

Water in. Water out.

A Blue Highway for New York

Ideas and images shared by Jim Tampakis
A community explainer by BMT Works4NY



[Watch the Zulu Associates animation](#)

How a Blue Highway works



**From
waterborne
freight to local
deliveries.**

57-second animation
by Zulu Associates

[**▶ Play video**](#)

Opens the video online

Truck traffic is a daily neighborhood burden

130,000

vehicles on the BQE daily

13,000

of those vehicles are trucks



[BQE figures: NYC DOT. Traffic image shared by Jim Tampakis.](#)

The work between water in and water out

At BMT, goods can be sorted by destination and packed for smaller electric vessels.

Cold storage, resilient warehouses and charging need room on land.



Jim's concept includes solar roofs, standardized cargo-bike containers and light manufacturing.

Cold storage can shorten the food journey

In June 2024, EDC described half the food arriving at Red Hook making a detour through New Jersey cold storage before a truck trip to Hunts Point.

EDC's 2024 account

Food arrives in Brooklyn
Barge to New Jersey
Cold storage in New Jersey
Truck back to Hunts Point

The future we want

Food arrives at BMT
Cold storage and sorting at BMT
Onward delivery by water
Clean local deliveries

The cold-storage commitment belongs in Brooklyn.

[NYCIDA meeting record, June 11, 2024, p. 9](#)

Cargo-bike deliveries are already happening

5 million+

packages delivered by cargo bikes
in NYC in 2022, according to DOT

The City's December 2025 pilot
connects Atlantic Basin in Red
Hook to Pier 79 and electric
cargo bikes.

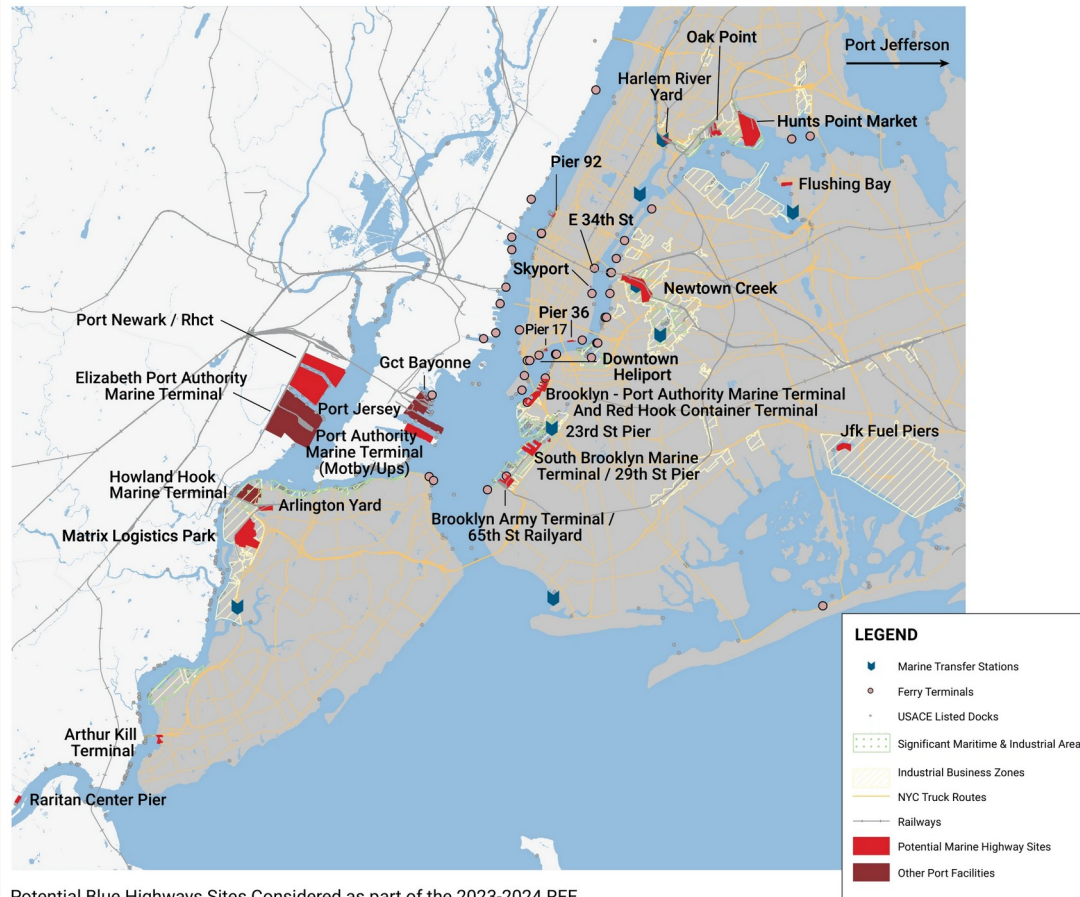


Photo: NYC DOT, December 2019. CC BY-NC-ND 2.0.

Cargo-bike results and pilot

A Blue Highway needs connected landings

NY-NJ Marine Facilities



Potential Blue Highways Sites Considered as part of the 2023-2024 RFE

25 waterfront locations

The City's 2025 Action Plan assessed sites across the network.

BMT can connect larger shipments with smaller landings close to their destinations.

[Map: NYC DOT / NYCEDC, Blue Highways Action Plan, printed p. 40. Open the full-size map.](#)

The port needs room to do this work

“Before we start reducing the port size, let’s understand how much space we actually need.”

Jim Tampakis

Study the full 122-acre all-port alternative.
Keep cold storage in Brooklyn and plan for clean waterborne deliveries.

[Explore the Blue Highway case](#)

[Take current action](#)