Crossword grid (answers):

Row 1: A E D · · A P S E · S M H · G P A
Row 2: S P I L L S · O R C A · H A I · R I M — SPILLS
Row 3: S U R G E D · L O O S E E N D · E L I — THE — BLURTS INFO — BI
Row 4: · B E A N S · P O E M · A E G E A N — BEANS
Row 5: · · · D U C T · B L U R T S I N F O
Row 6: · A T V S · H A M · · P E O N
Row 7: P H O · R A I S E · L I E U · S I S — RAISE
Row 8: C I N D Y L O U W H O · S T A C H E — THE — GO APE — GA
Row 9: P O R · U A E · R O O F · E H O W — ROOF
Row 10: A U T H E N T I C · S K I P S R O P E
Row 11: T R I O · S M U T · N I T · L E D
Row 12: T S E T S E · P E R F E C T P L A N
Row 13: Y E S · A A A S · I T C H Y · O R O
Row 14: · · J U S T · C H E · M O S T — JUST
Row 15: S H I F T Y E Y E D · O S H A — THE — PERFECT PLAN — PP
Row 16: T I C K E T · A X E S · G O A P E — TICKET
Row 17: O R E · P O P P I L L S · T R I L L S
Row 18: L E I · A D E · S H I P · V I L E S T — LOOSE END — LE
Row 19: E S T · N O R · T I D Y · B A Y — BIG APPLE

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First, the title mentioned that you would be "Connecting Through New York City" and indeed, NYC airport codes were three of the entries in the grid.

Those airport codes connected words that could be put together to form common phrases. For example, LGA connected SPILLS and BEANS, making the phrase "Spills the Beans". EWR connected RAISE and ROOF, making the phrase "Raise the Roof" and JFK connected the entries JUST and TICKET, making the phrase "Just the Ticket".

You could match those phrases with three clues for other entries in the grid. [Gives the game away, say] could have been a clue for SPILLS THE BEANS, but was instead the clue for **B**LURTS **I**NFO. [Cheer fervently] could have been a clue for RAISE THE ROOF, but instead it was the clue for **G**O **A**PE. [It's exactly what's needed] could have been the clue for JUST THE TICKET, but instead it was the clue for **P**ERFECT **P**LAN.

Taking the first letters of each of those alternate phrases gives BIGAPP, a mere two letters away from the phrase BIG APPLE, which was especially relevant given the NYC theme. So, in order to complete that relevant two-word phrase, you needed a grid entry with the initials L E . There was only one such entry: **LOOSE END**, which was indeed our meta answer.