A Few Reasons Why Telecom Is Important to New York

• Each day NYCHA clears 26 million transactions worth $1.5 trillion for 1,600 institutions worldwide

• Telecom/information sector output (2003): $23 billion (3% of New York’s economy)

• Telecom-related employment in NYC: 43,000; avg. earnings - $79,600 (34% above overall avg.)
Executive Summary: Network Reliability

“In the Midtown and Lower Manhattan central business districts, businesses have access to telecommunications networks and services that are among the most sophisticated and most reliable in the world. Multiple carriers provide multiple connections to many buildings, and vendors offer companies a variety of wireless and other back-up systems. Nevertheless, in some parts of the City, local telecommunications infrastructure is still characterized by numerous “single points of failure,” bottlenecks at which a major disruption could disrupt service to hundreds, thousands or even tens of thousands of users.”


The Key Conclusion: Bottlenecks Impair Reliability

Single-points-of-failure include:

• Many large buildings with only one physical telecom entrance and single risers
• Carriers sharing conduits
• “Carrier hotels”
• Concentrations of customers leading to concentrations of switches and hubs
Some Ways to Enhance Reliability

- Increase the number of commercial buildings and other critical facilities in Midtown, Lower Manhattan and secondary business districts that have redundant connections to the PSTN.
- Increase the number of businesses using wireless back-up systems.
- Enhance the geographic diversity of colocation facilities serving central business districts.

How Can the “Market” Enhance Reliability?

- Develop “Best Practice” standards for enhancing resiliency of telecommunications infrastructure within individual buildings. The standards could, for example, include:
  - Having at least two physically separate telecommunications cable entrances;
  - Carrier-neutral dual risers within buildings; and
  - Availability of rooftop wireless back-up systems.
- Consider a system for voluntary third-party certification of commercial and industrial buildings that meet these standards.