George and the Battery, there were over 40,000 trips annually.



The East River route of the smaller and quicker NYC Ferry boats connects growing communities along the East River, including Hunters Point South, Greenpoint, Williamsburg and DUMBO to Midtown and Wall Street.



The two 65-story Marina City apartment towers, built in the 1960s, are located on the Chicago River directly across from the Loop. At river level is a marina which originally was to contain 1,000 boats.





Another building from the past that has retained value and sets an example for the future is Union Station in Denver. Its commercial space includes the Terminal Bar and a hotel, animating the LoDo district.



The impetus of the 2028 Summer Olympic games has helped Los Angeles finance the “Twenty-Eight by ‘28” capital plan, including new stations and subway lines to increase mobility and get people out of their cars.



In Paris, the Société du Grand Paris is constructing a new regional rail system, the largest infrastructure project in Europe, to be completed in time for the 2024 Olympics and to spur development and connectivity.





With the cost of fixed rail systems so high, especially in New York, dedicated bus lanes and bus rapid transit systems such as Select Bus Service are providing quicker service for those in transit deserts.



Yellow cabs and car services such as Uber and Lyft define the current use of NYC streets. In ten years, with widespread utilization of autonomous vehicles, expect driverless cabs, like those of Waymo in Phoenix.





Since the advent of the pandemic, London has seen a ten-fold increase in bicycle use, and bike use in Beijing has increased by 150%. In NYC the increased use of Citibike has reflected economic conditions.





To make bicycle use easier, safer and more convenient for city-dwellers and commuters, the next decade will see increasing numbers of bicycle sheds, such as the Bike and Roll facility at Union Station in DC.



Hyperloop is a system that moves people and goods at unprecedented speeds safely, efficiently, and sustainably. Passengers and cargo capsules hover through a network of low-pressure tubes between cities.



The future of transit, ten years after the COVID-19 pandemic's onset, will stress personal safety, public health, contactless technology, autonomous vehicles, higher speeds for intra-city transit, and more innovative bicycles.