



NYMTC-Notes

February 2011

www.NYMTC.org

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 - March 16th: Brown Bag Presentation
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- Regional Travel Survey Fully Launched

Calendar of Events

- 3/10 - NYMTC Annual Meeting
 - 10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
- NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, 4th floor Auditorium, NYC.
RSVP to 212.383.7200 or amiles-cole@dot.state.ny.us.

NYMTC Annual Meeting to be Held March 10

Join NYMTC's Council Members at their Annual Meeting for a discussion on *Planning in Times of Economic Uncertainty*, featuring invited keynote speaker Joan McDonald, Acting Commissioner of the New York State Department of Transportation. The agenda is available at www.NYMTC.org.

Thursday, March 10, 2011 from 10:30 – 12:30 p.m., at NYU's Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, 4th floor auditorium, NYC. RSVP to 212.383.7200 or AMiles-cole@dot.state.ny.us



UPWP Recommended for Council Action

NYMTC's April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was recommended for Council approval at the February 17th PFAC meeting, and will be voted upon by the Council members at the March 10th Annual Meeting.



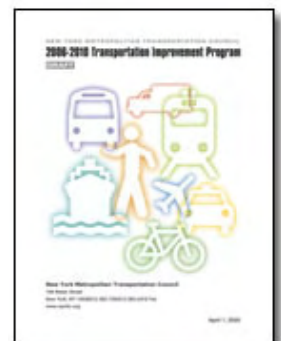
The UPWP is a Federally-mandated product of the regional transportation planning process, and is developed in consultation with the state and operators of publicly owned transit services in the planning area covered by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, the region's metropolitan planning organization.

To view the draft April 1, 2011 – March 31, 2012 UPWP and a detailed PowerPoint presentation made to PFAC, visit www.NYMTC.org.

New TIP Comment Period Opens February 28th

A public comment period on proposed amendments to the current Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will begin on Monday, February 28, 2011 and end on Wednesday, March 9, 2011. The proposed amendments program or reprogram funding for Federal Fiscal Year 2011. Details on the amendments will be available at www.NYMTC.org beginning February 28, 2011.

Periodically, NYMTC amends its TIP with projects proposed to make optimal use of available Federal funding. This comment period gives the public the opportunity to provide feedback to NYMTC on the proposed changes to the NYMTC TIP.



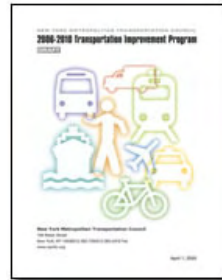
This meeting will be webcast and can be viewed on www.NYMTTC.org. Agenda is available in Calendar of Events on website.

- 3/16 – Brown Bag Lunch Presentation: Local Government Implementation of Federal Programs
- noon
199 Water Street, 22 fl, NYC. This meeting will be available as a webinar. RSVP to Gretchen Riederer at 212.383.7258 or griederer@dot.state.ny.us
- 4/13 – NYBPM users Group Meeting
- 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.
199 Water Street, 22 fl, NYC. RSVP to Mike Chiume at 212.383.7218 or mchiume@dot.state.ny.us
- 4/21 - PFAC Meeting
- 1:15 p.m. – 3 p.m.
199 Water Street, 22 fl, NYC. RSVP to 212.383.7200 or amiles-cole@dot.state.ny.us

NYMTTC is a regional council of governments that is the metropolitan planning organization for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley.

2010 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects Now Online

The *2010 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects* is now available at www.NYMTTC.org. Federal regulations require NYMTTC to report on progress in implementing the five-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) after the conclusion of the Federal Fiscal Year (FFY). Although the TIP indicates planned funding for improvement projects and establishes eligibility for Federal funding, the obligation of funding for each project effectively "locks in" that funding and leads the way to implementation.



Projects are required to be on the TIP in order to be eligible for Federal funding. The *2010 Annual Listing of Obligated Projects* shows which of these improvement projects have had their funding obligated during FFY 2010.

Brown Bag Presentation: Safe Routes for Seniors Reduces Pedestrian Crashes

Hillary Poole, Program Manager for New York City Department of Transportation's (NYCDOT) Safe Routes for Seniors, spoke at NYMTTC's Brown Bag lunch on January 19th about NYCDOT's initiative to reduce senior pedestrian fatalities and injuries. In recognition that seniors are over represented in the number of pedestrian fatalities -39% of pedestrian fatalities, compared to just 12% of New York City's population - NYCDOT identified 25 senior pedestrian focus areas where pedestrian safety improvements would most benefit seniors.

Detailed accident data analysis revealed that senior pedestrians often cannot cross the street in the allotted signal time and that turning vehicles pose a particular safety threat. NYCDOT made site visits to the focus areas to also identify broken or missing pedestrian ramps, faded crossing markings and poor drainage in crosswalks.



Brighton Beach - Before

accommodate slower walkers, shortening crossing distances with pedestrian refuge islands and curb extensions, redesigning roadways to calm traffic, and upgrading markings to make pedestrian crossings more visible to drivers. The community boards in each location fully supported the projects.

NYCDOT created a design toolbox to build safer, more accessible crossings by providing longer clearance intervals to



Brighton Beach - After

One year later, improvements in 10 locations have been implemented, 15 more are being studied, and crash statistics show that these areas are getting safer. NYCDOT is currently expanding its outreach to select future priority locations. Ms. Poole pointed to the active involvement of NYCDOT planners, designers, and work crews as a key factor in the rapid implementation of the projects. To view the presentation, go to <http://tinyurl.com/SafeRoutesforSeniors>.

NYMTC Council Members

Voting Members

- Joan McDonald, Acting Commissioner, New York State DOT and NYMTC co-chair
- C. Scott Vanderhoef, Rockland County Executive and NYMTC co-chair
- Amanda Burden, Director, New York City Department of City Planning
- Jay Walder, Chairman and CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Edward P. Mangano, Nassau County Executive
- Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation
- Paul Eldridge, Putnam County Executive
- Steve Levy, Suffolk County Executive
- Rob Astorino, Westchester County Executive

Advisory Members

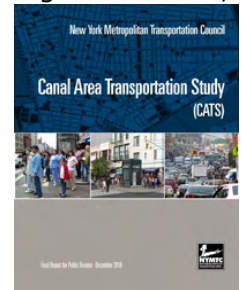
- Christopher O. Ward, Executive Director, Port Authority of NY&NJ
- James Weinstein, Executive Director, New Jersey Transit
- Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

Canal Street Review Completed

On February 9th, NYMTC completed a series of review meetings for the final draft recommendations from its Canal Area Transportation Study (CATS). Through CATS, NYMTC undertook a multi-step planning process to develop short- and medium-term improvements in the Canal Street corridor in lower Manhattan to mitigate traffic and pedestrian congestion and resulting safety and mobility issues. The CATS Final Report for Public Review, along with the Urban design Framework Plan and Parking Management Plan, are available at www.NYMTC.org.



Recommendations from the study include widening sidewalks; maintaining Canal Street as a two-way thoroughfare with left turn restrictions at selected intersections; high-occupancy-vehicle lanes on the Manhattan Bridge; continuing truck size restrictions in the Holland Tunnel as promulgated by the Port Authority of New York & New Jersey; implementing a parking management plan and urban design framework plan for the area; and use of real-time motorist advisory signs at Brooklyn, New Jersey and Route 9A approaches to lower Manhattan to encourage diversions to alternate routes when Canal Street is most congested.



Several shorter-term recommendations that were developed earlier in the study have already been implemented, including repaving Canal Street and providing high visibility crosswalks; retiming traffic signals and repairing and cleaning streetlights along Canal Street; addressing signage issues at the Holland Tunnel and Manhattan Bridge; exploring improvements to traffic enforcement; defining the transportation elements of the new triangle park near Varick Street; and defining short-term improvements along Allen Street.



Starting in December 2010, NYMTC undertook a series of review meetings, starting with a meeting with the staffs of local elected officials organized by the Manhattan Borough President's office. Review meetings were also held with the CATS Stakeholders Committee and relevant committees of community boards 1, 2 and 3. Finally, two public review meetings were held last January.



The comments from all of these meetings will now be considered by the CATS Steering Committee and a Final report will be issued.

SAVE THE DATES:

- March 16th, noon:** Brown Bag Lunch Presentation – *Local Government Implementation of Federal Programs*, by Chris Kempner, Director, Town of Riverhead Community Development Agency.
- April 13th, 10:00 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.:** NYBPM Users Group Meeting
- April 21st, 1:15 p.m.:** PFAC Meeting

- Joe Martens, Acting Commissioner, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
- Michael Davies, Acting Division Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
- Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency

Joel P. Ettinger, Executive Director, NYMTC

Robert Zerrillo, Council Secretary, New York State DOT

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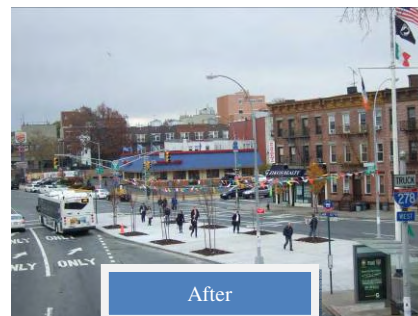
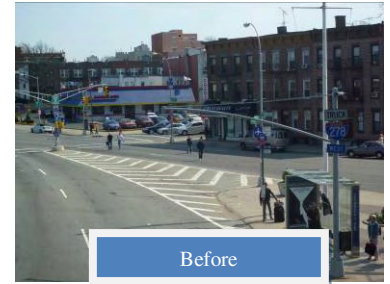
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<http://www.NYMTC.org>

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Notes@dot.state.ny.us

Safety Enhancements in Astoria

As a result of a NYMTC-sponsored Walkable Communities Workshop, the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) recently completed a major safety enhancement project at the complicated intersections where the RFK Bridge flows into Astoria, Queens, near 31st Street. The workshop brought together local stakeholders, including members of Community Board 1, Friends of Astoria Park and Transportation Alternatives, along with representatives from the NYPD and NYCDOT staff for a walk-through to identify pedestrian issues. NYCDOT then collected relevant data, Traffic Engineer Inessa Lipski analyzed it and the Pedestrian Projects Group developed a comprehensive redesign; DOT Borough Commissioner Maura McCarthy and Project Manager Sean Quinn worked with the community to develop an implementation plan.

The intersection, which is traversed by thousands of commuters a day as well as travelers from La Guardia airport who use it as a transfer point from the bus to the subway, had featured several long crosswalks, unclear pedestrian pathways and erratic driving due to excess roadway capacity. Prior to implementation, pedestrians had to cross multiple lanes of traffic from the subway and bus to the nearby residential neighborhoods. Following



improvements, two new concrete islands provide sidewalks along the existing lines. Two concrete "neckdowns" were also constructed to make crossing under the shadow of the elevated train safer and easier. NYCDOT also installed a pedestrian crossing signal and crosswalk adjacent to a new senior housing facility a few blocks away.

Additionally, bicycle lanes were added to safely connect residents to Astoria Park and the waterfront. They also serve to calm traffic while completing the planned bicycle network for the Astoria neighborhood. The improvements made by NYCDOT helped to humanize the intersections by clarifying traffic patterns, adding landscaped pedestrian plaza space, and shortening crosswalks. Thanks to this visionary workshop and the community's involvement, pedestrian safety and traffic operations were greatly improved. To view the presentation go to <http://tinyurl.com/NYCDOT-Hoyt-RFK-Improvements>

Regional Travel Survey Fully Launched

The Regional Travel Survey being undertaken by NYMTC and NJTPA has reached a major milestone with survey outreach and collection now being undertaken in English, Spanish, Chinese and Russian. Over the next year, travel data will be collected from 18,800 households across 28 counties in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. Participation in the survey, while not mandatory, will help provide key travel statistics for the region, and help plan future transportation investments.



Regional Travel Survey
For a better transportation future.

For more information visit www.regionaltravelsurvey.org.