

## Downtown Brooklyn Transportation Blueprint

The Downtown Brooklyn Transportation Blueprint is a transportation planning study being conducted by the New York City Department of Transportation. It intends to establish a policy framework and provide a comprehensive set of multi-modal transportation treatments and innovations that can be implemented as needed over time to address existing congestion and future growth.

The study was initiated largely in response to the City's 2004 rezoning of downtown Brooklyn, which is already facilitating significant new development, and which could eventually result in a near doubling of the size of the core area in terms of employment and visitors. Future major developments such as Atlantic Yards and Brooklyn Bridge Park will generate even more trips.

A major reason for the Downtown Brooklyn's bright future is its nearly unparalleled mass transit access that includes numerous bus and subway lines as well as commuter rail service. Despite this, the area suffers from significant roadway congestion as a result of its own activity as well as regional travel using the BQE, and Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges. Concerns of congestion on the mass transit system are prevalent as well. The success of future projects and the continued revitalization and livability of surrounding "Brownstone" Brooklyn depends on maintaining access and mobility and continuing to improve safety and health. Therefore a comprehensive strategy, or blueprint, is required to address existing issues and those that will be raised by growth.

The Downtown Brooklyn Transportation Blueprint was initiated in 2005. Since then the following has been accomplished:

- A steering committee of local stakeholders and regional experts was formed to guide the technical and policy aspects of the study.
- NYCDOT's study consultant assembled data related to existing and projected travel demands, identified key trends and issues, and established six broad transportation goals for Downtown Brooklyn.
- An interactive community participation program was initiated and included a major public charette in June 2005.
- PlaNYC initiatives relevant to Downtown Brooklyn have been incorporated into the study.
- 60 potential transportation improvement actions that address study goals were developed in response to public input.
- Fact Sheets were created for 18 Priority Initiatives that will be the focus of the Blueprint Implementation effort in the short and medium term
- An Implementation Framework has been developed which will serve as a basis for evaluating the future progress of Blueprint actions.

Next steps include:

- January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2008 open house/public meeting to gain final input
- Development of final Blueprint report
- Formation of a Blueprint Transportation Stakeholder Group that will monitor progress of Blueprint recommended projects and track transportation trends in Downtown Brooklyn.

