



NYMTC-Notes

March 2014

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- 2014 Draft New York State Energy Plan Comment Period Extended to April 30th

Calendar of Events

- 3/28 – Visiting Scholar Seminar UTRC Presents: Future Rail Investments Planned for the NEC
- 2:00 – 4:00 p.m.
NYIT, 1855 Broadway, 16 West 61st Street, 11th Floor Auditorium, NY, NY 10023.
<http://www.utrc2.org/event/s/vss-future-rail-investments>
- 4/3 – MAF Meeting: "Better Parking = Better Communities"
-9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.
Westchester County Center, 198 Central Ave, White Plains, NY 10606. RSVP to cjs2@westchestergov.com

Council Adopts \$24 Million Work Program, Discusses Emerging Partnerships in NY-NJ-CT Region at 2014 Annual Meeting

At its Annual Meeting on February 27th, the Council voted to adopt its \$24 million planning program for the state fiscal year beginning April 1st, and heard from newly appointed New York City Department of



Transportation Commissioner Polly Trottenberg on the city's vision for a safer and more resilient transportation network. Rockland County Executive Ed Day was also welcomed as one of the newest Council members, and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone was confirmed as the new rotating co-

chair. Westchester County Executive Robert Astorino was recognized for his service as the prior co-chair; former Council members Janette Sadik-Khan and Amanda Burden were recognized for their contributions to the Council.

Commissioner Trottenberg spoke extensively about the de Blasio Administration's **Vision Zero Action Plan**. Specifically, she focused on improving safety for all of the city's transportation system users – whether on its roads and bridges, Staten Island Ferry and sidewalks and bikeways; the importance of keeping the system in a state of good repair; the commitment to ensuring opportunity through access to transportation, particularly in underserved communities; a continued focus on livable streets, including pedestrian plazas and bike lanes; and efficient and effective project delivery, particularly in light of scarce resources and the need to find alternative ways to finance transportation projects.

Following the keynote remarks, NYMTC Executive Director Joel Ettinger gave a presentation on the importance of regional planning partnerships in the NY-NJ-CT metropolitan area, focusing on the meeting's theme, *Expanding Horizons*. The Council then held a roundtable discussion on the topic, noting the importance of not only continuing existing partnerships, but also looking beyond the tri-state region in areas such as freight planning, regional rail transit and ways to maximize efficiencies and effectiveness along the Northeast Corridor Megaregion.

A webcast of the meeting, the Annual Report, UPWP and accompanying presentations are available for download at www.nymtc.org.

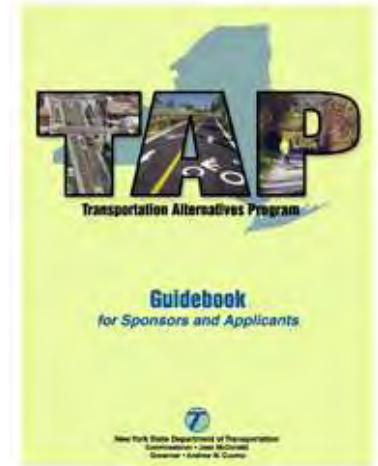


- 4/17 – PFAC Meeting
-1:15 p.m.
NYMTC, 199 Water Street,
22nd floor, NYC. This
meeting will also be
webcast. More information
including the agenda and
supporting documents, will
be posted on
www.nymtc.org in advance
of the meeting.

NYMTC is a regional council of governments that provides a collaborative transportation planning forum as the metropolitan planning organization for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley.

TAP Funding Availability and Webinars

On February 10, 2014, Governor Andrew Cuomo and New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) Commissioner Joan McDonald announced the availability of applications for transportation projects under the Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP). Projects will be selected through a competitive solicitation process and rated on established criteria that include environmental enhancement to and for the transportation system; connectivity to an existing transportation system; encouragement of smart growth; impact on local or regional economies; availability of matching funds; and level of community support.



The funding for these projects is provided by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and administered by NYSDOT. Up to 80 percent of the eligible proposed project costs will be reimbursed to successful applicants. Project sponsors are responsible for securing the remaining project funding. A final list of projects in the NYMTC area will be developed by NYMTC's members and a recommended list of projects will then be forwarded to NYSDOT in September 2014.

NYSDOT will provide technical assistance and **required training** for potential applicants through a series of workshops statewide. The workshops address information about this new funding opportunity, an explanation of application requisites and detail the requirements needed to ensure all federally-aided projects are developed, designed and constructed in accordance with federal requirements. Two webinars were held in the NYMTC region, on March 18th and March 19th, and additional workshops will be held throughout the state.

The deadline for applications is June 11. Additional information about the program, including the application and guidebook; list of eligible TAP projects; technical assistance and regional workshops; NYSDOT TAP Regional Coordinators; and federal project requirements are available at <https://www.dot.ny.gov/tap>. Please direct any questions to the appropriate Regional Coordinator.

March 12th Brown Bag on MTA Surveys

The turnout was impressive for the March 12th Brown Bag presentation *MTA Surveys: Methods and Findings*, which marks the first of the 2014 series. Julia Seltzer, Manager of Planning for the MTA, spoke about the agency's ongoing survey efforts and its importance to regional transportation planning. Since 2007, the MTA has been using data from two completed origin/destination surveys to analyze how Metro North customers and New York City residents are traveling and using the MTA system. Data for over 100,000 customer's travel and demographic characteristics has already been posted on the MTA website and more will be posted once the LIRR survey is completed later this year. Download the webinar recording at <http://tinyurl.com/3-12-14BB-recording> or view the PowerPoint presentation at www.nymtc.org under Downloadable Files, Presentations.



NYMTC Council Members

Voting Members

- Joan McDonald, New York State DOT Commissioner and NYMTC co-chair
- Steve Bellone, Suffolk County Executive and NYMTC co-chair
- Polly Trottenberg, Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation
- Carl Weisbrod, Chair, New York City Planning Commission
- Thomas Prendergast, Chairman and CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Edward P. Mangano, Nassau County Executive
- MaryEllen Odell, Putnam County Executive
- Ed Day, Rockland County Executive
- Robert P. Astorino, Westchester County Executive

Advisory Members

- Patrick Foye, Executive Director, Port Authority of NY & NJ
- Veronique Hakim, Executive Director, New Jersey Transit
- Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Joseph Martens, Commissioner, NYS Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Marilyn G. Shazor, Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration, Region 2

Visiting Scholar Seminar UTRC Presents: Future Rail Investments Planned for the NEC

Friday, March 28 - 2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

*New York Institute of Technology, 1855 Broadway, 16 West 61st Street
11th Floor Auditorium, New York, NY 10023*

Population and employment in the Northeast is expected to grow some 25-35 percent over the next 25 years, bringing the prospect of economic prosperity and the reality of even more traffic and congestion. The Washington-Boston Northeast Corridor rail line already carries a significant portion of the region's travelers to and from work and other destinations. Its ability to absorb the crush of new travelers in the coming decades, and to support the region's economic development, will require a significant investment to grow capacity, improve reliability and serve new markets.



The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), an agency within the U.S. Department of Transportation, is leading development of a Passenger Rail Corridor Investment Plan - called NEC FUTURE - to define the investment required to keep the Northeast Corridor vibrant and to prepare the roadmap for federal, state and private investment. Amtrak's Northeast Corridor line, the rail transportation spine of the Northeast region, is a key component of the region's transportation system and vital to its sustained economic growth. Today, Amtrak's 457-mile NEC line—anchored by Boston's South Station in the north, New York's Pennsylvania Station in the center, and Washington's Union Station in the south—is one of the most heavily traveled rail corridors in the world.

Rebecca Reyes-Alicea is FRA's program manager for NEC FUTURE. She will describe the nature of the planning process, the challenges in working on a corridor that crosses eight states and is served by commuter, intercity and freight railroads, and the steps NEC FUTURE is taking to develop a long-range investment program.

For more information and to RSVP go to <http://www.utrc2.org/events/vss-future-rail-investments>.

According to its website www.NECFuture.com:

The Northeast Corridor is heavily traveled:

- 2,220 passenger trains use the NEC daily.
- 70 freight trains use the NEC daily (over 14 million car-miles of freight per year).
- 720,000 people ride along some part of the corridor each day.
- In 2011, there were 11 million passengers on Amtrak's Northeast Regional and Acela Express services.
- NEC riders account for 69 percent of the combined airline and rail market between Washington, DC and New York City and 51 percent between New York and Boston.

The NEC is 457 miles long and has:

- 17 tunnels
- 1,186 bridges

The current NEC took nearly a century to build. It was built by several railroad companies between 1830 and 1917.

- Jonathan McDade, Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
- Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency

Joel P. Ettinger, Executive Director, NYMTC

Ron Epstein, Council Secretary, New York State DOT

NYMTC-Notes editor:

Lisa Daglian

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NYMTC's Title VI Policy
The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council assures that no person shall on the grounds of race, color, national origin, or gender, as provided in Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and related statutes be excluded from participation in, or be denied the benefits of, or be otherwise subjected to discrimination under any program or activity for which NYMTC received Federal financial assistance.

Further, NYMTC incorporates the principles of environmental justice into its policies, planning and project development activities to ensure that there are no inequitable impacts on minority groups and low-income groups throughout the region.

Next Mobility Advisory Forum Meeting April 3rd “Better Parking = Better Communities”

April 3, 2014 – 9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

Westchester County Center, 198 Central Ave, White Plains, NY 10606

On Thursday morning, April 3, 2014 at 9:00 AM, the Mobility Advisory Forum of the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee will hold its next meeting on the topic of “Better Parking = Better Communities.”

Westchester County’s population is forecasted to grow from 949,100 in 2010 to 1,133,700 in 2040, making parking even more challenging. Dr. Rachel Weinberger, Director of Research and Policy Strategy for Nelson\Nygaard Consulting Associates will discuss **Better Parking: The Key to Better Communities** – the role of better parking practices in improving the quality of living in Lower Hudson Valley communities.



Following will be a presentation by Gerry Bogacz, NYMTC’s planning director, on the 2040 Regional Transportation Plan, “A Shared Vision for a Sustainable Region.”

Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. **Please RSVP by e-mail or phone by Tuesday, April 1, 2014 to cjs2@westchestergov.com, or (914) 813-7761.**



The Mid-Hudson South Mobility Advisory Forum serves as an advisory group to the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee. The objectives of the Mobility Advisory Forum are to advise the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee members on public outreach and input regarding transportation related projects and programs; provide a regional forum for proactive public outreach and input for all MHSTCC activities;

and provide a mechanism for public outreach for member agencies, at their option, to obtain public input on all required FHWA and FTA activities including, but not limited to, designated recipient grant applications, programs of projects, and the FTA required Limited English Proficiency Plan.

2014 Draft New York State Energy Plan Comment Period Extended to April 30th

On January 7, 2014, the New York State Energy Planning Board issued the Draft 2014 New York State Energy Plan for public comment. The Draft Plan contains actionable policy recommendations and strategies to advance new energy technologies and foster an innovative clean energy economy in New York. To view the full Draft Energy Plan go to <http://energyplan.ny.gov/Plans/2014.aspx>. Comments will be accepted through April 30, 2014 (extended!). For more information and to submit comments go to <http://energyplan.ny.gov/Process/Comments.aspx>.