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RMS End of Week Update 7/10/2026



Governor Hochul and Mayor Mamdani Unveil Historic Plan to Build the Fastest, Best Bus System in New York City History

Earlier this week Governor Kathy Hochul and Mayor Zohran Kwame Mamdani unveiled Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service, a sweeping bus action plan to build the next generation of bus service in New York City.

The plan marks a historic partnership between the New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT) and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) to transform how New Yorkers experience the city's buses — with investments that will make service faster, more accessible and more comfortable from curb to destination.

Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service identifies 50 priority bus corridors for improvements across the five boroughs and launches the City's next generation of rapid bus service along five key routes. Together, these investments will shorten commutes, improve reliability, expand accessibility and create a bus system worthy of the city that depends on it.

“Every day, millions of New Yorkers rely on buses to get around this city, but for far too long, making their journeys faster and their lives easier has seemed out of reach. That all changes today,” Governor Hochul said. “New York is in the midst of a transit

renaissance, with historic investments being made to improve the lifeblood of our city. Now, working with Mayor Mamdani, we are advancing a bold and ambitious plan to move buses faster, dramatically expand bus priority, reduce delays and make our bus system the envy of the world.”

New York City Mayor Zohran Mamdani said, “For working New Yorkers, every minute matters. But for too long, our buses have been stuck in traffic instead of keeping pace with the city that never sleeps. When a commute stretches longer than it should, that’s less time with your kids, less time with your loved ones and less time enjoying the greatest city on earth. Together with Governor Hochul, we’re investing in faster, more reliable buses because New Yorkers deserve a transit system that respects their time. This plan will make it easier to get to work, school and home — and build a city that works better for the people who keep it running.”

New York City DOT Commissioner Mike Flynn said, “Too often, New York City’s bus riders have felt like an afterthought. The Mamdani administration is putting the city’s one million daily bus riders front and center through this historic partnership and investment. Bus service shouldn’t be treated as a second-rate option at the mercy of traffic congestion. It should be a world-class system for a world-class city: fast, comfortable, reliable and convenient enough that every New Yorker sees the bus as a great way to get around. Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service provides the blueprint for transforming our bus system, and we are deeply appreciative of Governor Hochul and the MTA for their strong partnership.”

MTA Chair and CEO Janno Lieber said, “For years, we at MTA have wanted more bus lanes, more enforcement of cars and trucks blocking bus lanes. Faster buses. Congestion pricing. But it’s no secret we didn’t have support at the local level. That is not the case anymore. Our partners today — this Governor, this Mayor and this NYC DOT — all want to make sure that riding the bus is always faster than walking. They want to follow through on long overdue commitments to build bus lanes and busways. They will ramp up traffic enforcement to keep streets moving. Buses can only move as fast as traffic allows, so if you are a bus or a bus rider this is terrific news.”

New Yorkers take 2.75 million trips on New York City buses each day, making the system the busiest in the nation — carrying more riders than the bus systems of Los Angeles, Chicago, San Francisco, and Philadelphia combined. But New York’s buses remain the slowest of any major U.S. city, averaging just eight miles per hour.

Improving bus service is central to Governor Hochul and Mayor Mamdani’s promise to make New York City more livable for working people. Bus riders are disproportionately working class, women and people of color, and are more likely than subway riders or drivers to live in households earning less than \$100,000 annually.

Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service identifies 50 priority corridors where NYC DOT and the MTA will target investments to address the city's slowest and most delay-prone bus routes. Improvements along routes will begin this year.

Five corridors in Brooklyn, Queens and the Bronx have been selected as the first phase of New York City's next generation of rapid bus routes:

- Tremont/Cross Bronx, the Bronx
- Northern Boulevard, Queens
- Flatbush Avenue, Brooklyn
- Utica Avenue, Brooklyn
- Kensington-JFK, Brooklyn and Queens

These corridors were selected because they connect New Yorkers to jobs, schools, subway service and major destinations while supporting current and future housing and economic growth.

Beginning in 2026, NYC DOT and the MTA will advance these projects with dedicated, protected bus lanes, frequent all-day service, upgraded stations with sheltered waiting areas and public space improvements modeled after the best rapid bus systems around the world.

Reliable Buses

The MTA will work together to improve service reliability by ensuring scheduled trips are completed, modernizing depot operations and strengthening bus maintenance.

Through the MTA's historic \$68 Billion 2025-2029 Capital Program, fully funded by Governor Hochul and the state legislature in the FY26 Enacted Budget, the authority will purchase approximately 2,500 new buses, replacing 40% of its aging fleet.

The MTA will also implement all-door boarding in 2027 with the complete transition to tap and ride.

Improving the Rider Experience

The plan recognizes that riders deserve more than a faster trip — they deserve a better one.

To make bus stops safer, more comfortable and more accessible, NYC DOT and the MTA will:

- Expand the bus stop accessibility program to reach 65 stops per year by 2030.
- Install 300 new bus shelters by 2028.
- Add seating at 875 bus stops annually, ensuring every feasible stop has seating by 2035.

- Plant 30 trees at bus stops in 2026 and pilot shelter design improvements for mitigating extreme heat at bus stops.
- Install 90 new Real-Time Passenger Information displays in 2026 and expand to 2,900 displays citywide by 2030.

Keeping Bus Lanes Clear

Keeping buses moving requires keeping bus lanes free of illegal traffic.

Automated Camera Enforcement (ACE) has increased bus speeds by as much as 30% while reducing collisions by 20%.

To build on those gains:

- NYC DOT and the MTA will expand bus-mounted ACE to 25 additional routes each year in 2026 and 2027.
- NYC DOT will install 200 additional stationary bus lane cameras by 2027, an effective program to capture vehicles illegally driving in bus lanes.
- The New York City Police Department (NYPD) will expand targeted bus lane enforcement from 14 to 20 corridors beginning in 2026.

Putting Riders Front and Center

Next Stop: Fast Buses, Better Service also establishes a more robust, rider-centered approach to community engagement.

Working alongside the Mayor's Office of Mass Engagement (OME) and other City agencies, NYC DOT and the MTA will hold community events, conduct surveys and partner with advocacy organizations and community groups before the projects begin. Public education campaigns will help riders understand upcoming improvements and service upgrades.

To ensure accountability, NYC DOT and the MTA will publicly release performance data within six to 12 months after projects are completed, measuring impacts on travel times, reliability and rider experience while identifying opportunities for further improvements.

To view the full press release please click [here](#).

New York Proposes 5 Year Medicaid Waiver Extension

New York is seeking a five-year extension of a \$7.5 billion initiative to improve the health of Medicaid enrollees through an array of social services, such as nutritional counseling and temporary housing.

The state Department of Health released a [52-page request](#) Wednesday to extend the Medicaid waiver underpinning the program, which expires March 31, 2027. The state's

application to the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services doesn't seek new federal funding. Instead, it proposes rolling over an estimated \$2.1 billion in unspent federal dollars to pay for Medicaid enrollees' social services until April 2028. The state would then shift the program's payment model to capitation, meaning Medicaid managed care plans would be paid a monthly rate per enrollee to cover all the services.

"They don't want this program to end right as it's picking up steam," said independent health policy consultant Kalin Scott, who previously worked on Medicaid redesign initiatives for the state Department of Health.

The New York Health Equity Reform initiative was approved by the Biden administration in January 2024 as an amendment to the state's Medicaid waiver under Section 1115 of the Social Security Act. The statute authorizes states to carry out innovative Medicaid projects with federal approval.

The program launched on Jan. 1, 2025, with nine regional networks coordinating evaluations of Medicaid enrollees' eligibility for covered social services and payments to organizations providing the services. More than 1 million Medicaid enrollees have been screened to date for health-related social needs, half of whom had at least one unmet need, according to the Department of Health.

Food-related needs were the most common, state data shows. Approximately [70 percent of program spending](#) has gone to nutrition services, including home deliveries of medically tailored meals, cooking supplies, fresh produce and non-perishable groceries. Why it matters: President Donald Trump's administration has [expressed opposition](#) to states using "creative interpretations" of their Section 1115 authority to obtain federal Medicaid matching funds for initiatives that are not directly tied to health care services. CMS told states in April 2025 that it would not approve federal funding requests for such programs, citing [three New York initiatives](#) as examples of services that wouldn't qualify. That suggests an uphill battle for New York's extension request. But Medicaid Director Amir Bassiri said during a public meeting last month that the department has already had "great conversations" about the renewal application with federal officials.

"I think we will have the evidence and the justification we need to illustrate that more time is needed," [Bassiri said during](#) the Public Health and Health Planning Council meeting. "I am cautiously optimistic that we will get what we are asking for."

To make its case, the state's application notes a similar pilot in North Carolina reduced Medicaid spending by \$164 per enrollee per month, arguing that New York needs more time to "fully realize the program's intended improvements in health outcomes and generate the associated cost savings."

In contrast, the state did not request an extension of a \$692 million workforce initiative that is part of the existing Medicaid waiver, citing CMS guidance from July 2025 indicating that such proposals would not be approved.

What's next: The Department of Health will hold public hearings on July 31 and Aug. 11 to provide an overview of the extension request and solicit feedback. The state's public comment period runs through Aug. 21.

The state will then revise its application and submit a final version to CMS by Sept. 30, kicking off a federal comment period and a monthlong negotiation process with the federal government.

To view the full article please click [here](#).

Governor Hochul Issues Executive Order Kicking Off “Regulatory Reset”

Earlier this week Governor Hochul issued an Executive Order to commence New York's “Regulatory Reset,” a comprehensive and methodical review of thousands of regulations and laws across all state agencies, to improve the functioning and efficiency of state government. Through this “Regulatory Reset,” agencies will reform outdated regulations, fees, and requirements that waste New Yorkers' time, and make sure that taxpayer dollars are being put to good use.

“New Yorkers rely on state government in ways big and small every day, but for too long, needless red tape has slowed down the core functions of government and made it harder for our state to deliver for its residents - that changes today,” Governor Hochul said. “This ‘Regulatory Reset’ will leverage cutting edge tools and human expertise to conduct the most comprehensive review of our laws and regulations in state history, saving New Yorkers precious time and money. While some in Washington have tried to gut the very functions of government, we are choosing a different path, one that will strengthen the vital work of government and reaffirm its role for good in our state.”

The “Regulatory Reset” Executive Order specifically directs agencies to review the following opportunities for modernization and reform:

- **Outdated requirements in regulations** that add unnecessary burdens for New Yorkers, including requiring people to mail or fax information, submit wet signatures or multiple physical copies of documents, file information in person, or notarize documents.
- **Burdensome fees and fines** imposed on individuals and small businesses which drive up costs without generating meaningful revenue for the State.
- **Mandated reports and boards, commissions, and councils** that state agencies are dedicating significant resources to, but no longer serve the public interest.

Working with government reform and tech non-profits and academic researchers, the state has identified thousands of potential opportunities for reform using AI-enabled tools. Agency experts will now be tasked with thoroughly reviewing all identified regulations and rules to determine the best path forward. All final recommendations in the “Regulatory Reset” will be extensively vetted and evaluated by experts at state agencies and in the Governor’s office before proceeding. Potential reforms will be advanced either through the regulatory and rulemaking process or through statutory updates to be developed in collaboration with the New York State Legislature. The first wave of actions taken in the “Regulatory Reset” are expected to be announced later this year.

New York’s “Regulatory Reset” is the nation’s most expansive state effort to systematically review outdated regulations and improve government efficiency. To advance the “Regulatory Reset,” New York enlisted the support of nation-leading tech and academic partners at the Recoding America Fund, US Digital Response, and Stanford University’s RegLab. The Recoding America Fund and US Digital Response, two nonprofits focused on improving state capacity and government’s ability to deliver services and outcomes, assisted the “Regulatory Reset” using AI-enabled models to identify outdated and burdensome regulations and to catalog fees. Stanford RegLab’s interdisciplinary team of engineers, data scientists and social scientists partnered with New York State and utilized AI-enabled tools to generate all mandatory reports and boards, commissions, and councils in New York State regulations and statutes into digestible formats for agencies to review. This unprecedented effort is made possible by leveraging cutting edge AI tools, while ensuring strong human safeguards at every step of the process and elevating the expertise of state officials in the decision making process.

The “Regulatory Reset” is the latest step of the State’s EXPRESS NY initiative to strengthen government and improve its functions. In June, Governor Hochul announced an initial wave of 50 significant actions across 22 state agencies to remove or modernize outdated regulations that slowed service delivery or created unnecessary barriers between New Yorkers and government services they rely on. Together, these reforms will save New Yorkers tens of millions of dollars in fees and over a million hours of time each year, with over 1.5 million state residents expected to benefit.

To view the full press release please click [here](#).

To view the Executive Order please [here](#).

OMIG Announces Updates To The Compliance Program Review Module

This week OMIG’s Bureau of Compliance announced an updated version of the Compliance Program Review (CPR) Module, which is the tool providers use to answer questions and provide supporting documentation for the Compliance Program Review process.

Based on provider feedback and reviewer observation, updates were made to clarify instructions for completion, include a documentation request crosswalk within each relevant question, and reformat for ease of view. The updated Compliance Program Review Module is available here: <https://omig.ny.gov/compliance/compliance-library>. Please note, the updated module is to be used for any CPR submissions submitted July 6, 2026, and going forward.

As a reminder, please do not send OMIG's Bureau of Compliance a completed Module and/or supporting documentation unless you have received a Notification Letter instructing you to do so. It is OMIG's aim that the updated Module will lend to ease of use and expedite the Compliance Program Review process.

For more information, please click [here](#).

Helpful Links and Resources

[2026 RMS HMH End of Session Update](#)

[RMS Revenue and Tax Final Budget Table](#)

[RMS Health/Mental Hygiene Final Budget Table](#)

[FY 2027 Enacted Budget Financial Plan](#)

[Empire State Development Tariff Resource Guide](#)

[NYS COVID-19 Monitoring Dashboard](#)

[NYS COVID-19 Fatalities Tracker](#)

[Eliminating Distractions In Schools Resource](#)

[Center for Disease Control and Prevention](#)

[Department of Financial Services information and resources](#)

[New York COVID-19 Vaccine Information Page](#)

Department of Health

<https://coronavirus.health.ny.gov/home>

[COVID-19 Guidance for Medicaid Providers](#)

Office of Mental Health

<https://omh.ny.gov/omhweb/covid-19-resources.html>

OPWDD

<https://opwdd.ny.gov/coronavirus-guidance>

State Education Department

<http://www.op.nysed.gov/COVID-19.html>

NYS Department of Labor

<https://dol.ny.gov/>