



Future City Lab: Getting Around

How can we reduce gridlock in New York City?



Early New Amsterdam, 1660



New York City, 1760s



A closer look:



New York City, 1808



Why a Grid?

Here's what writer Washington Irving said about New York City in 1807. How does his language mimic the city's streets?

“...whereas the people of New York – God help them – tossed about over hills and dales, through lanes and alleys, and crooked streets – continually mounting and descending, turning and twisting – whisking off at tangents, and left-angle-triangles, just like their own queer, odd, topsy-turvy rantipole city, are the most irregular, crazy headed, quicksilver, eccentric, whim-whamsical set of mortals that ever were jumbled together...”

(Salmagundi Papers, No. 10)

The Commissioners' Plan of 1811



Conclusion

- What influenced New York's early street plan?
 - *What kind of goods moved through the city?*
 - *Who was responsible for planning its streets?*
 - *How fast did the city grow?*
- What problems grew out of the street design as New York City grew?
- Why was the grid plan a good solution?
- ***What problems do we have getting around today?***

Strategy Research

As you work in your groups to make pros/cons list for your assigned strategy, make sure you think through questions like the following:

1. *Who needs to cooperate to make this strategy work?*
2. *Who would need to pay to make this happen, and how much?*
3. *How long will it take before the strategy could be effective?*
4. *Is the strategy more effective in some boroughs than others?*
5. *Are there any safety considerations that would need to be addressed?*