

Transportation Impact of COVID-19

**Jen Robertson, Senior Transportation Policy Advisor, NYC Mayor's
Office of Sustainability**

COVID-19: Sustainable Transportation

- New York City hard hit by COVID-19 with over 200,000 cases and over 17,000 deaths
- Essential services provided by City employees have kept many on the frontlines of the crisis
- NYC recognizes that the climate crisis presents an existential threat. Commitments to carbon neutrality by 2050 remain.



NY PAUSE Impact

- Stay-at-home order took effect on March 22nd
- Compared to 2019 levels:
 - Mass transit ridership down over 90 percent
 - Traffic volumes down 30 to 43 percent
 - Bike ridership increased 67 percent before dropping sharply in early April

Transportation trends act as indicators of potential recovery patterns.



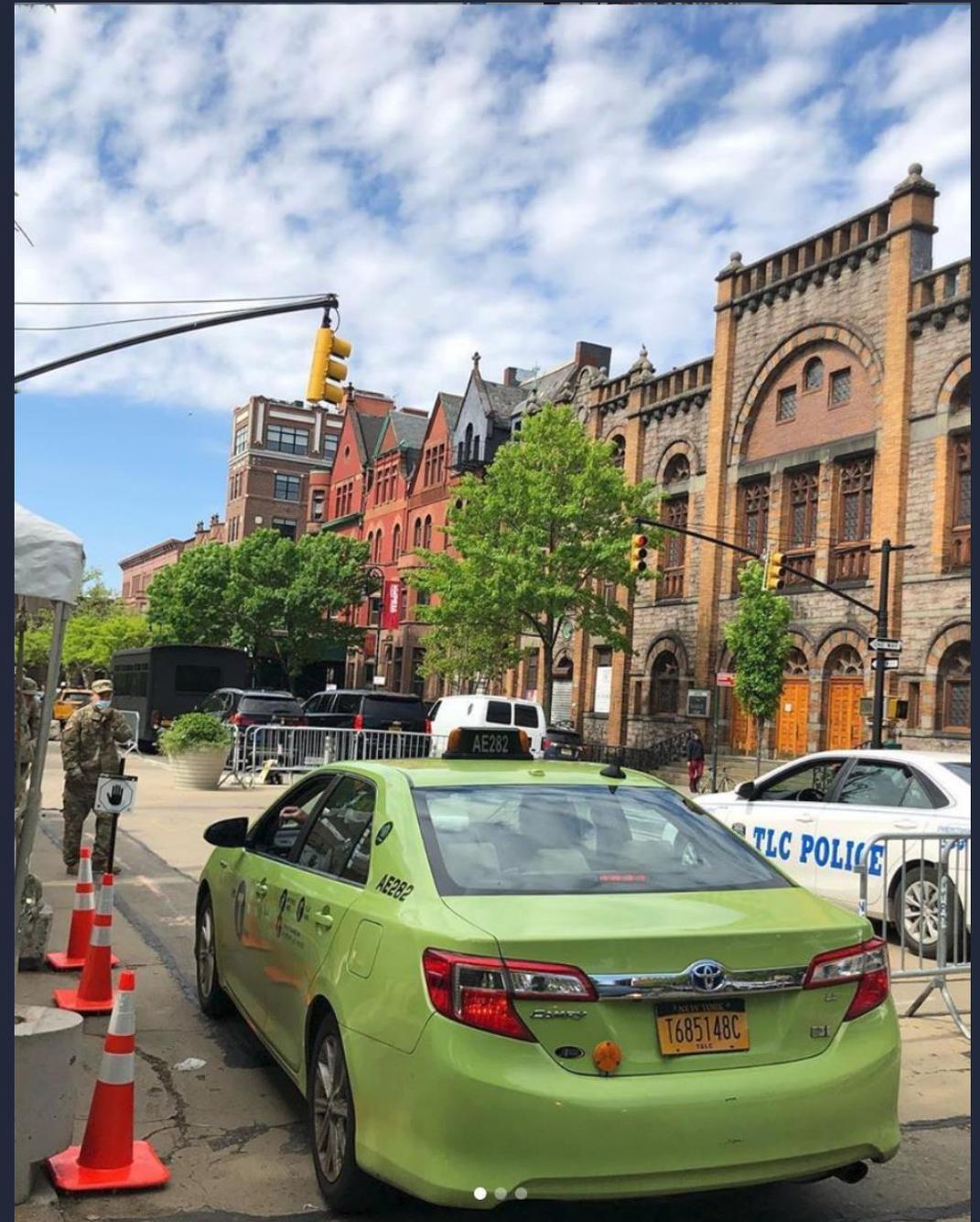
Response: Open Streets

- New York committed to 100 miles of open streets to provide space for safe social distancing this summer
- Essential vehicles and local residents with cars can still access the street but are limited to 5 mph
- Over 47 miles of streets opened so far across all five boroughs
- Open streets also includes protected bike lane with 9 miles added so far



Response: GetFood NYC

- Mobilizing drivers licensed by the Taxi and Limousine Commission to deliver free meals to food insecure New Yorkers
- Drivers paid \$53 per delivery route
- Over 42 million deliveries made since March 2020
- Goal of scaling program to deliver 1 million meals daily; exceeding 800,000 deliveries daily first week of June
- Food delivery program is complimented by Grab-and-Go Food program handing out boxed meals at over 500 schools



Response: NYC Fleet

- NYC procured or rented 250+ specialized response units for Medical Examiner, EMS ambulances
- Ambulance repair workload tripled. NYC Fleet organized inter-agency staff to support emergency fueling, repair, food distribution, and truck operation.
- Pre-COVID, NYC Fleet operated 680 EV chargers including 87 solar carports and 4 DCFC.
- At least 25 DCFC will go online this summer, and 100 by June, 2021.



Recovery: ZEV Role

- Vehicle sales down by 85 percent in New York State the last week of March
- Federal government fuel economy rollback continues to pose challenges
- City leadership in providing charging access:
 - NYCDOT continuing site design and planning for deployment of at least 8 fast chargers with plans to scale
 - Con Edison partnering with the City to deploy 120 level 2 chargers on street



Recovery: NYC Fleet

- Over 2,100 EVs in fleet currently; to expand to 4,000 by 2025
 - Lower overall total cost of ownership makes the case to go EV amid budget limitations
- Fleet disinfecting emergency fleet units, researching vehicle partitions for social distancing in vehicles
- Executive orders mandating an all electric fleet by 2040 and reducing fleet size by 1,000 vehicles by summer 2021 still in effect



Recovery: Better Buses

- Nine major bus lane projects announced; serving 750,000 riders
- Five permanent busways where most vehicle traffic banned: Fifth Ave (MH), Jamaica Ave (QNs), Jay St. (BK), Main St. (QNs) and 181th St (MH)
- 14th Street (MH) busway will be made permanent
- Four bus lanes: E 14th St (MH), 149th St (Bx), Hylan Blvd. (SI), and Merrick Blvd (QNs)



Recovery: Next Steps

New York plans to recover from COVID-19 stronger, just and more sustainable

- We must react to underlying existing racial inequities echoed in rates of COVID-19
- Essential workers who keep NYC running are predominately people of color
- Unlocking sustainable transportation options improves our air quality, linked to mitigating preexisting conditions

We must build trust, develop low cost solutions and keep New Yorkers healthy

