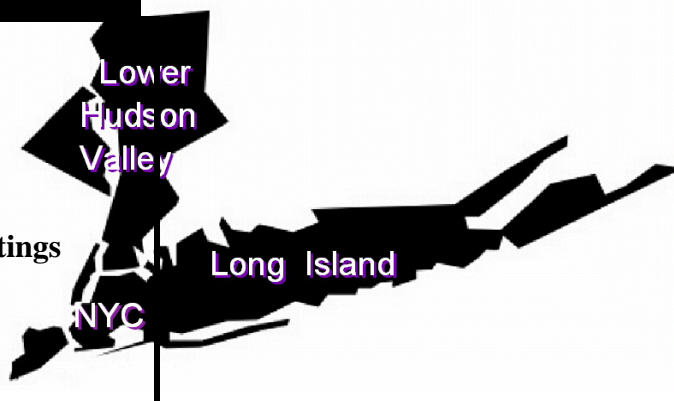


- * NYMTC Meets Air Quality Budgets
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* **NYMTC Meets Air Quality Budgets** by Alan Borenstein

NYMTC released its draft Transportation Conformity Determination, Environmental Justice Assessment and Congestion Management System Status Report -- all of which have been developed to meet federal transportation and air-quality planning requirements. The Transportation Conformity Determination demonstrates that NYMTC's transportation plans conform to the state's air-quality "budgets" that set limits for motor vehicle emissions. Estimates for ground-level ozone (smog), carbon monoxide and particulate matter pollution indicate that they will be below the budgets in the milestone years of 2007, 2015, 2025 and 2030, enabling the region to satisfy all federal requirements.

Also released was an assessment of NYMTC's 2005-06 Transportation Improvement Program and 2005-2030 Regional Transportation Plan for consistency with New York State Energy Plan's energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions objectives.

The Environmental Justice Assessment examines the transportation planning process in the context of the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Federal Executive Order on Environmental Justice. The assessment explains the process NYMTC and its members use to ensure fair and equitable participation in the planning process. It also identifies "communities of concern" or those with high minority and low-income populations throughout the region so that their needs can be considered and addressed during the transportation decision-making process. The Congestion Management System Status Report identifies areas of congestion in the region and sets the stage for the development of plans for mitigation in the Regional Transportation Plan.

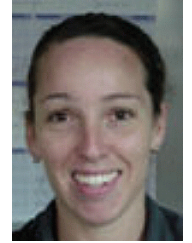
These documents accompany the draft Regional Transportation Plan and Transportation Improvement Program, which were released on April 1st, 2005. They are available for review during the comment period from June 20th to July 20th and can be downloaded from the NYMTC website, www.NYMTC.org. In addition, there will be public meetings on July 7th and 12th to solicit additional comments on the Transportation Conformity Determination, Environmental Justice Assessment and Congestion Management System Status Report.

Contact: Colleen Brathwaite at 212.383.7241 or CBrathwaite@dot.state.ny.us.



*** July 20th Brown Bag to Focus on NEPA** by Gerry Bogacz

The next session in NYMTC's Brown Bag Lunch series, scheduled for July 20th, will focus on the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and its impacts on transportation improvements. Professor Beth Wittig of the CCNY Civil Engineering Department will be the guest presenter. Professor Wittig will discuss NEPA and Environmental Impact Assessment, which will cover the development of the NEPA process, its potential outcomes and key elements of environmental assessments and environmental impact statements (see the Calendar).



Contact: Judith Wilson at 212.383.7256 or JaWilson@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Parking is Not Free** by Jan Khan

Speaking at the quarterly meeting of the *Metropolitan Mobility Network* on June 21st, Michael Kodama confirmed what many of us already know - that parking is not free and the costs of parking can have an economic impact on employers, employees, customers (referring to retail) and communities as a whole in terms of access to activities and levels of traffic congestion. Mr. Kodama, a parking management expert from Burbank, California, was guest speaker at the meeting which dealt primarily with parking management, and where members discussed issues and implications related to parking in their jurisdictions. Parking management is really any technique that changes parking location, supply, or demand, to better use parking resources. Strategies can be used as part of the overall planning process, real estate development, etc.



Among the issues highlighted by *Network* members were: zoning requirements for parking that result in an over-supply, unintended uses and abuse by commercial vehicles, operating costs, ownership and permitting, bicycle parking, and regional park and ride. According to Mike Kodama, many of these issues can be resolved through effective parking management programs, bearing in mind that strategies will vary on a case-by-case basis. The best parking management programs combine a variety of parking management strategies with transportation demand management and transit options and are developed with input from key stakeholders including local municipalities, elected officials, residents, developers, land owners, leasing agents and regional agencies. He cited many successful parking management programs across the nation and also discussed parking pricing as a strategy to reduce mobile source emissions. NYMTC is currently considering an assessment of the impact of curbside and municipal parking pricing on the reduction of vehicular emissions regionwide.

Following the discussions, *Network* members developed a list of issues to be pursued including: review of zoning requirements regionally; discussions with local municipalities; inventory of areas with parking problems and areas for future growth; bicycle parking at train stations and bus stops; on-street bike parking policies and funding for demonstration projects.

Contact: Jan Khan at 212.383.7251 or JKhan@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Unleashing the Internet on Congestion** by Gerry Bogacz

NYMTC's June Brown Bag Lunch featured a thought-provoking presentation from Rick Steele, CEO of NuRide, Inc (www.nuride.com). NuRide was founded on the belief that individuals who share rides provide a valuable service to their community and should be rewarded for their efforts. Through the NuRide Network®, individuals can now easily arrange ridesharing trips and earn rewards for every confirmed trip they take. Mr. Steele's presentation demonstrated how the Network works to bring people together to offer and share rides. He discussed the rewards



system that NuRide offers through which each ride earns points toward purchases at participating sponsors. NuRide is currently being pilot tested in the NYMTC region on Long Island and in the lower Hudson Valley.

Contact: Jan Khan at 212.383.7251 or JKhan@dot.state.ny.us.

*** The Public Weighs in on Staten Island Land Use & Transportation** by Gerry Bogacz

Nearly 100 concerned residents and stakeholders attended a June 9th public planning session at the College of Staten Island to provide their input into the NYC Department of City Planning's Staten Island West Shore Transportation and Land Use Study. The study, which is financed by NYMTC and the NYS Department of State, is the fifth such study to be undertaken in NYMTC's region. Other studies have been completed or are underway in Rockland County, Westchester County, Suffolk County, and the Coney Island section of Brooklyn. The study seeks to integrate transportation and land use planning to help guide development on Staten Island's West Shore. Participants offered a range of opinions about the future of this area of Staten Island and suggested the need to preserve natural areas, attract specific types of development and improve transit services.



Contact: Gerry Bogacz at 212.383.7260 or GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Canal Street Study Convenes Community Meetings** by Aizaz Ahmed

Some major themes that emerged from recent CATS (Canal Area Transportation Study) Track II meetings were: traffic improvements should be consistent with the existing character of Canal Street, efforts should be made to make Canal Street and its environs more attractive, and the public has been involved in a number of studies and are eager to see action. There was interest in the travel patterns of traffic along Canal Street, as portrayed by CATS II data collection.

The meetings provided opportunities for the community to review, comment and add to a draft list of themes and values that will guide the study, and an overview of existing conditions in the study area as they were identified through related studies, previous public input and data collection. Additionally, the community was able to provide initial input for developing medium and long term improvements.

CATS Track II, the second phase of a study to identify and address medium and long-term

transportation issues in the Canal Street area, convened three Community Meetings in the Canal Street Area on June 7th and 8th. Sixty-seven residents, Steering and Stakeholder Committee members and other interested parties attended the first two meetings, which were held in TriBeCa at the New York Law School. The third meeting was held in Chinatown at Confucius Plaza with seventy-six attendees.

The next CATS II public meeting will be a modeling workshop that will take place in the Fall of 2005. Until then, members of the community are welcome to contact the CATS II study team with

additional comments by e-mail, phone, fax or mail, or through the comment form on NYMTC's CATS II website (www.NYMTC.org/CATSII/index.html). CATS II is a multi-modal, multi-agency study that is focused on the Canal Street corridor within a study area from Houston Street to the north and Chambers Street to the south.

Contact: Aizaz Ahmed at 212.383.7283 or AAhmed@dot.state.ny.us.



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

7/7/05, 3:30-5:30 pm AND 7:00-9:00 pm, NYMTC Public Review Meetings on the Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination, Congestion Management Status Report and Environmental Justice Assessment, NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC.

Colleen Brathwaite, 212.383.7241, CBrathwaite@dot.state.ny.us.

7/12/05, 3:30-5:30 pm AND 7:00-9:00 pm, NYMTC Public Review Meetings on the Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination, Congestion Management Status Report and Environmental Justice Assessment, NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC.

Colleen Brathwaite, 212.383.7241, CBrathwaite@dot.state.ny.us.

7/20/05, 12 pm, NYMTC Brown Bag Session- NEPA, NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC. Judy Wilson, 212.383.7256, JAWilson@dot.state.ny.us.

7/21/05, 1:15 pm, NYMTC Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC).

NYMTC, 199 Water Street, NYC. Andrea Miles-Cole, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

8/04/05, 1:15 pm New York Metropolitan Transportation Council Meeting.

NYMTC, 199 Water Street, NYC. Andrea Miles-Cole, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

9/8/05, 1:15 pm, NYMTC Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC).

NYMTC, 199 Water Street, NYC. Andrea Miles-Cole, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

9/8/05, TRF Meeting, Speaker: Francis P. Mulvey, Vice-Chairman, Surface Transportation Board. Paul Gessner, pgessner@panynj.gov.

9/11/05, 5:00-6:30 pm, Northeast Community Impact Assessment Workshop Reception and

9/12/05 - 9/14/05, 8:00 am, Northeast Community Impact Assessment Workshop, Trenton Marriott at Lafayette Yard, Trenton, New Jersey. Veronica Murphy, NJ DOT, 609.530.8142, Veronica.murphy@dot.state.nj.us; www.TRB.org/Conferences/NECIA.

10/6/05, TRF Meeting, Speaker: Jack Wells, Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Transportation. Paul Gessner. pgessner@panynj.gov.

3/23/06-3/25/06, TRF Annual Forum, Kimmel Center, New York University.

Paul Gessner. pgessner@panynj.gov.

NYMTC is an association of governments and transportation providers which is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the New York metropolitan region consisting of New York City and the counties of Nassau, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester.

NYMTC-NOTES will be emailed to you every other Wednesday. It contains announcements, short articles and a calendar. If you wish to remove your name from NYMTC-NOTES, please send an email to: NYMTC-NOTES@dot.state.ny.us with the subject field consisting of only: REMOVE.

If anyone would like to be added, please have them send an email from their own account to: NYMTC-NOTES@dot.state.ny.us with the subject consisting of only: ADD.

For questions, comments or to submit an article, send an email to: NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us.

Colleen Brathwaite, Public Information Officer: 212.383.7241 or CBrathwaite@dot.state.ny.us.

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