

WELCOME TO

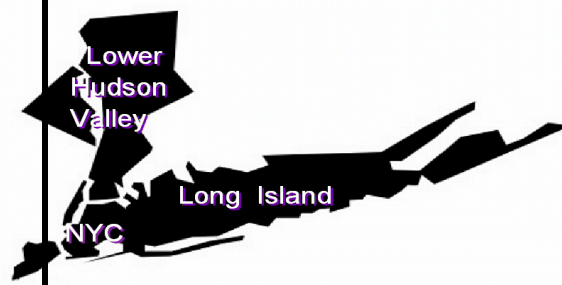
NYMTC-Notes!

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August 24, 2005

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* **Sept. 11th Program Awards to be Announced** by Kuo-Ann Chiao

NYMTC will announce the recipients of the inaugural awards from the September 11th Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning at its upcoming Program, Finance, and Administration Committee (PFAC) meeting on September 8th. The Memorial Program was established in memory of Charles Lesperance, Ignatius Adanga and See Wong Shum, employees who died in the World Trade Center disaster. The program was established to educate and motivate people interested in transportation technology and planning and to encourage innovations in planning activities throughout the NYMTC region. The Memorial Program sets aside funds for publicly solicited transportation planning projects throughout the region, as well as assisting students in transportation planning and information technology studies. The Memorial Program was developed with the assistance of the University Transportation Research Center, a consortium of ten academic institutions in the region (www.utrc2.org/education/911memorial.php). The award recipients of the four planning projects and four student projects will attend the award presentation at the PFAC meeting. Contact: Gerry Bogacz at 212.383.7260 or GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us.



* **Freight Series #1: Meeting the Freight Plan's Goals** by Howard J. Mann <This is the first in a series of articles on NYMTC's Regional Freight Plan.>

One of the key goals of the NYMTC Regional Freight Plan is: *"To improve the physical infrastructure of the transportation system for freight-related transport among shipping and receiving points and major terminals and ports."* The freight plan concludes that, *"some stretches of railroad right-of-way also suffer from basic infrastructure constraints, such as inadequate track clearances and weight restrictions (tracks unsuited to heavier rail cars). And everywhere, the rail and road systems are in need of overall improvement to bring them to a state of good repair."* Amtrak, the private freight railroads and NYMTC member agencies; New York State Department of Transportation and Port Authority of New York and New Jersey are hitting this issue directly. Currently underway is a \$40 million program to address a number of challenges. The program includes:

- Hudson Line clearance improvements
- Bronx freight yard improvements
- Hunts Point Market rail clearance improvements
- Hellgate Bridge freight track rehabilitation
- Freight track upgrade in Queens to allow for heavier railcars and track repair





These improvements will resolve some of the problems identified and help to grow rail freight business to achieve less highway congestion and other regional targets.

According to the NYMTC Regional Freight Plan Project, rail is handling about one percent of the region's freight volume. This amounts to about 2.8 million tons in 1998 and, looking into the future, about 4.3 million tons in 2025. This is a 59 percent increase or an added 24,000 carloads annually. However, the rail share of all modes in the NYMTC region is forecasted to remain at about one percent through 2025 assuming there are no major changes to the rail system in the future. The NYMTC forecast also shows that some NYMTC counties will experience a higher forecasted rail mode share than others. For example, the Bronx is forecasted to see a 4.1 percent mode share versus a 3.4 percent in 1998. Railroads handle a number of different types of commodities, primarily low value, bulk type goods. The primary rail freight haulers in the NYMTC region are CSX Transportation Corporation and the New York and Atlantic Railway. The Canadian Pacific Railway, Providence and Worcester Railroad and the New York Cross Harbor Railroad also operate in the NYMTC region.

In previous issues of this publication we explored a variety of data, issues and possible solutions to the freight situation. Beginning with this issue, NYMTC staff will be running a series of articles that will explore how the region is meeting its freight goals. Future issues will cover other freight modes and issues emanating from the freight plan. To complement this article the next Freight Transportation Working Group scheduled for October 17th, will include a panel discussion and presentations on this topic. Watch NYMTC's Calendar for more details.

Contact: Howard J. Mann at 212.383.2530 or HMann@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Metropolitan Mobility Network to Meet** by Jan Khan

The Metropolitan Mobility Network will meet at NYMTC on September 13th. The members will continue their discussions on the unified branding campaign for commuter choice, Best Workplaces for Commuters, program implementation, parking management and other issues.

The Metropolitan Mobility Network serves as a mechanism for the coordination and planning of Transportation Demand Management (TDM) programs in the region, by bringing together agencies and organizations engaged in these activities and by serving as a clearinghouse for TDM information. Working together, network members strive to enhance the delivery of regional commuter choice programs and implement TDM strategies to improve air quality, reduce vehicular congestion, and improve the overall efficiency of the transportation system.

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

*** Ferry Emissions to be Discussed** by Fatai Adekoya

Presentations on the Ferry Emissions Reduction Program in New York City and advanced transportation technologies in the maritime industry top the agenda of the Long Island Sound Ferry Coalition meeting scheduled for September 21st. The meeting will be held at the City Hall Annex, Conference Room "C", 999 Broad Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604.

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority has conducted a study and provided a standard practical application to retrofit existing private ferry fleets. Simultaneously, New York City Department of Transportation has undertaken a similar study for the Staten Island ferry operation. Advanced technologies also will be discussed, such as the Strong Arm Docker, which can assist docking operations.

Contact: Fatai Adekoya at 212.383.7250 or FAdekoya@dot.state.ny.us.



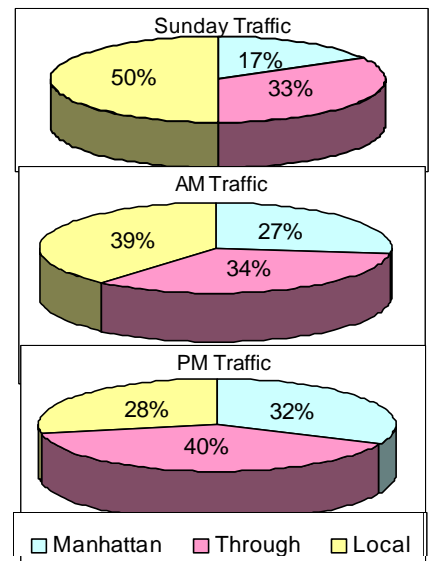
*** CATS Track II Completes Survey** by Aizaz Ahmed

In Spring 2005, the Canal Area Transportation Study (CATS) Track II settled a long debated issue: "How much traffic on Canal Street is local? How much is through traffic?" The results of a recently concluded Origin-Destination survey reveal that about one-third of traffic on Canal Street does not have either an origin or a destination in the Canal Street area.

The Origin-Destination survey was conducted along the Canal Street corridor, focusing between the Manhattan Bridge and the Bowery on the east and the Holland Tunnel and Route 9A on the west. Surveys were conducted in three time periods - weekday morning, weekday afternoon, and Sunday midday. Drivers, while stopped at a traffic light, were asked a series of questions about their trips. Questions included where they had just come from, where they were going, and which major bridge or tunnels they planned to use.

Responses were organized into three categories: 1. If a trip had an origin and/or destination within the Study Area (as defined as Houston Street to Chambers Street, East River to Hudson River) the trip was classified as *local*. 2. If a trip had an origin and/or destination in Manhattan, but outside the Study Area, the trip was classified as *Manhattan*. 3. If a trip had both an origin and destination outside of Manhattan, the trip was classified as *through*. Results for the three time periods, for all traffic using Canal Street, are summarized in the chart.

CATS Track II is a multi-modal, multi-agency study focused on the Canal Street corridor within an area approximately bounded by Houston Street to the north and Chambers Street to the south. Contact: Aizaz Ahmed at 212.383.7283 or AAhmed@dot.state.ny.us.



*** SAFETEA-LU: Important Changes for MPOs** by Kristen Hall

On Aug 10th, President Bush signed the new "Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users," (SAFETEA-LU) bill which includes \$286.45 billion over a period of six years. This represents a 38% increase over the \$208 billion provided in the previous statute, TEA-21. Out of over 6,000 earmarked high priority projects included in this new law, the NYMTC region will receive more than \$500 million in earmarked funding.

Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) will see some important changes under SAFETEA-LU. One change for MPOs is an increase in the set aside from 1.0% in TEA-21 to 1.25% (Section 1107). This will increase funding for MPOs, but the effect is not immediately apparent because the set aside is applied to various other programs.

The new law has an emphasis on safety, research, and technology deployment and includes programs such as the popular, new "Safe Routes to School Program" focused on bicycle and pedestrian safety issues, and the new "Highways for Life Program" which aims at creating longer-lasting highways. Another big change for MPOs is that they must update their Transportation Improvement Program at a minimum of every four years, where previously this was required every three years. Similarly, transportation plans will be required to be updated every four years in non-attainment areas (previously it was three years). Conformity determination on updated transportation plans and programs will be submitted every four years at a minimum.

In the Act, an Urbanized Area is still defined as a geographic region with a population of 50,000 or more, per the US Bureau of the Census. Also, there is a strong emphasis on maximizing public participation in the planning process through public meetings and hearings at convenient times and accessible locations. A strong component of this would be employing visualization techniques and creating accessible electronic and printed material for the public.

Contact: Nancy O'Connell at 212.383.7267 or NLOConnell@dot.state.ny.us.

*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

Please note: There will no NYMTC Brown Bag Presentation in August.

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, 12:00, Transportation Research Forum Meeting, Speaker: Francis P. Mulvey, Vice-Chairman, Surface Transportation Board. Giovanni's Atrium, 100 Washington Street, NYC.

Paul Gessner, pgessner@panynj.gov or <http://www.trforum.org/calendar/newyork.php>.

9/9/05, 9:30-12:00, UTRC Visiting Scholars Seminar, Robert T. Dunphy, Urban Land Institute, Washington. Proshansky Auditorium, Graduate Center, City University of NY, 365 Fifth Avenue, NYC. <http://www.utrc2.org> or seminars@utrc.org.

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.

9/12/05, 8:00-9:30 am, Critical Issues Facing NYCDOT, Breakfast with Iris Weinsall, Rudin Center, Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, 8th Floor, Room 802. My Linh H.

Nguyen-Novotny, 212.998.7545, mnn2@nyu.edu, <http://wagner.nyu.edu/rudincenter/news/>.

9/13/05, 10:00 am, Metropolitan Mobility Network, NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC. Jan Khan, 212.383.7251, JKhan@dot.state.ny.us.

9/21/05, 12:00-1:15pm, NYMTC Brown Bag Presentation, James Quigley, Bronx Community College Center for Sustainable Energy. NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC. Gerry Bogacz, 212.383.7260, GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us.

9/21/05, 10:30 am, Long Island Sound Ferry Coalition, Bridgeport, Connecticut. City Hall Annex, Conference Room "C", 999 Broad Street, Bridgeport, Connecticut 06604.

Fatai Adekoya, 212.383.7250, FAdekoya@dot.state.ny.us.

9/30/05, 10:00 am, Mid-Hudson South Mobility Advisory Committee -Tour of Grand Central, Metro-North, 345 Madison Avenue, 3rd Floor Conference Room, NYC. Naomi Klein, 914.813.7758, nkk3@westchester.gov.com.

10/6/05, 12:00, Transportation Research Forum Meeting, Speaker: Jack Wells, Chief Economist, U.S. Department of Transportation. Giovanni's Atrium, 100 Washington Street, NYC. Paul Gessner, pgessner@panynj.gov or <http://www.trforum.org/calendar/newyork.php>.

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.

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council is located at
199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10038 Phone: 212.383.7200

Editor: Bernice Hoffner

Senior Editor: Alan Borenstein