NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
SEPTEMBER 24, 2009 MEETING SYNOPSIS

A. CALL TO ORDER AND INTRODUCTIONS

The meeting was called to order by Mr. Robert Zerrillo of the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and Secretary of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. The members of the Council introduced themselves. It was declared that there was a quorum. Acting Commissioner Stan Gee of New York State Department of Transportation chaired the meeting.

B. OPENING SESSION

NYMTC’s Permanent Co-Chair, Acting Commissioner Stan Gee

Acting Commissioner Stan Gee welcomed all attendees. He said that it was an honor to have the United States Secretary of Transportation, Ray LaHood, join the meeting and was delighted that the Secretary agreed to be the keynote speaker. Acting Commissioner Gee said that the Council would formally adopt the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan which incorporated NYMTC’s vision, “A Shared Vision for a Shared Future”. He said the Regional Transportation Plan would include projects and programs that would support sustainable growth through strategic regional transportation investments during the next 25 years.

NYMTC Co-Chair, Director Amanda Burden, New York City Department of City Planning

Director Amanda Burden of the New York City Department of City Planning and co-chair to the Council said it was timely that Secretary LaHood was available to discuss the Obama Administration’s Sustainable Communities initiative. Ms. Burden said that New York City had been in the forefront of building sustainable communities. She said that the metropolitan area needed to be reviewed holistically and formulate plans where transportation, development, and environmental policy were all integrated. She said that one-fifth of the city had been rezoned by focusing on denser, more mixed-use development, creating new amenities for communities and building walkable, bikeable neighborhoods. She said mass transit use had increased and that automobile usage stayed flat. Ms. Burden said that the primary focus of NYMTC’s shared vision was to devote planning to long-term sustainability through solutions that integrate transportation and land-use, provide the amenities that made communities desirable places to live and work, and thus decrease carbon emissions by developing compact neighborhoods and creating mixed-use, inclusive neighborhoods. She said that the metropolitan area had embraced the smart growth livability principles by developing and promoting transportation options, protecting and creating affordable housing, and creating new mixed-use downtown. Ms. Burden said to grow in a sustainable manner, the comprehensive transit network had to be expanded and upgraded; and obtaining funding to support and deliver the shared vision for sustainable growth was necessary. She said she looked forward to working towards holistic solutions with Washington and New York City becoming the model for smart growth for the country.

NYMTC Executive Director’s Report

Executive Director Joel Ettinger of NYMTC announced that the Council would act on NYMTC’s long-range Regional Transportation Plan which included the Council’s vision for sustainable regional growth. He said that NYMTC had played a key role in evaluating and selecting candidate projects for funding through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. He said that NYMTC had taken actions to amend or modify the Regional Transportation Plan and the Transportation Improvement Program so that more than 120 candidate projects totaling nearly two billion dollars could be readied for certification and ultimate obligation of Recovery Act funding by the Federal government. He reported that 13 projects for over $11 million in Job Access/Reverse Commute and New Freedom funding were reviewed and recommended for funding. He announced that the Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan had been adopted. He
talked about the U.S. Department of Transportation’s TIGER Grant Program and reported that about 35 projects proposals for possible TIGER grants were collected. He reported that development of the 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program had begun. Mr. Ettinger said that a memorandum of understanding with four neighboring Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the tri-state area was signed. This would better integrate and coordinate planning activities regionally. He reported that a Bus Rapid Transit conference was in the planning stages for the fall.

C. KEYNOTE SPEAKER: Secretary of Transportation Ray LaHood

Secretary Ray LaHood of the United States Department of Transportation talked about the importance of ratifying a 25 year regional transportation plan for the region. Secretary LaHood said that the economic future of the nation and its quality of life would depend on the ability to achieve greater energy independence, reduce energy costs and grow communities in ways that were truly sustainable. Secretary LaHood said that as the nation’s most densely populated, transit-intensive region in the country, New York would, by design and by necessity, point the way forward. He said that New York was not afraid to experiment and to think outside the box, to envision a future that would enhance urban mobility without piling on more congestion, more pollution, and more sprawl—thus producing new bike paths and open spaces such as the pedestrian mall in Times Square. He said that NYMTC’s 25 year plan emphasized the need to lower transportation costs, protect the environment, and develop land more rationally. The Secretary talked about the Obama Administration plans of working with Congress to pass comprehensive clean energy and climate legislation as well as pass a transformational surface transportation reauthorization bill that focused on reducing carbon emissions and reducing oil dependence. Secretary LaHood said an important challenge was reducing the energy required to move people and goods around the country while improving mobility, safety and efficiency. He said that Recovery Act funds were being made available for creative, intermodal projects of national significance that promoted livability and sustainability in the country. The Secretary said that the Obama Administration would work with Congress to streamline federal transportation programs, identity new sustainable funding sources, and provide greater flexibility to metropolitan regions. The full speech can be found at www.NYMTC.org

D. PRESENTATION OF THE REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

With the help of slides, Joel Ettinger provided a summary on the shared vision of the NYMTC members with a presentation of the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, “A Shared Vision for a Shared Future”. Mr. Ettinger said that the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan was built around the Council’s shared vision that identified the five shared goals, ten desired growth areas and 28 strategic transportation investments. The full presentation can be found on the website at www.NYMTC.org.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Philip A. Marino, Supervisor, Town of Stony Point, submitted a summary of traffic improvement needed for the Town of Stony Point that would reduce the amount of parking and provide fewer vehicular miles traveled in the redevelopment of the old Letchworth Village site. It was recommended that shuttle bus traffic be allowed on Palisades Interstate Parkway to the Patriot Center in order to use the Anthony Wayne parking area during baseball games and for a future park and ride facility. He reported that traffic improvement was needed on the rehabilitation of Palisades Interstate Parkway from exit 10 to the Bear Mountain Bridge; acceleration/deceleration lanes and shoulder improvement were needed along the parkway; and widening the Palisades Interstate Parkway northbound and southbound ramps with signals at each ramp was also needed.

James Raleigh, a resident of Monmouth County, New Jersey, submitted remarks regarding New Jersey Transit’s Access to the Region’s Core Project. He said more regional planning needed to be done and suggested that new tunnels connect the Penn Station/Farley Post Office with Grand Central Terminal and the East Side. (See remarks attached)
Roxanne Warren, chair of Vision 42, submitted remarks citing disappointment that light rail was left out of the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, “A Shared Vision for a Shared Future”. She asked the Council to vote against the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan. (See remarks attached)

Murray Bodin, Concerned Grandparents, said that the NYMTC needed to think outside of the box; various agencies lacked uniformity; and rail on the Tappan Zee Bridge was not necessary.

George Haikalis, Institute for Rational Urban Mobility, Inc., urged the Council to vote against the adoption of the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan. He said there was a regional disconnect in the Plan. He noted his opposition to the building of New Jersey Transit’s Access to the Region’s Core (ARC) project and also requested the release of the ARC Major Investment Study to the public. In addition, he explained his opposition to the building of a deep cavern below Grand Central Terminal. (See remarks attached)

Thomas Madden from the Town of Greenburgh submitted the attached proposal of transportation improvement projects for consideration of federal funding as part of the amendments to the NYMTC 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program. (See attached)

Victor Carosi also from the Town of Greenburgh asked the Council to support their roadway and intersection improvements that would affect three municipalities—Town of Greenburgh, the Village of Ardsley and the Village of Hastings on Hudson. He said that their regional approach for traffic planning focused on the long term impact outside the municipal borders and therefore required greater cooperation within municipal borders. He asked the Council to consider their project in the future.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. ACCEPT: MARCH 19, 2009 MEETING SYNOPSIS

Acting Commissioner Gee asked for a motion to accept the March 19, 2009 Council Meeting Synopsis. A motion was made by County Executive Andrew J. Spano of Westchester County, and seconded by Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan of the New York City Department of Transportation. The meeting synopsis was accepted. There was no discussion.

2. ADOPT: RESOLUTION #2009-3 – COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE 2010-2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCT

Acting Commissioner Gee said that the Regional Transportation Plan sets the region’s transportation agenda for the next 25 years, forecasts future trends, and provides a blueprint for long-range strategic transportation studies and investments.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2009-3, Council Adoption of the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan and Associated Product was made by Mr. Robert Shinnick, representing County Executive Steve Levy of Suffolk County and seconded by Director Amanda Burden of the New York City Department of City Planning. The resolution unanimously passed. There was no discussion.

3. ADOPT: RESOLUTION #2009-4 – COUNCIL ADOPTION OF A JOINT COOPERATIVE PLANNING AGREEMENT TO FULFILL FEDERAL PLANNING REQUIREMENTS

Gerry Bogacz reported that federal regulation required the metropolitan planning organization, the State and public transportation operators to cooperatively determine their mutual responsibilities to carry out the metropolitan transportation planning process and that these responsibilities be clearly identified in written agreement among the metropolitan planning organization, the State, and the public transportation operators serving a metropolitan planning area. He said an agreement was arranged and the Program, Finance, and
Administration Committee endorsed the Joint Cooperative Planning Agreement at its September 17, 2009 meeting.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2009-4, Council Adoption of a Joint Cooperative Planning Agreement to Fulfill Federal Planning Requirement was motioned by Director Amanda Burden of the New York City Department of City Planning, and seconded by John Tulley, Deputy County Executive representing County Executive Robert Bondi of Putnam County. The resolution unanimously passed.

4. **ADOPT: RESOLUTION #2009-5 – DISTRIBUTION OF FEDERAL FISCAL YEAR 2009 FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION’S SECTION 5307 (AND SECTION 530) CAPITAL FUNDS**

Gerry Bogacz said that the Section 5307 (and Section 5340) Capital funds were apportioned by the Federal Transit Administration to the New York-Newark, New York-New Jersey-Connecticut urbanized area (UZA 1) and the Bridgeport-Stamford, Connecticut-New York urbanized area (UZA 41) each Federal fiscal year. He said it was the Council’s responsibility to distribute the apportioned funds to the member agencies.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2009-5, Distribution of Federal Fiscal Year 2009 Federal Transit Administration’s Section 5307 (And Section 5340) Capital Funds was motioned by County Executive Andrew J. Spano of Westchester County, and seconded by Commissioner Janet Sadik-Khan of the New York City Department of Transportation. The resolution unanimously passed.

G. **ADJOURN**

Acting Commissioner Gee motioned the meeting to be adjourned.
ATTENDANCE

Voting Council Principals/Representatives
Permanent Co-Chair & Acting Commissioner Stan Gee, NYS Dept of Transportation
Co-Chair & Director Amanda Burden, NYC Department of City Planning
County Executive Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County
Deputy County Executive John G. Tully representing County Executive Robert Bondi, Putnam County
County Executive Thomas Suozzi, Nassau County
Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, NYC Department of Transportation
Helena Williams Acting Executive Director and C.E.O., Metropolitan Transportation Authority
Robert Shinnick for County Executive Steve Levy, Suffolk County
Vincent Altieri for County Executive C. Scott Vanderhoef, Rockland County
Robert Zerrillo, Council Secretary

Advisory (Non-Voting) Principals/Representatives
Division Administrator Jeffrey Kolb, Federal Highway Administration
Regional Administrator Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Federal Transit Administration Executive Director
Executive Director Mary K. Murphy, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority, Inc.
JoAnn Brennan McKee for George Pavlou, Acting Regional Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency
Tom Schulze for Regional Administrator George Warrington, New Jersey Transit
Lou Venech for Chris O. Ward, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey
Michael Sheehan for Commissioner Alexander B. Grannis, NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

NYMTC Staff
Wieslawa Amber
Voncille Anderson
Jorge Argote
Sangeeta Bhowmick
Gerry Bogacz
Kuo-Ann Chiao
Thusitha Chandra
Rosemary Checca
Michael Chiune
Kristen Cotton
Lisa Daglian
Robert Donohue
David Drits
Geroge Dua-Awareh
Daniel Etkin
Joel Ettinger
Oluseye Folarin
Leslie Fordjour
Angelina Foster
Merrill Frank
Emma Gaitan
Maria Garcia
Anthony Gawrych
Adam Gullen
Jean Gunsch
Stephen Hausch
Xia Jin
Jan Khan
Kyeongsu Kim
John Lopez
Howard J. Mann
Larry McAuliffe
Andrea Miles-Cole
Jaeki Min
Ali Mohseni
Larisa Morozovskaya
Siddharth Pandit
Munnesh Patel
Mohammad Rashid
Abdus Salam
Jean Shanahan
Sherry Southe
Alton Treadwell
Chad Wilcomb
Fei Yang

OTHERS
Douglas Adam, Sam Schwartz
Steven J. Alevy, Bankers Capital
Manny Alvarado, HUD
Mary D. Ameen, NJTPA
Lance Anderson, LIRR
JoAnna Aniello, HUD
Amy Apple, Hunter College
Max Applebaum, Hunter College
Michele Bager, NYSDOT
Linda Bailey, NYCDOT
Corey B. Bearak, Harbor Experience Companies
Adam Benditsky, Hunter College
Lawrence Berger, Nassau County
Seth Berman, NYCDOT
Christine Berthet
Amit Bhowmick, PANYNJ
Jonathan Bien
Linda Black, NYC Dept of Aging
Judy Bliss, NYCDOT
Murray Bodin, Concerned Grandparents
Patricia Bourne, Nassau County
This September 24, 2009 Council Meeting synopsis was unanimously accepted by all members of the Council at its Annual Meeting held on March 18, 2010.

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrea' Miles-Cole
Secretary 2
NYMTC