In This Issue

• TCC Executive Meetings Coming up to Recommend 2011-2015 TIP Listings
• 2011–2012 UPWP Adopted by Council
• NYBPM 2.0 Development Gets Underway with RFI and TMIP Peer Review
• NY-CT Sustainable Communities Launches
• April PFAC Meeting Presentation Looks at The Future of the Regions Airports
• Cross Harbor Freight Movement Program: LI Public Information Session – May 5th

Calendar of Events

• 4/28 – NYCTCC Executive Committee Meeting
  - 2:00 p.m. 
  NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, NYC. 
  RSVP to 718.482.4559 or cking@dot.state.ny.us. 
  This meeting will be webcast. Agenda is available in Calendar of Events on website.

• 5/2 – N/STCC Executive Committee Meeting
  - 10:00 a.m. 
  100 County Seat Drive, Mineola, NY. 
  RSVP to Howie Mann at

TCC Executive Committee Meetings Coming Up to Recommend 2011-15 TIP Listings

Following a public comment period and public review meetings held in March and April, NYMTC’s three Transportation Coordinating Committees (TCC) will hold Executive Committee meetings, which are open to the public, to recommend project listings for the 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Following the actions by the three TCCs, these project listings will be integrated into a region-wide TIP document for approval by NYMTC this summer. The project listings are available for download at www.NYMTC.org; Google Earth maps of the project locations can also be accessed there.

The 2011-15 TIP is a federally-mandated product of NYMTC’s planning process which identifies transportation improvements proposed to receive federal funding. Agendas are available at www.NYMTC.org in Calendar of Events.

2011-2012 UPWP Adopted by Council

NYMTC’s 2011–2012 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) was adopted 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 2011–2012 UPWP visit www.NYMTC.org.
NYBPM 2.0 Development Gets Underway With RFI and TMIP Peer Review Session

As part of the process of upgrading its transportation demand simulation model, the New York Best Practice Model (NYBPM) to NYBPM 2.0, NYMTC has issued a Request for Information (RFI) through the NYSDOT Contracts Office to gather information to determine desired system structure and modeling capabilities. The NYBPM provides fundamental inputs to facilitate informed decision-making about future transportation investments in the greater New York City metropolitan region. This IS NOT a Request for Proposals, but an invitation to provide NYMTC and NYSDOT with information regarding current techniques and practices to accomplishing objectives with respect to the NYBPM 2.0. Responses are due June 15th.

Through the RFI process, NYMTC is interested in receiving information pertaining to the development and implementation of the second generation of the NYBPM. Specifically, NYMTC is interested in information pertaining to best practices of model techniques to address technical and policy issues in various Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs), promising research on related topics, and new software development with better algorithms and features that can make NYMTC’s and other MPOs models more efficient and effective. NYMTC and its members desire a solution that moves the model forward in an appropriate direction and make the best use of the limited funds available for improving and operating the model for future planning and air quality analysis efforts.

More information can be found at http://tinyurl.com/RFI-NYBPM2

To gain addition perspectives and insights, NYMTC requested and received from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) a Travel Model Improvement Program (TMIP) Peer Review session.

The TMIP Peer Review Session was conducted on April 14-15, 2011 at NYMTC’s office. Panel members consisted of seven modeling experts from both the private and public sector. First, NYMTC staffer Ali Mohseni gave an overview of NYMTC goals and objectives and background of the NYBPM, then presented the topic areas and the questions. Next, the peer panelists met in breakout sessions to develop recommendations on how to improve the NYBPBM. These recommendations were presented by the panel to peer review attendees, and a Q&A session was held.

TMIP staff will issue the final report and post it on their website within four months at http://tmip.fhwa.dot.gov/resources/peer_review/status.

For questions about the TMIP Peer Review Session and NYBPM 2.0 development contact Ali Mohseni at amohseni@dot.state.ny.us or 212.383.7215.
NYCT Sustainable Communities Launches

On April 15th, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) Regional Administrator Adolfo Carrión formally presided over the kickoff event for the New York-Connecticut Sustainable Communities initiative. The goal of this unprecedented bi-state collaboration, which is the recipient of a $3.5 million HUD Sustainable Communities Initiative Grant, is to reposition the New York-Connecticut region to fully harness its innovation capabilities in a competitive global environment, build on its strong foundation of energy efficiency, and become as equitable as it is efficient. Its primary focus is to leverage the most extensive and robust transit system in the nation by developing livable communities with mixed-income housing and employment at key nodes in the MTA Metro-North Railroad and MTA Long Island Rail Road network.

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald, who serves as NYMTC co-chair, said, “With Governor Andrew Cuomo’s support, this unique collaboration will allow us to work across state lines to promote sustainable development throughout the region. Working together, we have the opportunity to help families gain better access to affordable housing and expand their transportation options while protecting the environment and reducing our energy dependence.”

“This collaborative effort will help our region enhance affordable housing efforts, reduce congestion, improve the environment and expand economic opportunities so that residents can be put back to work,” said Nassau County Executive Edward P. Mangano, who also serves as NYMTC co-chair. “On Long Island, undeveloped land around railroad stations and existing downtowns provide an opportunity for a new model of suburban growth that both protects existing neighborhoods and open space while generating job opportunities.”

The Consortium is comprised of the cities of New York, New Haven, Bridgeport, Norwalk, Stamford, Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle, and Mount Vernon; Nassau and Suffolk counties; NYMTC, South Western Regional Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMO), Greater Bridgeport/Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GBVMPO), South Central Regional Council of Governments (SCRCOG); and the Long Island Regional Planning Council (LIRPC) and Regional Plan Association (RPA).

For more information on the initiative, including project descriptions and organization, log on to www.sustainableNYCT.org.
April PFAC Meeting Presentation Looks at The Future of the Regions Airports

A report entitled Upgrading to World Class: The Future of the Regions Airports was the topic of the April 21st PFAC meeting. Regional Plan Association’s recently completed comprehensive report was presented by two of the reports co-authors, Jeffrey Zupan and Richard Barone, who detailed recommendations on increasing the New York region’s overall airport capacity and efficiency over the next generation.

They noted that the region’s airports are congested and expected growth can only make things worse. The economy of the tri-state region depends on being able to connect with the ever expanding global economy. In addition, the authors focused on the importance of ensuring adequate access to airports for both passengers and cargo movement.

Most notably, the report calls for the expeditious implementation of NextGen technologies to transform the nation’s air traffic control system and immediate planning for the eventual expansion and/or reconfiguration of John F. Kennedy International and Newark Liberty International airports.

The report can be found in its entirety at http://tinyurl.com/RPA-Airport-Study, and the presentation to PFAC can be seen at www.NYMTC.org in downloadable files, presentations.

Cross Harbor Freight Movement Program:
LI Public Information Session - May 5th

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey (PANYNJ) are preparing a Tier I Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate alternatives to improve the movement of goods in the region by enhancing freight transportation across New York Harbor. Potential alternatives could involve effects and possible improvements to the freight network on geographic Long Island.

A Public Information Session will be held on Thursday, May 5, 2011, 6:00 to 8:00 p.m., at Farmingdale Courtyard Marriott, Two Marriott Plaza, Farmingdale, NY. This session provides an opportunity for the public and agencies to comment on and provide input to the EIS as it is being developed. For more information, please visit the project website at www.crossharborstudy.com

Comments on the EIS are encouraged and may be provided in writing either at the information sessions or by mail to Cross Harbor Freight Program, c/o InGroup, Inc., PO Box 206 Midland Park, NJ 07432 or via email to feedback@crossharborstudy.com.