In This Issue

• Find us on Facebook!
• Public Review Meetings Scheduled for Canal Area Transportation Study (CATS)
• TIP Comment Period Opens January 19th
• Freight Village Study Makes Progress
• Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan Presented at November PFAC
• Pedestrian Safety in New York City
• Regional Consortium Working Toward Grant Agreement with HUD
• Save the Dates! Upcoming Events

Calendar of Events

• 1/11 – Metro Mobility Network Meeting
- 10:00 a.m., NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, NYC. For agenda go to www.NYMTC.org Calendar of Events

• 1/19 – Brown Bag Lunch Presentation: Designing Safer Streets for Seniors in New York City
- 12 noon, NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, NYC. This presentation will also be available as a webinar. For agenda and to register go to www.NYMTC.org Calendar of Events

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Public Review Meetings Scheduled for Canal Area Transportation Study (CATS)
The supplemental work for the Canal Area Transportation Study (CATS) has been completed and the proposed recommendations of the CATS planning process are being released for public review.

Two public meetings will be held on January 19th – at 3PM in NYMTC’s offices at 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, NYC, and at 7PM at P.S. 130, 143 Baxter Street, in the Auditorium. The meetings will feature a presentation which will detail the proposed recommendations and next steps, as well as describing the various components of the CATS process and improvement actions completed to date. The same information will be presented at both meetings, and comments are welcome.

The public meetings follow presentations to the staffs of elected officials in the area. Subsequently, NYMTC presented the study’s recommendations to the CATS stakeholders’ committee and is in the process of making presentations to area community boards.

CATS was born out of a multitude of transportation and safety issues on and around Canal Street in lower Manhattan. The purpose of CATS was to identify significant transportation-related issues in the area bounded by Houston Street to the north, Chambers Street to the south, and from the East River to the Hudson River, and to ultimately propose a series of potential actions to address those issues. This two track planning study was managed by NYMTC staff and a Steering Committee comprised of relevant NYMTC member agencies. The CATS process was advised by a Stakeholders Committee that included representatives of area elected officials, businesses, not-for-profit and community and advocacy organizations, and included continuous community involvement. The report and PowerPoint presentations are available on www.NYMTC.org.
New TIP Comment Period Opens January 19th

A public comment period on proposed amendments to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will begin on Wednesday, January 19, 2011 and end on Friday, January 28, 2011. Details on the amendments will be available at www.NYMTC.org beginning January 18, 2011.

Periodically, NYMTC amends its TIP with projects proposed to make optimal use of available Federal funding.

Freight Village Study Makes Progress

Improving the reliability and overall movement of freight in the region by encouraging expedient and multimodal shipments is a key goal of NYMTC’s Regional Freight Plan.

To determine how or if freight villages could contribute to this goal, the Feasibility of Freight Villages in the NYMTC Region study is examining the application of the freight village concept in NYMTC’s planning area, providing a comprehensive examination of their potential to increase the efficiencies of freight logistics and transportation. A freight village is a physical location within which all activities relating to transport, logistics and the distribution of goods – both for national and international transit – are carried out by various operators.

Another milestone in the study has been reached and key task accomplished with production of a new report titled Task 5 – Analyzing Freight Village Opportunities.

Building upon the findings from the previous tasks, the Task 5 report outlines the methodology used to evaluate six candidate sites, and details the qualitative and quantitative assessment results. The six sites evaluated are:

- AVR site, Town of Brookhaven
- EPCAL (Calverton), Town of Riverhead
- LITRIM (Brentwood)
- Industrial site, City of Mt. Vernon
- Sunset Park, Brooklyn
- GATX site, West Shore of Staten Island

Findings from the report were presented to NYMTC’s Freight Transportation Working Group on October 4, and were also presented to elected officials and other interested parties in the region. The next step is to analyze each site for items like the commodities each would be best at handling and regional truck generation.

The presentations are available at http://www.nymtc.org/project/freight_planning/freight_village.htm.

The next meeting of the Freight Working Group is scheduled for February 1, 2011 at 10 a.m. Go to www.NYMTC.org Calendar of Events for details and agenda.
Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan Presented at November PFAC

At the November 18, 2010 PFAC meeting, Mary Kimball, Project Planner for the New York City Department of City Planning’s Vision 2020: NYC Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, presented the city’s work on the plan which is being undertaken to enhance the city’s waterfront and waterways and set forth a ten-year vision for the waterfront. She also provided a general overview of public comments the agency had received. The plan’s recommendations will set forth a ten year vision, recognizing the diversity of the waterfront and balancing the city’s many needs including public access, recreation, the natural environment, maritime industries, housing, and commercial activity.

Ms. Kimball outlined the plan’s goals—(1) expand public access to the waterfront and waterways and enliven the waterfront; (2) support economic development on the working waterfront, (3) restore degraded natural waterfronts and protect wetlands and shoreline habitats, and improve the environmental quality of the water bodies; (4) enhance the public experience of the “blue network” by expanding waterborne transportation, in water recreation, and water-oriented educational and cultural activities; (5) increase the city’s resilience to climate change and projected sea level rise; and (6) increase efficiency of waterfront construction and operations. The “blue network” refers to the network of bays, rivers, inlets and streams that connect the boroughs, complete our ecology, and offer a diversity of uses and activities that extend our experience beyond the edges of the land.

The presentation can be found on the NYMTC website at http://tinyurl.com/waterfrontBB and the full comprehensive report can be found on the city’s website at http://tinyurl.com/NYC-Vision-2020

Pedestrian Safety in New York City

The state of pedestrian safety in New York City was the topic of NYMTC’s December 15, 2010 Brown Bag Lunch Presentation. Matthew Roe, Planning & Research Manager at the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) and a former participant in NYMTC’s September 11th Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning, discussed the city’s Pedestrian Safety Study and Action Plan, released in August 2010. He discussed the study findings on where, when, and how pedestrian crashes occur, and who is involved in them, along with policy recommendations and the engineering, enforcement, education, and marketing work being undertaken by NYCDOT.

The Pedestrian Safety Study and Action Plan identifies the causes, common factors, and geographic distribution of over 7,000 pedestrian fatality and severe injury crashes in New York City and details the Department’s plan to reduce serious injuries and fatalities among pedestrians and across all modes. The can be found at http://tinyurl.com/NYCDOTped-safety-plan, and the presentation is available at http://tinyurl.com/ped-safety-presentation.
Regional Consortium Working Toward Grant Agreement with HUD

The regional consortium that has been awarded a $3.5 million Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) is finalizing its organization and work program to enter into a grant agreement with HUD. The consortium includes planning organizations – including NYMTC and the Regional Plan Association – and cities in coastal Connecticut, New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley. The grant was one of 45 awarded nationally, which when combined total nearly $100 million, and was announced in October, 2010. It is part of the Federal Partnership for Sustainable Communities with HUD, the US Department of Transportation and the US Environmental Protection Agency, formed to help communities across the country to create more housing choices, make transportation more efficient and reliable, reinforce existing investments, and support vibrant and healthy neighborhoods that attract businesses.

For more information on the HUD Sustainable Communities Regional Planning Grant Program and to see all of the grantees visit http://tinyurl.com/HUD-Grant-Awards

Save the Dates! Upcoming Events:

January 11, 2011 – 10AM: Metropolitan Mobility Network Meeting
In the tri-State region, Transportation Demand Management (TDM) is one of the key factors in achieving transportation policy objectives such as environmental protection and the reduction of traffic congestion. The Metropolitan Mobility Network meeting will provide a forum for the discussion of TDM issues, including: measuring the rate of investment for TDM programs; TDM performance measures; and status of the federal pre-tax commuter benefits program. For more information and to download the agenda, go to www.NYMTC.org Calendar of Events.

January 19, 2011 – 12 noon: Brown Bag Lunch Presentation
Designing Safer Streets for Seniors will be the topic of the Brown Bag Lunch Presentation given by Hillary Poole from the NYC Department of Transportation. In 2008, New York City became the first major U.S. city to create a pedestrian safety program for seniors. NYCDOT’s Safe Streets for Seniors program aims to lower the overrepresentation of seniors in pedestrian fatalities and improve public health and mobility. This presentation will also be available as a webinar. For more information and to register go to www.NYMTC.org Calendar of Events.

January 20, 2011 – 1:15PM: PFAC Meeting
The next meeting of the Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC) will include a presentation on “The 112th Congress, the Administration and the current and future policy, funding and finance of transportation and infrastructure,” by Fred Abousleman, Executive Director of the National Association of Regional Councils (NARC). The meeting and presentation will also be available as a webcast. The agenda is available on www.NYMTC.org Calendar of Events.

February 17, 2011 – 1:15PM: PFAC Meeting
A special PFAC meeting will be held in advance of March Annual Meeting (date TBD). Agenda will be posted at www.NYMTC.org Calendar of Events.