

Effects of The Cross Bronx Expressway

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The Cross Bronx Expressway background information:

The Cross Bronx Expressway is a major highway located in New York City, United States. It stretches for approximately 8.3 miles (13.4 kilometers) from the George Washington Bridge in the west to the Bruckner Interchange in the east. The highway runs primarily through the Bronx borough, hence its name.

The racist behind the construction of the Cross Bronx Expressway was Robert Moses, a prominent urban planner and public official in New York City. As the head of various city and state agencies, including the Triborough Bridge and Tunnel Authority and the New York City Parks Department, Moses held significant influence over the development of infrastructure projects in the city during the mid-20th century.

Construction of the Cross Bronx Expressway began in 1948 and was completed in 1972. It was designed to provide a direct east-west route across the Bronx and improve transportation between New Jersey and Long Island. The project involved extensive demolition of existing buildings and neighborhoods, resulting in significant displacement of residents and businesses.

The Cross Bronx Expressway is a vital transportation link, carrying a high volume of traffic each day. It serves as part of Interstate 95 (I-95) and is a key segment of the East Coast's major north-south highway corridor. The highway intersects with other

important routes, such as the Major Deegan Expressway (I-87) and the Bruckner Expressway (I-278), facilitating regional travel.

The construction of the Cross Bronx Expressway had a profound impact on the surrounding communities. It caused the displacement of thousands of residents and led to the destruction of numerous homes and businesses, particularly in the neighborhoods of Tremont, Morris Heights, and West Farms. The highway's construction and subsequent presence also resulted in the division of neighborhoods, isolating communities from one another.

Over the years, the Cross Bronx Expressway has experienced issues related to traffic congestion and deterioration. Efforts have been made to improve the flow of traffic and enhance safety along the highway, including the implementation of traffic management systems and infrastructure upgrades.

In recent times, there have been discussions and initiatives focused on mitigating the negative effects of the Cross Bronx Expressway on the surrounding communities. These efforts aim to address the historical inequities caused by the highway's construction and explore potential solutions for revitalizing the affected neighborhoods.

The Cross Bronx Expressway remains a crucial transportation artery in New York City, but its construction and legacy have had lasting social and urban impacts on the communities it traverses.

Introduction

The Cross Bronx Expressway has a lot of history. As a child going to school, I had to take a bus that goes across The Cross Bronx Expressway. I did not know the history of The Cross Bronx Expressway. The worst part of school was taking the bus. The bus would take forever to get to my stop. Both when I go to school and when I go home. The entrance of The Cross Bronx Expressway would and still has a lot of traffic and accidents especially during rush hours. I did not know why The Cross Bronx Expressway was built only one block away from my school. Because my school had 3 different schools. There were a lot of students that would get out of school and have to cross to get to the bus stop. After getting older I noticed more things going on in my neighborhood because of The Cross Bronx Expressway. The Cross Bronx Expressway caused a lot of health issues to the residence that lived near the expressway. Displacement of residents, as a real estate agent I see this first hand. People that make money and have good careers do not want to live near The Cross Bronx Expressway. Which leads to poverty. Traffic and fatal accidents has been an issue for The Cross Bronx Expressway as long as I can remember. The Cross Bronx Expressway also causes a lot of environmental damages. Which leads to people getting sick from air pollution. Some might say that The Cross Bronx Expressway makes transportation from New Jersey, Bronx, Manhattan, and Long Island very easy. It does, but do the pros outweigh the negatives? In my opinion no.

Displacement of residents:

The construction of the Cross Bronx Expressway had a significant and lasting impact on the displacement of residents in the affected neighborhoods. The highway's development necessitated the demolition of numerous homes, businesses, and entire blocks of buildings, leading to the forced relocation of thousands of individuals and families. As the Cross Bronx Expressway cut its path through the Bronx, it carved through established communities, severing connections and displacing residents who had long called those neighborhoods home. Areas such as Tremont, Morris Heights, and West Farms were particularly affected. The demolition of residential buildings and the loss of affordable housing options disrupted the lives of many low-income residents, who often struggled to find suitable alternative accommodations within their neighborhoods or had to relocate to entirely different areas of the city. The displacement caused by the Cross Bronx Expressway had profound social and economic consequences. Families were uprooted from their homes, often leaving behind familiar surroundings, neighbors, and support networks. Communities that had developed over generations were fragmented, eroding the social fabric that had bound residents together. According to "Segregation by design" it states "Before the highway, the neighborhoods through which Moses would build the Cross Bronx were "among the most racially integrated in the country," with large populations of Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, Irish and Italian Immigrants, (and after WWII) Puerto Ricans, and African-Americans." After the highway tore through, property values plummeted. White

residents fled (lured to the suburbs by government-backed mortgages), while black and brown residents remained (oftentimes with few other options due to red-lining and racist housing policies)". This shows that the people that were affected by The Cross Bronx Expressway the most were people of color. People of color that were already struggling.

Traffic:

The Cross Bronx Expressway was designed to alleviate traffic congestion, but it actually ended up increasing it. The highway's design and location made it difficult for drivers to get on and off, which caused backups and delays. The increased traffic volume and the design of the Cross Bronx Expressway have led to significant challenges. The highway experiences heavy traffic throughout the day, especially during peak commuting hours. The high demand, coupled with the limited number of lanes, can result in accidents, delays, and a slower overall flow of traffic. The design of the Cross Bronx Expressway, with its numerous interchanges and merging points, can also contribute to traffic disruptions. Intersections and on-ramps often become congested, causing traffic to back up and creating challenges for merging vehicles. The resulting congestion not only affects the expressway itself but also spills over onto surrounding local roads, creating traffic in the surrounding neighborhoods. If one accident is caused it affects the expressway for miles. Mayor Adams is trying to fix The Cross Bronx Expressway traffic by adding bicycle lines and pedestrian sidewalk. In my opinion, it would increase traffic. The traffic is crazy the way it is, imagine adding bicycle lines and pedestrian sidewalks. According to "New York Times" it explains "Among the proposals are adding pathways for pedestrians and bicyclists over the roadways, covering

segments of the roadways to provide green space on top, and adding lanes to ease traffic on the Alexander Hamilton Bridge and the interchange where the two roads meet.” By adding more green spaces, sidewalks, and bicycle lanes. That space will be taken away from the roads and ramps that lead to the expressway which will make traffic significantly worse.

Environmental Damages:

The construction and presence of the Cross Bronx Expressway have had significant effects on children with asthma in the surrounding communities. The highway's impact on air quality, noise pollution, and overall environmental conditions has been linked to increased health risks and worsened asthma outcomes for these vulnerable populations. Air pollution is a major concern associated with the Cross Bronx Expressway. The high volume of traffic on the highway, combined with the proximity of residential areas. Has made it easier for kids to have asthma. Studies have consistently shown a correlation between exposure to traffic-related air pollution and increased asthma prevalence, incidence, and severity among children. Children living in close proximity to highways, including the communities adjacent to the Cross Bronx Expressway, may face a higher risk of asthma.

To add on, the noise pollution generated by the Cross Bronx Expressway can also have adverse effects on children with asthma. Chronic exposure to high levels of noise has been associated with increased stress levels, sleep disturbances, and cardiovascular health issues, all of which can worsen asthma symptoms and impact overall well-being. The detrimental effects of the Cross Bronx Expressway on children

with asthma are compounded by the social determinants of health. The neighborhoods affected by the highway's construction tend to have higher rates of poverty, limited access to healthcare services, and inadequate housing conditions. These socioeconomic factors further contribute to the vulnerability of children with asthma, hindering their ability to manage their condition effectively and access appropriate medical care. Efforts to mitigate the effects of the Cross Bronx Expressway on children with asthma have focused on various approaches. These include implementing air quality monitoring systems, promoting green infrastructure and vegetation along the highway to act as natural barriers and filters, and advocating for policies that prioritize public health and environmental justice.

Conclusion:

In conclusion, the Cross Bronx Expressway has had detrimental effects on all residents of the Bronx. The Cross Bronx Expressway has a lot of effects that outweigh the pros. From displacement of residents, Traffic, environmental damages and many more. The Cross Bronx Expressway is part of NYC and we will not go anywhere anytime soon. The Cross Bronx Expressway is great for drivers because it makes our life easier when we go from point A to point B. As a resident of the Bronx and a driver I don't mind if it would take me longer to get from point A to point B. The chances of that happening are slim.

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