

# Manhattan moves, even with the Pope.

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Pope Francis' visit to the United States is an historic event that will disrupt life in Philadelphia, Washington D.C., but not in New York City. In Washington D.C., federal government workers are being advised to telecommute. Philadelphia is towing cars and shutting down roads and transit in the event area.

For New Yorkers, the Papal visit will limit mobility in some parts of Manhattan, but only for limited time periods. With the nation's largest subway system and municipal police department, New York is accustomed to large-scale events and high-profile visitors like the Dalai Lama, the President of the United States and foreign leaders coming to the United Nations.

New Yorkers can expect these Manhattan-based disruptions on Friday, September 25, with a severity rating for each:

## Cars and Taxis (significant disruption)

The Pope will travel through Manhattan on designated arterials (see map) that will be shut down intermittently. Traffic in parts of Manhattan will be stopped on Friday morning. The FDR Drive will be closed during the day as the pope travels downtown to Ground Zero, then back uptown to Harlem; its 120,000 average daily drivers will need to find alternative routes. In total, the closures and traffic changes will affect about 500,000 drivers directly. For-hire vehicles will experience the same delays as private autos, and may face significant delays and surge pricing. Hailing a taxi near Penn Station is not recommended.

## Subways (minor disruption)

The New York City Subway will be the true safety valve during the pope's visit. The subway system will be running.

Penn Station will naturally be more congested as a result of the Papal Mass to be held in Madison Square Garden on Friday, September 25th at 6 p.m. To estimate the effects on transportation, we used a recent sold-out concert as a simulation. Despite

increased traffic from the concert, the Penn Station subways were still short of reaching capacity (on average the peak hour is from 8-9am, with about 24,000 people entering the 1,2,3 and A,C,E stations; the greatest bottleneck on the evening of the concert was 5-6pm, but was still 2,500 fewer riders than during the peak). While Penn Station should be able to handle increases in subway ridership as a result of the pope's visit, these estimates do not account for increases in commuter rail traffic. In response to these concerns, the MTA plans to increase capacity on the Long Island Rail Road with eight additional inbound trains and supplementary outbound trains on an as-needed basis.

## Buses (moderate disruption)

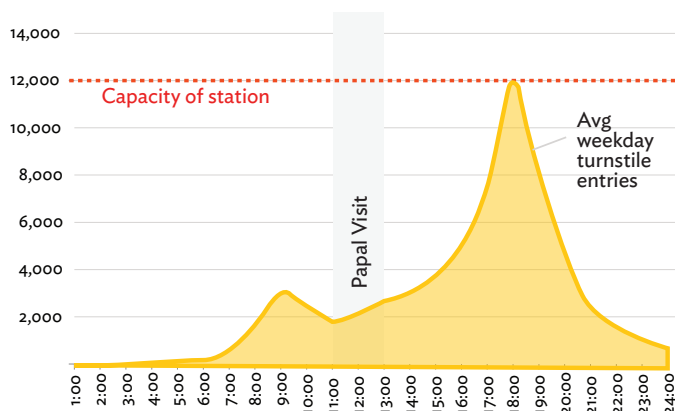
Roughly one-fifth of Manhattan's bus stops, those within a quarter mile of the visit sites, will be impacted. The city's highest-volume weekday bus, the M15 on Second Avenue, will experience slowdowns. Riders should consider switching to the 4, 5 and 6 subway lines for more regular service.

Buses traveling in Midtown, the Upper East Side, East Harlem and Central Park area will be rerouted throughout the day; riders should consider switching to the subway, Citi Bike or walking.

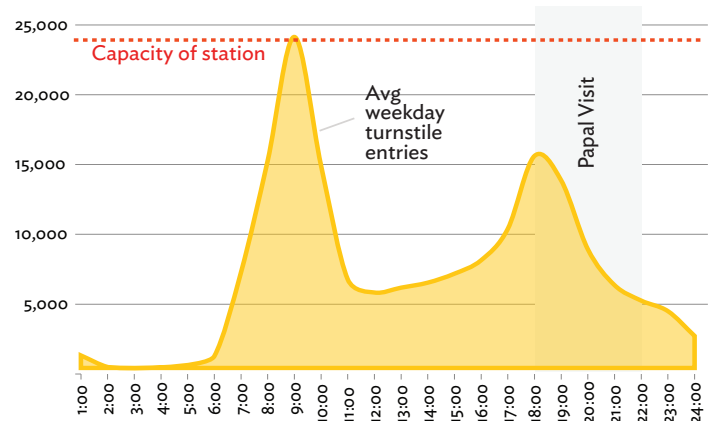
## Citi Bike (minor disruption)

Minor changes will be made to the bike share network: four stations along the Pope's route will be temporarily deactivated. A combination of Citi Bike and subway may be the surest way to get around on Friday.

New York City regularly hosts major events and dignitaries, including the US Women's World Cup Soccer Team celebration, the United Nations General Assembly and the Gay Pride Parade, and is well-equipped to manage Pope Francis' visit.



Fulton Street Station



Penn Station