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NYMTC ANNUAL MEETING INCLUDES FEATURED SPEAKERS KAREN RAE AND KENNETH ADAM DISCUSSING INFRASTRUCTURE AND THE REGION'S VITALITY

Council Roundtable Focuses on Infrastructure at a Crossroads: Financing Our Regional Transportation System

March 1, 2012 (NYC): Uncertainty about future federal transportation funding presents members of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) with significant challenges as they plan for the region's transportation future. At their 2012 Annual Meeting, Council members will consider *Infrastructure at a Crossroads: Financing Our Regional Transportation System*, as part of a roundtable discussion on the topic.

In addition, featured speakers Karen Rae, New York State Deputy Secretary for Transportation; and Kenneth Adams, President, CEO and Commissioner, Empire State Development, will discuss *Infrastructure and the Region's Economic Vitality*. NYMTC is a regional council of governments that is a collaborative forum for transportation planning for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley.

NYMTC Council members expected to attend are New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner and NYMTC co-chair Joan McDonald; incoming co-chair and New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan; Rockland County Executive Scott Vanderhoef; Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell; Port Authority Executive Director Patrick Foye; MTA Chief Operating Officer Nuria Fernandez; and representatives of remaining Principals.

"New York State has some of the oldest and most heavily utilized transportation infrastructure in the nation and much of it needs repair," NYSDOT Commissioner Joan McDonald said. "Facing a challenging economy and the uncertainty of future federal transportation funding, NYMTC's members are looking at new ways to ensure that our transportation network remains a vital economic engine for the region."

NYMTC Executive Director Joel Ettinger said, "The uncertainty surrounding forthcoming federal transportation legislation and funding is unprecedented. As a consequence, NYMTC's member agencies must make difficult decisions about how to most effectively meet the region's transportation needs."

At the meeting, Council members will take action to adopt the draft March 31, 2012 – April 1, 2013 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). To be eligible for federal funding for transportation improvements, metropolitan regions must undertake the regional transportation planning process specified in Federal regulations 23 CFR Part 450.314, including development of Unified Planning Work Programs (UPWPs or work programs). The work program for the NYMTC planning area is developed in consultation with the state and operators of publicly-owned transit services in the region. The UPWP is available at www.NYMTC.org.

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) is a regional council of governments that is the metropolitan planning organization for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley. NYMTC provides a collaborative planning forum to address transportation-related issues, develop regional plans and make decisions on the use of federal transportation funds.