



## **PELHAM BAY BRIDGE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

# **FAQs**

### **What is the Pelham Bay Bridge Replacement Project?**

The Pelham Bay Bridge Replacement Project is a major infrastructure initiative aimed at replacing the existing Pelham Bay Bridge, which spans the Hutchinson River Bronx, NY and connects the Amtrak Northeast Corridor to Penn Station in New York City. The new bridge will improve speed, reliability, and traffic across and below this critical transportation link.

### **Is the existing Pelham Bay Bridge safe?**

While the existing Pelham Bay Bridge remains structurally sound, it is approaching the end of its useful life. Maintenance and repairs are becoming more frequent and more expensive. Furthermore, the bridge design no longer meets modern traffic demands with frequent railroad outages due to maritime traffic and the complexities of modern train travel. The new bridge will address these issues, providing a higher frequency of train crossing with less outages from maritime traffic for years to come.

### **Who uses the existing bridge? Who will use the new Pelham Bay Bridge?**

The existing Pelham Bay Bridge is used by Amtrak and freight trains traveling along Amtrak's Northeast Corridor between Boston and Washington, DC. Once the Penn Station Access project is completed, the bridge will also be used by Metro North commuter traffic into Penn Station. Under the bridge, maritime freight, NYPD, and FDNY require bridge opening to travel past the bridge. The new bridge is designed to minimize the openings required for marine traffic hence improving rail service.

### **What will the new bridge look like?**

The new Pelham Bay Bridge will feature a modern design, with a focus on improved traffic flow and aesthetics. The final design will reflect a balance between functionality and integration into the surrounding location. The new bridge will be designed in a way to improve the overall setting and will not include the two large steel transmission towers used on the existing bridge.

## What is the purpose of the project and why is it necessary?

The purpose of the Pelham Bay Bridge Replacement Project is to replace an aging bridge with a more reliable and efficient span to ensure the continued reliability of train service. The new bridge will support increased train capacity, reduce the need for frequent repairs, and enhance the overall transportation network in the region.

## What are the benefits of this project?

This project will provide several benefits, including:

- *Enhanced traffic flow to accommodate future population and transportation demand*
- *Added train capacity from the addition of Metro North trains that will provide direct access to Penn Station*
- *Long-term sustainability through a modernized structure that requires fewer repairs*
- *Economic benefits through the improved movement of goods and people, fostering regional growth.*

## What is the status of the project?

The Pelham Bay Bridge Replacement Project is currently in the design and planning phases, with final approvals and environmental assessments underway. Detailed engineering work is being conducted to ensure that the bridge design meets safety, capacity, and environmental standards. Construction is anticipated to begin in 2029.

## How will this project impact Amtrak train service?

During construction, there may be temporary adjustments to adjacent infrastructure that could impact rail operations. These issues are being evaluated as part of the current planning phase and coordination with Amtrak and other agencies is ongoing to minimize disruptions. Any changes will be communicated to the public in advance.

## When is construction starting and how long will it take?

Construction is expected to begin in 2029 and is anticipated to take 5.5 years to complete depending on the final project scope. The timeline may be subject to change based on funding, design adjustments, and regulatory approvals.

## Will there be noise or other disruptions to the community?

Yes, construction activities will inevitably result in some noise, vibration, and traffic disruptions in the surrounding area. This impact was studied as part of the Environmental Assessment and efforts will be made to minimize these impacts, including implementing noise-reducing technologies. Community notification will be provided in advance of major disruptions. Sign up for our email distribution list to receive important notifications and updates: [bit.ly/Pelham-Bay-Bridge-Newsletter](https://bit.ly/Pelham-Bay-Bridge-Newsletter). Please note that due to the nature of the work, some tasks may need to be carried out outside of daytime hours. Should this occur, the community will be informed before the work begins.

## How could this project improve my community?

The new bridge complements the Penn Station Access project and its four new Metro North stations in the Bronx to provide the local community direct access to Penn Station. This project is expected to improve traffic flow, reduce congestion, and enhance safety for train users. A modernized bridge will contribute to a more efficient transportation network, facilitating better access to jobs, services, and

other amenities. Additionally, the project will stimulate local economic development and improve the quality of life for residents.

## **Will streets be closed during construction?**

Based on the current plans, there will not be a need to close streets during construction as the work will be restricted to Amtrak and, to a limited extent, Park property. Additionally, local streets will be needed to access the project. Traffic management plans will be put in place to minimize any inconveniences, and the public will be notified in advance of any planned detours or temporary impacts to roadway, bike lanes and park pathways.

## **How could this project impact my property?**

As the work will take place on Amtrak, and to a limited extent, Pelham Bay Park property. There could be temporary disruptions due to construction activity, such as noise. In some cases, Park acquisitions or easements may be required to accommodate the bridge's footprint or related infrastructure improvements. These impacts have already been contacted by project representatives to discuss specifics.

## **What will be done to restore rights of way and my property after construction finishes?**

No impacts to private property are anticipated. After construction, any temporary disruptions or changes to rights of way will be restored to pre-construction conditions as much as possible. This may include landscaping and access points and ensuring any required property modifications are compensated.

## **How do we ensure that the natural environment is not harmed during this project?**

Environmental assessments are being conducted to ensure the project complies with all federal and local environmental regulations and minimizes any potential impacts. Efforts will be made to protect local wildlife, water quality, and natural habitats. Environmental mitigation measures, such as the use of sustainable materials and construction practices, will be put in place to minimize harm to the environment.

## **How will this impact marine traffic?**

The new bridge will improve the conditions for marine traffic. Working with the US Coast Guard, Amtrak has factored in local marine interest to increase both vertical and horizontal clearance, as well as associated navigation channel enhancements. This will result in a significant reduction in bridge openings compared with the existing bridge.

The impact during construction will depend on the contractor's means and methods, especially related to on-water mobilization. Amtrak is currently planning to minimize disruptions and maintain efficient maritime traffic. During the construction phase, marine traffic may face temporary restrictions. Barges, cranes, and other construction equipment will likely take up portions of the waterway, requiring careful management to avoid disrupting maritime traffic. This might include temporary closures of certain sections of the waterway or limiting access to specific times of day. Any closures will be communicated to the public before they occur.



## What are the impacts to Pelham Bay Park? Would I still be able to access and use the park?

Yes, the park will be open during construction. Temporary pedestrian and equestrian impacts and detours are anticipated at the Shore Road traffic circle. Traffic management plans will be put in place to minimize inconvenience, and the public will be notified in advance of any planned detours that may affect park access.

## How much does this project cost? Is funding available? If so, who is funding the project?


The project is funded by the Federal Railroad Administration and Amtrak. The total cost of the Pelham Bay Bridge Replacement Project is estimated at \$2B. Funding for the project is provided by a combination of federal, state, and local sources, with additional support from transportation infrastructure grants. The project has secured the necessary funding to proceed with design and start construction.

## Who do I call if I need additional information or have questions/concerns about the project and during construction?

Your questions or comments are important to Amtrak, and any inquiry made to us by phone or email will get an individual response. Feel free to call our outreach hotline at call **(800) 402-7599** or email us directly at [pelhambay@amtrak.com](mailto:pelhambay@amtrak.com).



### Contact us

 (800) 402-7599

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