

**Synopsis of the January 20, 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 Mr. Timothy Gilchrist, of the New York State Department of Transportation. Mr. Gilchrist introduced himself as the new Chairperson of the Program, Finance and Administration Committee and asked all attendees to introduce themselves.

2. Chairperson's Report

Mr. Timothy Gilchrist said that he had been with the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) for almost twenty five years and he had been involved with NYMTC on and off throughout his career. He said that he was one of many who pioneered to help create NYMTC. Mr. Gilchrist said that he had been assigned as NYSDOT's Downstate Transportation Integrator and was responsible to work with all the operatives in the downstate region. He reported that a nationwide search for a NYMTC Executive Director was being done. An advertisement in the New York Times was placed and the PFAC members formed an Executive Search Committee for the interviewing process. Mr. Gilchrist commended Alan Borenstein, Gerry Bogacz, and Kuo-Ann Chiao for their collective efforts to manage NYMTC. He then asked them each to provide their report.

3. NYMTC Directors' Report

Mr. Alan Borenstein welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Mr. Gerry Bogacz said that staff was preparing for the public release of the draft Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) Update on April 1, 2005, in which was the day that Air Quality Conformity Legislation requirements were due. Mr. Bogacz said that the TIP project list would be developed at the Transportation Coordinating Committee level and would be available for public review in February, 2005. He said that his staff continued to support a number of ongoing studies.

Mr. Kuo-Ann Chiao said the Technical staff were focused on the conformity analysis and were working with the Planning staff and member agency's staff to put the projects together and to obtain information to input into the models. He said that staff would be undertaking final testing of the model and the emissions results from all the programs would be available sometime in March, 2005. Mr. Chiao said that the model was very efficient and invited those with interest to visit the office models room to personally view the model. Mr. Chiao said that the 2003 Truck Routing Report was available on NYMTC's website -- www.nymtc.org, and the 2001 Safety Report would also be available by the end November, 2005.

B. ACTION ITEMS

1. Accept: November 18, 2004 Meeting Synopsis

Mr. Gilchrist asked for a motion to accept the November 18, 2004 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, and the synopsis was accepted.

2. Present: Resolution #195 – Presentation of the 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Gilchrist said that the resolution for the 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program would be introduced and that a presentation would be given. He said that the Program, Finance, and Administration Committee would adopt the UPWP by mail ballot at a later date after the members had a chance to review the document in its entirety. He then introduced Stephen Hausch to give the presentation.

Mr. Stephen Hausch, with the help of slides, presented the 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program. See the attached presentation.

3. Adopt: Resolution #196, Amendment of the Major Metropolitan Transportation Investment/Major Investment Study List and Update of the 2004-2005 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Aizaz Ahmed said that the resolution was added the Hudson Yards Rezoning and Development Program Environmental Impact Statement to the list and represented the West Shore Region and West Shore Region West Haverstraw Extension Studies under the single name of West Shore Region including, West Haverstraw Study. Mr. Aizaz said that seven regionally significant environmental studies would also be added to the list for informational purposes, as follows, the Long Island Truck/Rail Intermodal Facility EIS; Route 347 Corridor EIS; Long Island Expressway/Grand Central Parkway/Van Wyck Expressway EIS; Kosciuszko Bridge EIS; Bruckner Sheridan Interchange EIS; Goethals bridge EIS; and Gowanus Expressway EIS.

Mr. Gilchrist asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #196, Amendment of the Major Metropolitan Transportation/Major Investment Study List and Update of the 2004-2005 Unified Planning Work Program. A motion was made by Dr. James Yarmus, representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee, and seconded by Mr. Jack Schmidt, representing the New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee. The resolution was unanimously approved.

C. REGIONAL ISSUES

1. Recalibration of the Best Practices Model

Mr. Kuo-Ann Chiao, with the help of slides, gave a presentation on Recalibration of the Best Practices Model. See the attached presentation.

2. New York State Master Plan

Mr. Timothy Gilchrist, with the help of slides, gave a presentation on the New York State Department of Transportation Master Plan. Mr. Gilchrist said it is anticipated that state-wide plan would available for public comment early spring and more presentations would be given throughout the state. For presentation details, see the attached.

D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were none.

E. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

1. Emissions Reduction Measures

Ms. Karen Rosenberger said that the Conformity Team were meeting weekly to make sure everyone's obligation under the conformity waiver was on target. Efforts to implement emissions control measures related to the Regional Commuter Choice Program including the Best Workplaces for Commuters Program, Transportation Demand Management which integrated service delivery and program evaluations, and the selection process for

evaluating the Request for Proposals for the Regional Commuter Choice Unified Branding Program were all being heavily targeted. Ms. Rosenberger said that work on the Regional Fuels Program focused on two initiatives that were being launched--the Clean Technologies Group, which would be the clearing house consortium of information on alternative fuels, new technologies and mobile source emissions reductions initiatives and funding mechanisms for Clean Fuels Program in our region, and the expansion of the Clean Cities and Clean Communities to include a new Hudson Valley Clean Communities Program. She said that staff was working with the NESCAUM Stakeholder Working Group to find ways to better understand how to evaluate potential current and future emissions reduction measures and how to get credit for them for the conformity determination. She said continued efforts to computerize and re-time traffic signals were being done through the Regional Signal Timing Program. She said these efforts lead towards the April 1st, Preliminary Analysis Report. Ms. Rosenberger said that staff was also working to enhance NYMTC's credibility and to optimize press interest. Staff and members would be advised how to handle inquiries posed by the press through upcoming press strategy sessions and said that contingency measures were being looked into to ensure that we have the emissions reduction that we need for the October completion of the conformity waiver.

2. Conformity Waiver Status

Mr. Gerry Bogacz said that for the last three years, staff focused on the precursors of ozone, nitrogen oxides (NOX) and volatile organic compounds (VOC) and to brought forth to the members that the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program would be conformed to the air quality milestones. He said that it was anticipated that the products would be adopted by the Council late June and that staff was on scheduled and still had many challenges ahead for the remaining year.

3. Congestion Management System

Mr. Aizaz Ahmed said that the first congestion status report was being developed and would include the base year results of 2002 data and also the forecast prediction in 2030. Some of the performance measures that would be used would be Vehicle Hours of Delay, Person Hours of Delay, Travel Time Index, Volume to Capacity Ratio, Roadway Congestion Index, Lane Miles of Congestion and Average Travel Speed. The Best Practices Model (BPM) and the recently updated software, PEQUEST would be used as analysis tools to assess system performance. The Vehicle Performance Measure Report Update had been completed and task reports were successfully using a sample data. The base year's data from the BPM would be available soon.

F. CONFIRMATION OF NYMTC'S ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Gilchrist confirmed that NYMTC's Annual Council meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, March 15, 2005, and would be held at NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York City.

G. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT PFAC MEETING

Mr. Gilchrist confirmed that the next PFAC meeting was scheduled for Thursday, May, 19, 2005, and would be held at NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York City.

H. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 2:30 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

Voting Member/Alternates

Lawrence Berger, Nassau County
Patricia Chemka, Westchester County
Timothy Gilchrist, NYS Department of Transportation
John Pilner, Putnam County
Larry Fleischer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Jack Schmidt, NYC Department of City Planning
Robert Shinnick, Suffolk County
Charles Ukegbu, NYC Department of Transportation
Dr. James Yarmus, Rockland County

Advisory (non-voting) Members

Robert Griffith, Federal Highway Administration
Nancy Danzig, Federal Transit Administration
Lou Venech, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
David Risley, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

NYMTC Council Staff

Aizaz Ahmed	Alan Borenstein	Colleen Hagan
Robert Angell	Colleen Braithwaite	Stephen Hausch
Waqar Azam	Kuo-Ann Chiao	Alisha Hess-Haber
Sangeeta Bhowmick	Michael Chiume	Deinbo MacHarry
Gerry Bogacz	Emma Gaitan	Karen Rosenberger

OTHERS

Richard Backlund, FHWA	Peter King, NYSDOT
Michele Bager, NYSDOT	George Penesis, AKRF, Inc.
Fred Bartoli, Moynihan Development	Kevin Olinger, NYCDCP
Michael Cairl, Gowanus Stakeholders	Naomi Renek, MTA
Robert Cassara, Gowanus Stakeholders	Sarah Rios, MTA
Helen Chin	John Szeligowski, Earth Tech
Nina Chung, FTA	Christopher Taggart, Arnold & Porter
Robert Dennison, III, NYSDOT	Alan Tabachnick, A.D. Marble & Co.
Joel Friedman, Earth Tech	George Tung
Patrick Gerdin, Rockland County	Wayne Ugolik, NYSDOT
David Harris, NYCDOT	John Zamurs, NYSDOT

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea Miles-Cole