

**Synopsis of the December 15, 2005 Meeting of the
Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC) of the
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC)**

A. CALL TO ORDER, INTRODUCTIONS AND REMARKS

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:20 p.m. by Robert Dennison, III, of the New York State Department of Transportation. Mr. Dennison introduced himself as the Chairperson of the Program, Finance and Administration Committee and informed the audience that he would be filling in while Timothy Gilchrist was on a three month assignment. Mr. Dennison asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

2. NYMTC Executive Director's Report

Mr. Joel Ettinger reported that Jean Shanahan, the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinator Committee Staff Director, was given the 2006 Engineering-of-the-Year Award by the State Association of Transportation Engineers. Mr. Ettinger said that the NYMTC staff continued to reach out to sister agencies affected by Hurricane Katrina and Hurricane Rita and commended Kuo-Ann Chiao for his leadership. He said that the conformity waiver was over but there were conformity issues still on the table. A multi-state PM 2.5 conformity determination is due April 5, 2006. Mr. Ettinger said that staff is working on a draft UPWP and anticipated the draft completion early 2006. He said that the next Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) update was due in 2007 and said progress was made in developing a web-based portal for the development of the TIP. He said a new federal regulation was signed into law in August, 2005. There were changes in the federal legislation that affected the planning program and said that staff continued to review the revisions to the planning process, working with the federal partners, Federal Highway Administration and Federal Transit Administration. Mr. Ettinger reported that the third of four pilot sustainable development studies reached a conclusion. The final concept plan, Sustainable East End Development Strategies (SEEDS) was discussed at a summit meeting on Long Island which involved about 50 elected officials at all levels. He said two completed sustainable studies in Rockland County and Westchester County were moving into the implementation phase. He said two new development sustainable studies had begun. The NYC Department of City Planning had initiated the West-Shore Communities on Staten Island and NYMTC's New York City office was working with the NYCDCP and the NYC Department of Transportation to develop a study in the Rockaways.

B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Edward Kampermann, Member of the Transportation Committee of Community Board #Q5

Mr. Kampermann made comments about upgrading the present freight rail infrastructure within the New York metropolitan area. Mr. Kampermann wanted to know if the CSX railroad tracks running from Astoria to Glendale, and being replaced with a double track, continued to Fremont Yards in Glendale. He said that the CSX tunnel under Metropolitan Avenue needed to be repaired and inquired if the tunnel could be configured to provide a smooth transition onto the Long Island Railroad tracks to Jamaica Station. He questioned if the LIRR roadbed to the 65th Street Yard in Bay Ridge would be up-graded to two tracks in order to serve the increased freight traffic from the new float bridge opening in Brooklyn. He wanted to know when the LIRR would provide two tracks between Farmingdale and Ronkonkoma because the one-track system did not provide the rail corridor that was necessary to handle the expanding freight traffic and presented a reverse commuter problem.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Accept: October 20, 2005 Meeting Synopsis

Mr. Dennison asked for a motion to accept the October 20, 2005 Meeting Synopsis. A motion was made by Ms. Patricia Chemka, representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee, and seconded by Mr. Robert Shinnick, representing the Nassau/Suffolk Transportation Coordinating Committee. The meeting synopsis was accepted.

2. Adopt: Resolution #209 – Amendment of Issue Area Maps in the 2005-2030 Regional Transportation Plan

Mr. Gerry Bogacz said that the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) identified future issues and emphasis areas for each of NYMTC's ten counties and placed additional emphasis assessing the impacts of forecasted population growth on the city's transportation system. He said that the borough maps which appeared in the RTP for the five boroughs of New York City needed to be amended to include the impacts of forecasted population growth on the transportation system. He said that the 2030 RTP air quality conformity determination remained unaffected and the RTP remained financially constrained.

Mr. Dennison asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #209, Amendment of the 2005-2030 Regional Transportation Plan. A motion was made by Dr. James Yarmus, representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee, and seconded by Mr. Robert Shinnick, representing the Nassau/Suffolk Transportation Coordinating Committee. The resolution was unanimously approved.

D. PRESENTATION

With the help of slides, Donald Shoup talked about how free parking wasn't really free. Mr. Shoup said that the average parking space cost more than the average car. He said the cost of parking is diffused throughout the economy. He said the two mistakes in planning for parking was keeping curb parking free or cheap and requiring lots of off-street parking. Mr. Shoup recommended two reforms in parking policy; (1) charge market rates for curb parking, and (2) return the meter revenue to neighborhoods that generated it. He then talked about how his recommendation helped to improve the environment in Pasadena, California. He said that cities should dedicate parking meter revenue to the districts that produced it. Merchants would insist on charging market prices for curb parking and meter revenue could improve the public infrastructure of older areas. Mr. Shoup talked about the effects of building job-adjacent housing on former parking lots. He said that building housing on formerly required parking lots would increase housing supply, reduce commuting time, reduce fuel consumption, and reduce traffic congestion and air pollution. He said money and time spent on vehicles and fuel would be available for something else.

E. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT PFAC MEETING

Mr. Dennison confirmed that the next Program, Finance, and Administration Committee meeting was scheduled for Thursday, February 16, 2006 and would be held at NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York City.

G. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 3:10 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

Voting Member/Alternates

Joseph Barr, NYC Department of Transportation
Lawrence Berger, Nassau County
Patricia Chemka, Westchester County
Robert A. Dennison, III, NYS Department of Transportation
Lawrence Fleischer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
John Pilner, Putnam County
Jack Schmidt, NYC Department of City Planning
Robert Shinnick, Suffolk County
Dr. James Yarmus, Rockland County

Advisory (non-voting) Members

Robert Griffith, Federal Highway Administration
Irwin Kessman, Federal Transit Administration
Lou Venech, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Melanie Zeman, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NYMTC Council Staff

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|-------------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Afolabi Aiyedum | Joel Ettinger | Nancy O'Connell |
| Juliette Bergman | Emma Gaitan | Uchenna Madu |
| Sangeeta Bhowmick | Maria Garcia | Deinbo MacHarry |
| Gerry Bogacz | Anthony Gawrych | Jean Shanahan |
| Alan Borenstein | Stephen Hausch | |
| Kuo-Ann Chiao | Barbara Lynch | |

OTHERS

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|---|---|
| Margaret Ahmed, MTA Metro North | Jeffrey Otto, CHPC |
| Colleen Alderson, NYCDPR | Myrna Payne, HRA |
| Jordan Anderson, Appleseed | Phil Plotch, LMDC |
| Richard Backlund, FHWA | Nick Peterson, Times Square |
| Bob Cassara | Robert Previdi |
| Nicole D. Appleseed | Gorman Reilly, Civitas |
| Lucinda Eagle, FTA | Elizabeth Rivera, MTA Metro North |
| Jeff Elmer, GCA | A. Ryder, University |
| Donald Eisele, NJT | Sudi Sanagavarapu, NYCDOT |
| Michelle Ernst, TSTC | Tom Schulze, NJT |
| Ron Farrar, NYCDOT | J. Setteducatu, PBQD |
| Lawrence Fleischer, MTA | Chisato Shimoda, Hunter College |
| M. Fraser | Donald Shoup, UCLA |
| Conan Freud, NYCDOT | Brian Siethoff, Cambridge Systematics |
| Bill Gehling | Steven Simicich |
| Patrick Gerdin, Rockland County | Eric Simurdza, Seedco |
| Tatyana Golikova, NYSDOT | David Snetman, Transportation Alternatives |
| Leon Goodman | David Stein, NJTPA |
| S. Grova, Columbia University | Monique Stringer |
| Tresa Horney, Transportation Alternatives | Stephanie Tatham, Environmental Development |
| Naomi Hiratsuka, TEC/Brooklyn | Felicia Tunnah, Downtown Alliance |
| Mostafa Kamal, MTA NYCT | John Zamurs, NYSDOT |
| Edward Kampermann, CB#Q5 | Mark Zannini |
| Peter King, NYSDOT | |
| Tom Maguire, ARRP | |
| Larry Malsam, NYSDOT | |
| Tony Manzon, LIRR | |
| Christopher McBride, AAA | |
| Tom McKnight, EDC | |
| Maureen Morgan, Transit Advocate | |
| Willa Ng, Urbitran Associates | |
| Jonathan Oakman, Alliance for Downtown | |
| Kevin Olinger, NYCDOP | |

On February 16, 2006, this meeting synopsis was accepted unanimously by the PFAC members.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Miles-Cole

