

**Synopsis of the February 16, 2006 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. Mr. Dennison asked the board members to introduce themselves.

Mr. Dennison opened the meeting and said that NYMTC's certification review was completed and after the comment period, a written report would be produced in the spring. He thanked the Federal Highway Administration and the Federal Transit Administration for attending the reviews and thanked Joel Ettinger and the NYMTC staff for doing the background work.

2. **NYMTC Executive Director's Report**

Mr. Joel Ettinger reported that NYMTC had released the draft of the next air quality conformity determination for various pollutants and said that the determination for the first time included a multi-state analysis for fine particulates also known as PM 2.5. Mr. Ettinger said that NYMTC had taken significant steps in implementing two of four emission reduction measures under the recently adopted federal waiver of the Clean Air Act. He said that NYMTC was preparing for the next update in the Transportation Improvement Program and would solicit for public comment for the development of project proposals in Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality and the Surface Transportation Program.

B. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

George Haikalis, President of the Institute for Rational Urban Mobility, Inc., discussed the need for a regional rail system, both freight and passenger. He urged PFAC to reconsider their support for two deep stations beneath Penn Station in favor of the upper level loop, which he said would save three years in construction time and more than \$1.2 billion in costs. Mr. Haikalis noted the security issues inherent in a deep cavern station and criticized the planned terminal beneath Macy's to accommodate trains using the planned Trans-Hudson Tunnel as exposing the city to unnecessary risk, as well as unnecessary expense. Mr. Haikalis urged NYMTC and New Jersey Transit to abandon the Trans-Hudson initiative and begin cooperating on a more rational plan. Mr. Haikalis commended Joel Ettinger's leadership at NYMTC.

Maureen Morgan, President of the Federated Conservationist of Westchester County, talked about the Tappan Zee Bridge. She said that the bridge closure would disconnect the county from the rest of the region. She also spoke about commuters being trapped on the bridge for hours due to sudden bridge closures and said that a solution needed to be sought.

Hilary Kitasei read and submitted written remarks calling for a resumption of the process of designating the Henry Hudson a scenic byway. See the remarks attached.

Dr. Frans Verhagen of Aviation and Intermodalism in the Metro New York region urged PFAC members to begin planning for another regional airport, noting that doing so would allow for integration of light rail as an integral part, and not an afterthought, to the plan.

Martin Collins, Chairman of Community Board 12 seconded Ms. Kaiasei's remarks and called for a more public input into transportation planning and decisions.

Elizabeth Lorris Ritts, Community Board 12, and President of the Hudson Heights Owners Coalitions, called for the resumption of the process to make the Henry Hudson Parkway a scenic byway and read a passage from Robert Caro's book, *The Power Broker*, which described the impact of the parkway's original design on drivers entering the city from the north.

C. ACTION ITEMS

1. Accept: December 15, 2005 Meeting Synopsis

Mr. Dennison asked for a motion to accept the December 15, 2005 Meeting Synopsis. A motion was made by Mr. Lawrence Fleischer, representing the Metropolitan Transportation Authority, and seconded by Mr. Robert Shinnick, representing the Nassau/Suffolk Transportation Coordinating Committee. The meeting synopsis was accepted.

2. Adopt: Resolution #210 – Recommendation to the Council to Adopt the 2006-2007 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Gerry Bogacz introduced the resolution and said that the Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) is a one year work program which included about 280 projects. He said the UPWP identified federally-funded programs and activities for NYMTC's staff and the staffs of its member agencies. He said that NYMTC staff had determined that sufficient funds were available to undertake the specified projects and said that the resolution recommended the Council to adopt the 2006-2007 UPWP.

Mr. Robert Griffith acknowledge the time and effort staff spent putting the document together and said that he looked forward to working with them on improving the quality of the document as well.

Mr. Dennison asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #210, Recommendation to the Council to Adopt the 2006-2007 Unified Planning Work Program. 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.

3. Adopt: Resolution #211 – To Amend the Major Metropolitan Transportation Investment/Major Investment Study List and to Update the 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program

Mr. Gerry Bogacz introduced the resolution and said that there were two actions in the resolution. One action would be to remove the County Road 97/Nicolls Road Major Investment Study from the Major Metropolitan Transportation Investment/Major Investment Study (MMTI/MIS) and the other action would be to add the I-84:I-684 to Connecticut State Line Major Investment Study to the MMTI/MIS.

Mr. Dennison asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #211, To Amend the Major Metropolitan Transportation Investment/Major Investment Study List and to Update the 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program. A motion was made by Mr. Lawrence Berger, representing the Nassau/Suffolk Transportation Coordinating Committee, and seconded by Mr. Kevin Olinger, representing the New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee. The resolution was unanimously approved.

4. Adopt: Resolution #212 – Amendment to the 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program to Amend Central Staff, New York City Department of City Planning, Nassau County and Westchester County Projects

Mr. Gerry Bogacz said that the purpose of the resolution was to make various adjustments in the 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program. He said that there were changes in the scopes to specific studies and that no money was involved. He said the amendments would involve only funds programmed in prior years and NYMTC had determined that there was enough funding in the program to make the changes.

Mr. Dennison asked for a motion to adopt Resolution #212, Amendment to the 2005-2006 Unified Planning Work Program to Amend Central Staff, New York City Department of City Planning, Nassau County and Westchester County Projects. A motion was made by Mr. Lawrence Salley, representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee, and seconded by Mr. Lawrence Berger representing the Nassau/Suffolk Transportation Coordinating Committee. The resolution was unanimously approved.

D. PRESENTATION

With the help of slides, Robert Yaro, President of the Regional Plan Association discussed a proposed effort that would link regional visioning for land use and transportation. He talked about national and regional growth trends. He said that the population growth will increase by at least forty percent in the United States by 2050. He said that there was room for growth centered on around rail stations if creative strategies are sought for parking and open space to allow communities with rail stations to accept more population and jobs without sacrificing the quality of life. He talked about visioning efforts around the nation and provided examples of other regions that had equal difficulty dealing with transportation and land use at the regional scale. He then talked about the Long Island Visioning Initiative. He suggested that NYMTC coordinate with other Metropolitan Planning Organizations and planning & transportation agencies. A copy of the presentation is available on the NYMTC website, www.nymtc.org in downloadable files/presentation.

E. INFORMATION ITEMS

Mr. Robert Angell announced the opening of NYMTC's Data Repository and Library. He said that it was developed to improve the exchange of information and resources for people who have an interest in transportation. He said the Data Depot was still under development, but would feature actual data which could be viewed in tables, charted with various graphical displays or downloaded in usable formats. The library consists of over 2300 items of various magazines, disks, tapes, reports and studies. He said that the library website could be found by clicking on the link from the NYMTC website at www.nymtc.org. He said the library is open to the public by appointment only and said that there is space for additional material and that donations are welcomed.

F. CONFIRMATION OF ANNUAL COUNCIL MEETING

Mr. Dennison confirmed that NYMTC is scheduled to hold its Annual Council Meeting on Thursday, March 16, 2006 at 11:45 a.m. The meeting will be held at the NYMTC office located at 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York City.

G. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT PFAC MEETING

Mr. Dennison confirmed that the next meeting of the Program, Finance, and Administration Committee is scheduled to be held on Thursday, April 20, 2006 at 1:15 p.m., and will be held at the NYMTC office located at 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York City.

H. ADJOURN

The meeting was adjourned approximately at 3:00 p.m.

IN ATTENDANCE

Voting Member/Alternates

Ms. Gwen Perlman, NYC Department of Transportation
Mr. Lawrence Berger, Nassau County
Mr. Lawrence Salley, Westchester County
Mr. Robert A. Dennison, III, NYS Department of Transportation
Mr. Lawrence Fleischer, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Mr. John Pilner, Putnam County
Mr. Jack Schmidt, NYC Department of City Planning
Mr. Robert Shinnick, Suffolk County
Mr. Patrick Gerdin, Rockland County

Advisory (non-voting) Members

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

NYMTC Council Staff

Aizaz Ahmed	Joel Ettinger	Uchenna Madu
Robert Angell	Emma Gaitan	Deinbo MacHarry
Sangeeta Bhowmick	Anthony Gawrych	Larry McAuliffe
Gerry Bogacz	Barbara Lynch	Jean Shanahan
Alan Borenstein	Nancy O'Connell	
Kuo-Ann Chiao		

OTHERS

Louis G. Albano, OSA
Chris Andrichak, NYCT
Richard Backlund, FHWA
Joseph Barr, NYCDOT
Patricia Chemka, Westchester County
Hope Cohen, MI
Peter Cohen, Amtrak
John Cole
Moquela Crater, BOEDC
Jay DiDomenico, Hudson TMA
Colin Drake, AKRF
Lucinda Eigel, FTA
Don Eisele, NJT
Joel Farber, Retto
Mike Flynn, NYCDOT
Roger Fisk, NYCT
Al Goodman, Brooklyn Boro President's Office
Sam Goodman, Bronx Boro President's Office
George Haikalis, IRUM
Gregory Haley, Grimshaw Architects
Sopitia Hollander, City Hall
Andrea Hollen, Bearing Point
Martina Hoppe, USDA Forest Service
Janet Jenkins, Eng Wong Taub & Associates
Wendy Johnston, Metro-North Railroad
Chris Jones, RPA
Sol Jones, Sustainable LI
Brian Ketcham, Konheim & Ketchem
Marc Krawnow, NY Center Architectural
Alison Kling, NYU
David Kooris, RPA
Adam Levin, NYSDOT
Ellen Macnow, NYC Parks
E. Junior Maldonado, Hudson TMA
Danise Malgui, NYU
Dawn Moore, NYCT
Maureen Morgan

Willa Ng, UAI
Kevin Olinger, NYCDOP
Kazem Oryani, URS
Gogia Pawluszko, Wagner NYU
Josh Payne, Riverdale Press
Elizabeth Lorris Rittes, Hudson Heights Owners Coalition
Gail Robinson, Gotham Gazette
David Rubin, Earthtech
Michael I. Schweinsburg, CM Sara Gonzalez
Erik Seims, NYC DCP
Jamin Sewell, CM G. Oliver Koppell
Ellyn Shannon, PCAC
Natuzii Shirai
S. Simicich, Petcaro & Jones
David Stein, NJPTA
Angie Sung, City Hall
Rob Thompson, NYCT
Peter Vancura, Newman R.E. Institute
Elisa Vanderlinde, Metro-North Railroad
Sarah Vansdale, Sustainable LI
Dr. Frans Verhagen, SAFE, Inc
Tom Wakeman, PANYNNJ
Roxanne Warren, Vision 42
William Wheeler, MTA
John Wildins, NJT
Robert Yaro, RPA
John Zamurs, NYSDOT
Rae Zimmerman, NYU

The February 6, 2006 synopsis was unanimously accepted by all voting PFAC members at the April 20, 2006 meeting.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrea Miles-Cole

