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Executive Director

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PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD OPENS JULY 1 FOR DRAFT 2010 – 2035 REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION PLAN

New York (6/22/09) – A 30-day public review period will be held for the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council’s (NYMTC) draft 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan and related Environmental Justice Assessment of the Planning Process, from July 1 through July 31, 2009.

The Regional Transportation Plan (the Plan) will be available for viewing beginning July 1 on www.NYMTC.org, and public meetings will be held throughout the region on July 14, July 15 and July 16 to further solicit feedback. These meetings complement the public comment sessions that were held throughout the NYMTC region in September and October 2008 to gather input from the public, which went into developing the draft Plan. Comments may be submitted through 4pm on July 31 to Jan Khan at JKhan@dot.state.ny.us or by fax to 212.383.2418. The Plan is expected to be adopted in September 2009.

NYMTC is a council of governments, transportation providers and environmental agencies that is a collaborative forum for regional transportation planning in New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley.

The Regional Transportation Plan is the foundation for the regional transportation planning process. It establishes a shared, long-term vision for the transportation system serving the New York metropolitan region – its roads, bridges, freight and mass transit facilities, and its bicycle and pedestrian networks. The Plan includes the transportation concepts and studies for the region, uses socio-economic forecasts and demographic trends to identify transportation needs, and establishes a regional framework for future improvements and investments.

Transportation improvements and studies eligible for Federal funding will be largely defined through this Plan. Updated every four years, the Plan is the product of a cooperative public involvement and intergovernmental planning process, and its approval by NYMTC’s members is required for Federal transportation funding. The Environmental Justice assessment examines the transportation planning process in the context of the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Federal Executive Order on Environmental Justice.

Joel Ettinger, executive director of NYMTC, said, “The efficient transportation of people and freight is vital to the economic and social well-being of the New York metropolitan region. At the same time, this vital need is complicated by the size and diversity of the region, including population and population density, ethnicity, income, employment concentrations, industrial classifications, government, transportation service providers, cultural and entertainment attractions. All of these factors were considered in development of the Regional Transportation Plan. We encourage the public to review the Plan as we look forward to keeping the region moving for the next 25 years.”

PUBLIC REVIEW MEETING SCHEDULE (all meetings will be held from 3 – 5pm & 6 – 8pm):

Lower Hudson Valley: 7/14/09 – Westchester County Center, 198 Central Avenue, White Plains, NY

Long Island: 7/15/09 – Babylon Town Hall, 200 East Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst, NY

New York City: 7/16/09* – NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10038

*Note: 3PM meeting on 7/16/09 will be webcast on www.NYMTC.org.