

Commuting from Monmouth County by Public Transportation

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As Shore Insight Group, we understand that for many, the decision to move to Monmouth County is influenced by its excellent quality of life, proximity to major metropolitan areas, and convenient commuting options. Whether you're heading to New York City or Philadelphia for work, leisure, or cultural experiences, a variety of public transportation choices are available to make your journey efficient and comfortable.

Commuting to New York City (NYC)

Monmouth County offers several convenient public transportation options for reaching Midtown Manhattan (Penn Station or Port Authority Bus Terminal) or Downtown Manhattan.

Train Service: NJ Transit North Jersey Coast Line (NJCL)

The [NJ Transit](#) North Jersey Coast Line provides direct train service to New York Penn Station (located at 34th Street and 7th Avenue in Midtown Manhattan). During weekday peak hours, direct trains are more frequent, while off-peak or weekend travel may require a transfer at Long Branch or Secaucus Junction.

Monmouth County Stations on the NJCL (from north to south):

- **Aberdeen-Matawan:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 10 minutes - 1 hour 25 minutes**
- **Hazlet:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 15 minutes - 1 hour 30 minutes**
- **Middletown:**

- Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 20 minutes - 1 hour 35 minutes**
- **Red Bank:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 25 minutes - 1 hour 40 minutes**
- **Little Silver:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 30 minutes - 1 hour 45 minutes**
- **Monmouth Park (Seasonal):**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 35 minutes - 1 hour 50 minutes**
- **Long Branch:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 40 minutes - 1 hour 55 minutes** (often the transfer point for trains from southern Monmouth)
- **Elberon:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 45 minutes - 2 hours**
- **Allenhurst:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 50 minutes - 2 hours 5 minutes**
- **Asbury Park:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **1 hour 55 minutes - 2 hours 10 minutes**
- **Bradley Beach:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **2 hours - 2 hours 15 minutes**
- **Belmar:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **2 hours 5 minutes - 2 hours 20 minutes**
- **Spring Lake:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **2 hours 10 minutes - 2 hours 25 minutes**
- **Manasquan:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **2 hours 15 minutes - 2 hours 30 minutes**
- **Point Pleasant Beach:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **2 hours 20 minutes - 2 hours 35 minutes**
- **Bay Head:**
 - Approximate ride time to NY Penn Station: **2 hours 30 minutes - 2 hours 45 minutes** (southernmost station, typically requires transfer at Long Branch)

Bus Service: NJ Transit Buses

[NJ Transit](#) operates several bus routes connecting Monmouth County to the Port Authority Bus Terminal (PABT) at 42nd Street and 8th Avenue in Midtown Manhattan. These routes often utilize the Garden State Parkway.

Key Bus Routes from Monmouth County to NYC:

- **Route 139 (Lakewood - Old Bridge - New York via Route 9):** This is a major commuter route with numerous stops along Route 9, including Howell, Freehold, and Old Bridge.
 - Approximate ride time from Freehold/Howell area: **1 hour 30 minutes - 2 hours**
 - Approximate ride time from Old Bridge Park & Ride: **1 hour - 1 hour 30 minutes**
- **Routes 131, 133, 135, 137, 138:** These routes also serve various points in Monmouth County (e.g., Marlboro, Aberdeen, Matawan, Toms River, East Brunswick) and provide service to Port Authority. Travel times are comparable to the Route 139 depending on the starting point.

Ferry Service: Seastreak

For a more scenic and often faster commute to Downtown or Midtown Manhattan, the [Seastreak ferry](#) offers a premium option from northern Monmouth County.

- **Departure Locations:** Highlands, Atlantic Highlands, and Belford (Middletown).
- **Manhattan Destinations:** Wall Street (Pier 11) and East 35th Street.
- **Approximate ride time: 40 minutes - 60 minutes** (depending on destination and vessel type).

Commuting to Philadelphia (Philly)

Commuting to Philadelphia from Monmouth County by public transportation typically involves a multi-modal journey, as there is no direct train line.

Train Service: NJ Transit & SEPTA/PATCO

The most common train route to Philadelphia involves a transfer:

- **Step 1: NJ Transit Train to Trenton:** Take an [NJ Transit](#) train (usually the North Jersey Coast Line with a transfer to the Northeast Corridor Line at Rahway or Newark Penn Station) to the Trenton Transit Center.
 - Approximate ride time from central Monmouth County (e.g., Red Bank, Long Branch) to Trenton Transit Center: **1 hour 30 minutes - 2 hours**
- **Step 2: SEPTA Regional Rail to Philadelphia:** From Trenton Transit Center, transfer to [SEPTA Regional Rail's](#) Trenton Line, which provides service to Philadelphia 30th Street Station and other Center City Philadelphia stations.
 - Approximate ride time from Trenton Transit Center to Philadelphia 30th Street Station: **40 minutes - 50 minutes**

- **Total Approximate Train Commute: 2 hours 15 minutes - 3 hours** (depending on transfers and starting point in Monmouth County).

Alternatively, some commuters may drive to a River Line station in South Jersey (e.g., Pennsauken Transit Center) and take the [NJ Transit River Line](#) to Camden, then transfer to [PATCO](#) (Port Authority Transit Corporation) for service into Center City Philadelphia. This option is generally less practical for daily commutes from most of Monmouth County due to the initial drive time.

Bus Service: NJ Transit Buses

[NJ Transit](#) offers bus routes that connect parts of Monmouth County to Philadelphia, though these routes are often longer due to their extensive stops.

- **Route 317 (Asbury Park - Fort Dix - Philadelphia):** This route provides service from Asbury Park and other points in Monmouth County through central New Jersey to Philadelphia (Market Street at 11th Street and other Center City stops).
 - Approximate ride time from Asbury Park to Philadelphia: **3 hours - 3 hours 30 minutes**
- **Routes 313/315 (Cape May - Wildwood - 30th Street Philadelphia):** While these routes serve the southern Jersey Shore, they do pass through parts of South Jersey on their way to Philadelphia. They are generally less direct for commuters starting in central or northern Monmouth County.

Important Commuting Considerations

Navigating public transportation requires planning. Keep these points in mind for a smoother commute:

- **Travel Times are Approximate:** All listed times are estimates and can vary significantly based on time of day (peak vs. off-peak), traffic conditions, weather, and specific train/bus schedules. Always check the latest schedules on the NJ Transit website or app before traveling.
- **NJ Transit Mobile App:** Download the [NJ Transit Mobile App](#) for real-time schedules, fare information, and mobile ticketing, which can greatly enhance your commuting experience.
- **Parking:** Most train stations and major bus park-and-rides in Monmouth County offer parking, though availability and fees can vary. Arrive early during peak hours to secure a spot.

Uber and Lyft Reliability in Monmouth County Suburbs

Uber and Lyft are generally **available and reliable** throughout most of Monmouth County, especially in the more populated suburban areas and along the coast. However, their reliability can vary compared to major metropolitan centers like NYC or Philadelphia.

- **General Availability:**

- **Good in Denser Areas:** In towns like Red Bank, Asbury Park, Long Branch, Freehold, and areas closer to major train stations or commercial centers, you'll typically find an Uber or Lyft within minutes, especially during peak hours (commute times, evenings, weekends).
- **Seasonal Fluctuations:** Coastal towns (like Belmar, Spring Lake, Sea Girt, Manasquan, the Highlands, Atlantic Highlands) see a significant increase in rideshare availability and demand during the summer months due to tourism. This generally means quicker pickups but potentially higher surge pricing.
- **Less Consistent in More Rural/Western Areas:** As you move into the more rural or less densely populated western parts of Monmouth County, wait times might be longer, and the number of available drivers could be lower, particularly during off-peak hours (late nights, early mornings, or mid-day on weekdays). It's not uncommon to wait 10-20 minutes in these areas.

- **Factors Affecting Reliability:**

- **Time of Day:** Early mornings for airport runs or late nights after events can sometimes have fewer drivers, especially in less central locations. Scheduling a ride in advance for critical trips (like airport travel or important appointments) is highly recommended.
 - **Demand:** High demand (e.g., during major concerts at PNC Bank Arts Center, large events in Asbury Park, or holiday weekends) can lead to surge pricing and longer wait times.
 - **Driver Preferences:** Some drivers on rideshare forums have noted that they prefer rides originating closer to the Garden State Parkway or the eastern side of the county due to better per-mile rates and more consistent demand. This can sometimes affect availability in towns further west.
- **Cost:** While convenient, rideshare services can become costly for frequent or longer trips, especially when surge pricing is in effect. For daily commuting, public transportation (trains, buses, ferries) or personal vehicles are generally more economical.
 - **Comparison to NYC/Philadelphia:** You will not experience the instantaneous availability and constant stream of drivers found in the heart of NYC or Philadelphia. Expect slightly longer wait times on average. However, for a suburban environment, Monmouth County's rideshare coverage is generally considered strong and a viable option for most needs, especially in the central and eastern parts of the county.

At Shore Insight Group, we are dedicated to providing you with comprehensive information that goes beyond real estate, helping you understand every aspect of life in Monmouth County.

For personalized guidance on finding a home that perfectly aligns with your lifestyle and commuting needs, contact us today. We're here to help you navigate your next smart move.