

## MAJOR FINDINGS AND SCORECARD



## MAJOR FINDINGS

1. After completing and analyzing the second street smoothness survey of New York City's streets, **we have learned that it is operationally and technically possible to conduct such surveys repeatedly and get results that can be compared and reported to the public and government.**
2. **A driver can now expect to encounter, on average, 8.7 significant jolts per mile when travelling throughout the city.** This is a significant improvement since the 1997 survey, when drivers were experiencing, on average, 9.5 jolts per mile. We have no data from other cities to compare with New York City. Focus group participants, however, made it clear that encountering even one severe jolt was unacceptable and intolerable.
3. **Overall, 58 percent of the city's streets are acceptably smooth** – a rating about the same as two years earlier, when 60 percent of the streets were found to be acceptably smooth. Since there has been a reduction in the number of severe jolts, one might have expected the Smoothness Score to have shown improvement. The fact that the Smoothness Score has not gotten better indicates that improvement of streets is not dependent solely on the repair of specific potholes and bumps, for example, but on how smooth the streets are left after repairs are made, and on the amelioration of other conditions that create unevenness and roughness.
4. **By conducting the second survey, we are beginning to learn how high we can set the bar for smooth streets in New York City.** For example, in 1997 the community district with the fewest jolts came in with a score of 4.03 jolts per mile. In this latest survey, the leading district had a score that was even better than that: 2.91 jolts per mile. And the best smoothness score is now 87 percent versus 84 percent in 1997.
5. As for borough ratings, **Queens continues to have the highest percentage of smooth streets (65 percent). Queens has the least number of significant jolts too, demonstrating a significant decrease in jolts per mile: 9.3 in 1997 and 6.7 in 1999.** Staten Island now ranks second among the five boroughs – both its scores have improved since the last survey. Scores for the Bronx are about the same. It ranks fourth for Jolts and third for Smoothness.
6. On the other hand, **Manhattan continues to have the worst smoothness scores and the highest number of jolts per mile: Only 45 percent of Manhattan's streets are acceptably smooth (no change from 1997); and one can expect to encounter 14.4 jolts per mile when riding on Manhattan's streets (in 1997 the average was 14.2).**

7. **There was a significant decline in Brooklyn's Smoothness Score.** In 1999, 58 percent of its streets were acceptably smooth, compared with 63 percent in 1997. The Jolt Score is about the same (8.1 now, 8.4 in 1997).
8. At the community district (CD) level, many scores changed. **Statistically noteworthy changes are the following:**
  - **One district had significantly more smooth streets: Queens 13 (Laurelton/Queens Village);**
  - **Two districts in Brooklyn: CD 4 (Brooklyn) and CD 17 (East Flatbush) had fewer smooth streets in 1999 than in 1997;**
  - **Brooklyn's CD 4 (Brooklyn) also suffered an increase in Jolts Per Mile, as did CD 14 (Flatbush);**
  - **Nine districts showed improvements in their Jolt Score:**

Bronx 6 (East Tremont)	Queens 7 (College Point)
Bronx 12 (Woodlawn)	Queens 8 (Fresh Meadows)
Brooklyn 2 (Downtown Brooklyn)	Queens 10 (Ozone Park)
Brooklyn 3 (Bedford Stuyvesant)	Queens 11 (Bayside)
Brooklyn 18 (Canarsie)	

Details of the changes appear in Table 1 and on individual community district pages.<sup>2</sup>

9. **The highest percentage of smooth streets were found in Brooklyn's Community District 18 (Canarsie) in both survey years.** In fact, the latest survey found an even higher percentage of smooth streets there than in 1997 (84 vs. 87 percent). **And this district now leads the city by having the fewest number of jolts per mile (2.91).** In the previous survey, Brooklyn CD 11 (Bensonhurst) had that distinction with 4.03 jolts per mile. Bensonhurst now ranks 12th in the city with 5.69 jolts per mile.
10. **The community district with the worst Smoothness and Jolt Scores continues to be CD 1 in Manhattan.** Only 20 percent of its streets were rated acceptable in 1999 – down from 24 percent in 1997. Less than one percent of their streets were rated "good," 21 percent were rated "fair," 61 percent were rated "poor," and fully 18 percent were rated "terrible." One can still expect to encounter 32 jolts per mile when riding on the streets of this southernmost district in Manhattan which includes the Financial District, Civic Center and Tribeca.
11. **As for the relationship between income levels and street smoothness, again, it can be seen that community districts with the highest household incomes did not have the smoothest streets.** In fact, of the five districts with the worst Jolt Scores, four are ranked in the top ten for median income. Of the five districts with the worst Smoothness Scores, three are ranked in the top ten for median income.

<sup>2</sup> Although only one neighborhood is mentioned for each district in this section, community districts are made up of many neighborhoods. A fuller listing of neighborhoods appears on individual community district pages.

## City and Borough Scorecard

## NEW YORK CITY

<b>Jolt Score</b> <i># of Significant Jolts Per Mile</i>		<b>Smoothness Score</b> <i>% of Blocks Rated Acceptable</i>	
1997	1999	1997	1999
<b>9.5</b>	<b>8.7</b>	<b>60%</b>	<b>58%</b>

## THE BOROUGHES

<b>Borough</b>	<b>Jolt Score</b> <i># of Significant Jolts Per Mile</i>		<b>Smoothness Score</b> <i>% of Blocks Rated Acceptable</i>	
	1997	1999	1997	1999
The Bronx	<b>8.7</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>59%</b>
Brooklyn	<b>8.4</b>	<b>8.1</b>	<b>63%</b>	<b>58%</b>
Manhattan	<b>14.2</b>	<b>14.4</b>	<b>45%</b>	<b>45%</b>
Queens	<b>9.3</b>	<b>6.7</b>	<b>64%</b>	<b>65%</b>
Staten Island	<b>7.5</b>	<b>6.8</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>62%</b>

## BEST COMMUNITY DISTRICT IN EACH BOROUGH\*

<b>Community District</b>	<b>Neighborhoods</b>
Bronx CD 11	Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Bronxdale, Laconia
Brooklyn CD 18	Canarsie, Mill Basin, Marine Park, Flatlands
Manhattan CD 9	Morningside Heights, Hamilton Heights, Manhattanville
Queens CD 10	Ozone Park, Howard Beach, South Ozone Park
Staten Island CD 3	Great Kills, Tottenville, Annadale, Prince's Bay

NOTE: Higher Smoothness Score means more streets that are smooth; higher Jolt Score means more jolts per mile.

\*Best community districts have outstanding Smoothness and Jolt Scores.

## Community District Scorecard

## TOP TEN COMMUNITY DISTRICTS

## Jolt Scores

## Smoothness Scores

	<i>Community District</i>	<i># of Jolts Per Mile</i>	<i>Neighborhoods</i>		<i>Community District</i>	<i>% of Blocks Rated Acceptable</i>	<i>Neighborhoods</i>
1	Brooklyn 18	<b>2.91</b>	Canarsie, Mill Basin, Marine Park, Flatlands		Brooklyn 18	<b>86.83%</b>	Canarsie, Mill Basin, Marine Park, Flatlands
2	Bronx 11	<b>3.96</b>	Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Bronxdale		Queens 13	<b>75.70%</b>	Laurelton, Queens Village, Cambria Heights
3	Queens 10	<b>4.21</b>	Ozone Park, Howard Beach, South Ozone Park		Bronx 11	<b>75.67%</b>	Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Bronxdale
4	Queens 7	<b>4.44</b>	Whitestone, Flushing, College Point, Auburndale		Queens 3	<b>72.19%</b>	East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, North Corona
5	Queens 9	<b>4.47</b>	Kew Gardens, Woodhaven, Richmond Hill, Ozone Park		Queens 7	<b>72.07%</b>	Whitestone, Flushing, College Point, Auburndale
6	Queens 3	<b>4.58</b>	East Elmhurst, Jackson Heights, North Corona		Queens 10	<b>72.06%</b>	Ozone Park, Howard Beach, South Ozone Park
7	Bronx 10	<b>5.27</b>	Throgs Neck, Pelham Bay, Westchester Square		Queens 8	<b>67.33%</b>	Fresh Meadows, Briarwood, Jamaica Estates, Utopia
8	Staten Island 3	<b>5.29</b>	Great Kills, Tottenville, Annadale, Prince's Bay		Queens 6	<b>66.80%</b>	Forest Hills, Rego Park, Forest Hills Gardens
9	Queens 6	<b>5.36</b>	Forest Hills, Rego Park, Forest Hills Gardens		Brooklyn 14	<b>66.42%</b>	Flatbush, Midwood, Ditmas Park, Ocean Parkway
10	Bronx 12	<b>5.58</b>	Williamsbridge, Woodlawn, Wakefield, Edenwald		Bronx 12	<b>66.36%</b>	Williamsbridge, Woodlawn, Wakefield, Edenwald

## LARGEST IMPROVEMENTS

## Jolt Scores

## Smoothness Scores

<i>District</i>	<i>1997 → 1999</i>	<i>Neighborhoods</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>1997 → 1999</i>	<i>Neighborhoods</i>
Queens 11*	17.59 → <b>6.02</b>	Bayside, Douglaston, Little Neck, Oakland Gardens	Queens 13*	60.44% → <b>75.70%</b>	Laurelton, Queens Village, Cambria Heights
Queens 7*	14.60 → <b>4.44</b>	Whitestone, Flushing, College Point, Auburndale	Bronx 6	50.88% → <b>60.15%</b>	East Tremont, Belmont, West Farms, Bathgate
Queens 10*	11.15 → <b>4.21</b>	Ozone Park, Howard Beach, South Ozone Park	Bronx 12	57.87% → <b>66.36%</b>	Williamsbridge, Woodlawn, Wakefield, Edenwald
Queens 8*	13.02 → <b>6.83</b>	Fresh Meadows, Briarwood, Jamaica Estates, Utopia	Bronx 11	67.32% → <b>75.67%</b>	Morris Park, Pelham Parkway, Bronxdale
Bronx 12*	11.60 → <b>5.58</b>	Williamsbridge, Woodlawn, Wakefield, Edenwald	Staten Island 3	56.55% → <b>64.26%</b>	Great Kills, Tottenville, Annadale, Prince's Bay

## LARGEST DECLINES

## Jolt Scores

## Smoothness Scores

<i>District</i>	<i>1997 → 1999</i>	<i>Neighborhoods</i>	<i>District</i>	<i>1997 → 1999</i>	<i>Neighborhoods</i>
Manhattan 5	17.53 → <b>23.74</b>	Flatiron, Midtown	Brooklyn 4*	60.48% → <b>42.24%</b>	Bushwick, Ridgewood
Queens 14	7.51 → <b>13.64</b>	Far Rockaway, Breezy Point, Rockaway Park, Seaside	Brooklyn 17*	72.06% → <b>55.19%</b>	East Flatbush, Rugby, Remsen Village, Farragut
Bronx 1	11.56 → <b>16.43</b>	Mott Haven, Melrose, Port Morris	Queens 12	63.29% → <b>47.81%</b>	Jamaica, St. Albans, Hollis, Springfield Gardens
Brooklyn 4*	6.67 → <b>10.55</b>	Bushwick, Ridgewood	Manhattan 3	56.59% → <b>41.21%</b>	East Village, Lower East Side, Tompkins Square
Queens 1	6.51 → <b>9.91</b>	Astoria, Steinway, Long Island City, Queensbridge	Manhattan 2	42.59% → <b>30.98%</b>	Soho, Greenwich Village, Chinatown, Little Italy, Noho

NOTE: Higher Smoothness Score means more streets that are smooth; higher Jolt Score means more jolts per mile.

\*Difference in scores statistically significant at the .05 level.