

Blue Highways

Presentation to Community Board 1

April 3, 2024



Blue Highways Overview

- EDC/DOT-led initiative to encourage the use of NYC's waterways to move goods into and around the City by:
 - Modernizing existing marine infrastructure
 - Expanding access to the waterfront
 - Support the development of a sustainable model for last mile delivery that reduces reliance on diesel-powered trucks.
- EDC/DOT are in the process of exploring a pilot programs to facilitate new transloading operations of waterborne freight to sustainable last mile delivery methods at waterfront sites



2023 waterborne freight delivery demonstration at Pier 17

State of NYC Freight

Rapidly changing supply chains = Pressure on aging infrastructure + Increased negative externalities

Truck traffic is high and will continue to increase

- Currently, **90% of goods are trucked into NYC**, equating to over 120k trucks daily using the city's highway network
- Resulting congestion alone (i.e. delays) could cost NYC's economy over \$27B in economic loss over the next 30 years
- Projected 68% increase in freight by 2045, could lead to **44k-75k more trucks a day**

Truck traffic negatively impacts neighborhoods and NYC's critical infrastructure

- Negative impacts include: air quality, traffic, quality of life, and safety; disproportionately in environmental justice communities
- Increase and overweight trucking is placing pressure on critical infrastructure such as the BQE



Truck traffic at BQE - NYT



Hunts Point Bronx Logistics Center – Bronx Times

Blue Highway Development Process

2018: Release of FreightNYC Plan

2022: MARAD federal grant (\$5.16M) secured to build maritime infrastructure at 6 sites

- 2023-2024: Environmental Assessment

2023:

- Downtown Manhattan Heliport RFP released, requiring the integration of maritime freight
- Blue Highway RFEI released: solicit market interest in marine freight and understand industry challenges and opportunities

2024:

- Q1: RFP For MARAD Grant Design & Engineering Consultant released
- Q2: Onboard consultant team to support design development, environmental review, and stakeholder engagement

Microfreight Initiatives

- 2023 DOT released microhubs pilot program to support micro-distribution centers
- 2024 DOT announced new rules to allow e-cargo bikes function as a delivery option

MARAD Marine Highway Grant

Project Overview

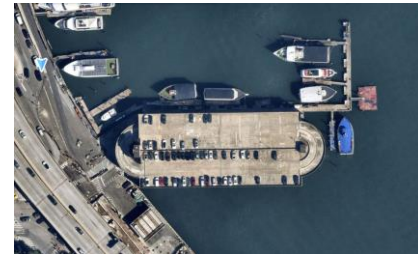
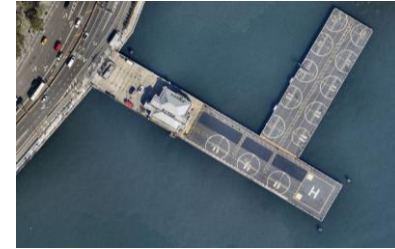
- A project under the US Marine Highway Program to utilize navigable waterways to reduce congestion, emissions and improve supply chains
- **Objective:** to facilitate transloading of waterborne freight to sustainable micro-distribution methods at marine facilities i.e., conveyance of “last-mile” goods to local destinations.
- Primary: eCommerce packages, consumer goods, food commodities, and construction materials



Project Overview

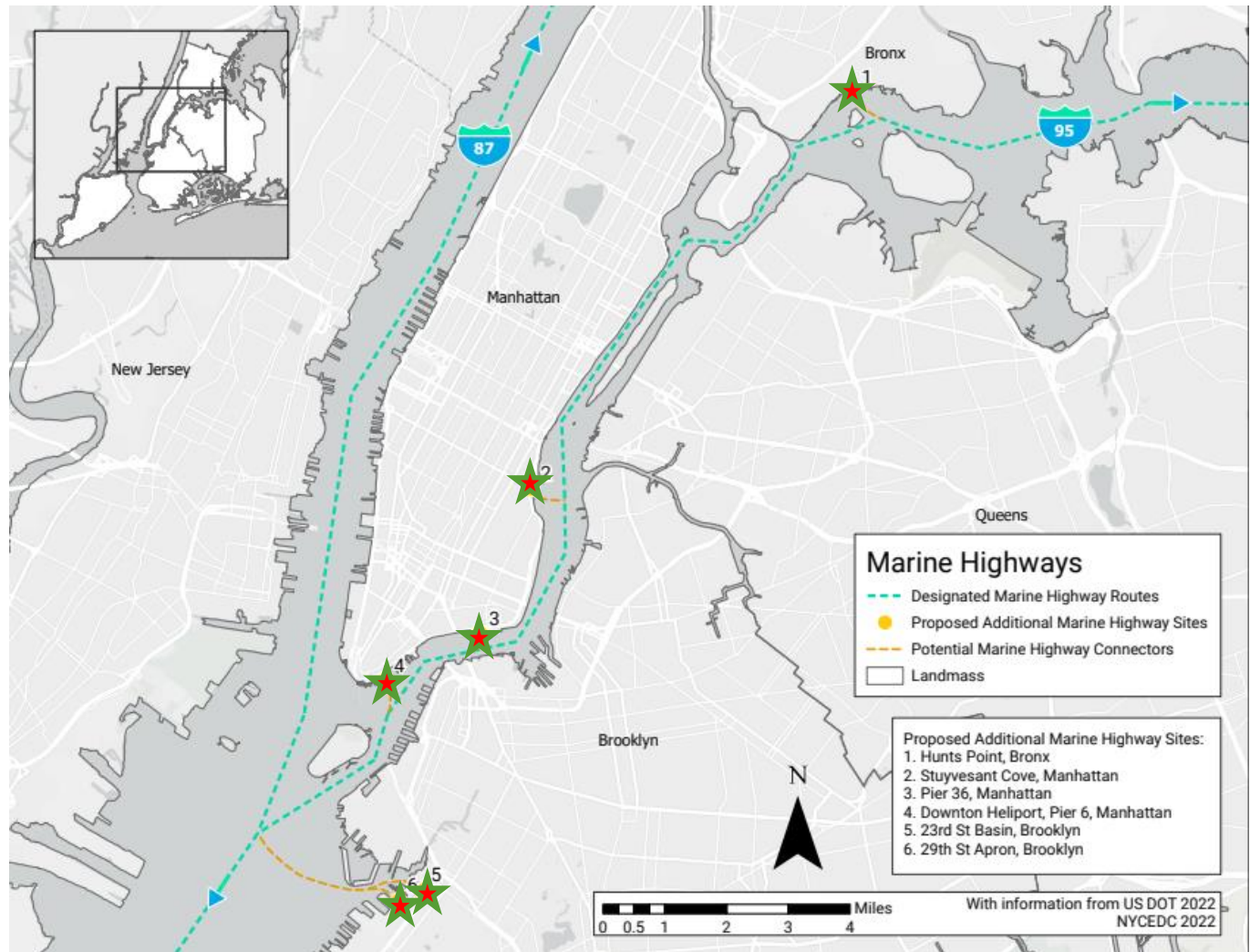
Scope of Work: Upgrading six waterfront landings to accommodate freight by water

- **Objective:** Facilitate transloading of waterborne freight to sustainable microdistribution methods by building the necessary landing infrastructure to dock watercraft and move cargo to the necessary staging areas and roadways for delivery
 - Flat top barges will be installed to act as vessel tie space and staging area for loading and unloading freight
- Sites have known interest by the freight industry and maritime operators
- Completed: Design & Engineering RFP released
- Next steps: conduct additional site planning, and design, environmental review, permitting, and community engagement,



Landing Sites Identified

1. Oak Point, McGinnis Cement Terminal, Bronx
2. Stuyvesant Cove, East River, Manhattan
3. Pier 36, East River, Manhattan
4. Downtown Manhattan Heliport, East River, Manhattan
5. 23rd Street Basin, Brooklyn
6. 29th Street Apron, Brooklyn



Next Steps

Q2 2024:

- March: Design & Engineering Consultant Responses collected
- April-May: Responses reviewed
- Summer 2024: Design & Engineering Consultant Selected

Q3 2024:

- Conduct site assessments and preliminary planning
- Begin environmental review

Q4 2024:

- Community engagement begins: share details on site conditions and planned infrastructure upgrades

Q4 2025:

- Goal – Begin Construction

Thank You!