# Future City Lab: Getting Around

How can we reduce gridlock in New York City?

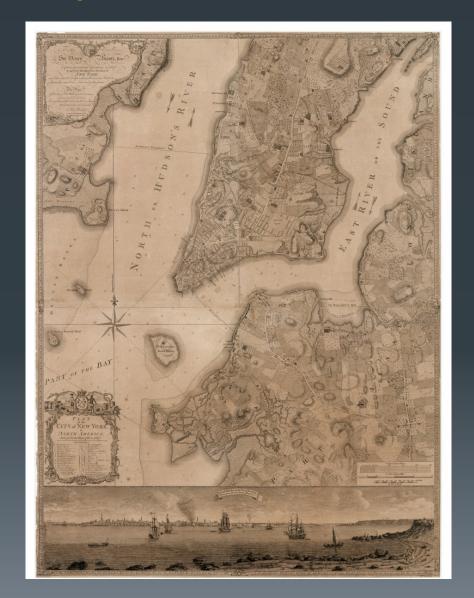


# Early New Amsterdam, 1660



Source: New York Public Library

# New York City, 1760s



Source: Brooklyn Historical Society

# A closer look:



Source: Brooklyn Historical Society

# 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?