Supplemental Public Review Period for Proposed Revisions to NYMTC’s Draft Plan 2040

On Monday, August 12th, NYMTC opened a supplemental public review period for revisions made to the financial chapter of its draft 2014-2040 Regional Transportation Plan, Plan 2040: A Shared Vision for a Sustainable Region. The financial chapter, which provides a long-range regional financial assessment for Plan 2040 as required by federal planning regulations, has been revised based on comments received during the initial public review period for the draft Plan 2040, which closed on July 18th.

The supplemental public review will also cover projects proposed to be added to the vision element of Plan 2040, as well as a proposed revision to the Coordinated Public Transit-Human services element of the Plan. Details all of the proposed revisions are available for download, along with the revised version of the Plan 2040 financial chapter, at http://www.nymtc.org/aboutrtp.cfm

Comments may be sent by 4 p.m. on August 21, 2013 to:
New York Metropolitan Transportation Council
Attn: Plan 2040 Supplemental Review
199 Water Street, 22nd Floor
New York, NY 10038
Or by email to: NYMTC-PUBLIC-INFO@dot.ny.gov

Public Comment Period Open for State Transportation Improvement Program

The draft Statewide Transportation Improvement Program (STIP) for federal fiscal years 2014 through 2017 is available for public review period, through August 24, 2013. The document provides a comprehensive list of all federally-funded highway and transit projects, which for the four-year period totals more than an estimated $11.7 billion in federal funds with more than $5.1 billion in federal highway funds, and $5.7 billion in federal transit funds. Another $857.3 million in non-fiscally constrained federal projects are also included for this partial STIP update.

The STIP contains all regional transportation improvement programs and is compiled generally every two years by NYS DOT and the State’s 13 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs). All federally funded projects planned for federal fiscal years 2014 through 2017 are included in the draft STIP update. For more information and to download the draft STIP go to https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/stip/draftstip.
TCC Executive Committees Endorse Project Listings

NYMTC’s three Technical Coordinating Committee Executive Committees each met to take actions to ensure the continuing flow of federal dollars into the region. These actions included: Recommendation of projects for inclusion in Plan 2040; Recommendation of project proposals for the 2014-2018 TIP; Affirmation of Urban Area Boundaries based on the 2010 Census; and other actions specific to the TCC.

TCC recommendations for these required products are a key step in the development of the new Plan and TIP. Following the TCC meetings, NYMTC’s Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC) will convene on August 29th to recommend the draft Plan, TIP, Conformity Determination and Congestion Management Process Report for Council adoption at their September 4th meeting.

Mid-Hudson South TCC and Nassau/Suffolk TCC each confirmed new rotating co-chairs: Putnam County Executive MaryEllen Odell and Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone, respectively. The NYCTCC had confirmed the MTA as rotating co-chair at its January meeting. Webcasts from the MHSTCC and N/STCC are available by clicking on the NYMTC Webcast link on www.nymtc.org.

TEP Solicitation Period Closes August 16th

The solicitation period for the federally funded Transportation Enhancement Program, as announced by New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joan McDonald, closes at 4 p.m. on August 16, 2013.

Municipalities and non-profit incorporated groups are eligible to apply for funding. Not-for-profits will require a governmental entity to sponsor their projects. Eligible projects must have a total cost of at least $200,000; federal reimbursement is limited to $2.5 million per project.

NYSDOT will accept applications for five eligible activity types for projects to be funded with TEP dollars, including: 1) facilities for bicycles and pedestrians; 2) scenic or historic highway facilities; 3) landscaping and other scenic beautification; 4) preservation of abandoned railway corridors and conversion to use as pedestrian and bicycle trails; and 5) environmental mitigation to address water pollution due to highway runoff.

The TEP Guidebook provides detailed information about the specific types of projects eligible for this program as well as the application process; a pamphlet providing a concise summary of the program is also available. The Guidebook, Application and Pamphlet can be accessed at https://www.dot.ny.gov/programs/tep. Applicant/Sponsors are required to attend a TEP workshop or webinar and a Federal Aid 101 workshop or webinar in advance of applying for TEP funds. Recorded workshops that were held in the NYMTC region may be accessed on www.NYMTC.org.

Once the application period closes, a committee of NYMTC’s members will rate and rank proposals for recommendation to PFAC. Once adopted, this prioritized list for the NYMTC area will be forwarded to NYSDOT.
From the U.S. Census Bureau: Response to the 2012 Economic Census is Past Due

NYMTC was asked to share the following message from the U.S. Census: The 2012 Economic Census, the U.S. Government’s official five-year measure of American business and the economy, is currently underway. For those businesses that have responded to the Economic Census, we thank you; for those businesses that were mailed a form but have not yet responded to this mandatory survey, we urge you to do so as soon as possible.

Report online at: econhelp.census.gov

Thank you again for taking part in the 2012 Economic Census, your response makes a difference!

Public Comment Period Opens August 19th for Proposed TIP Amendments

A public comment period for proposed amendments to the Federal Fiscal Years (FFY) 2011-2015 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and the Draft FFY 2014-2018 TIP will open Monday, August 19th. Comments are due by 4 p.m. on Wednesday, August 28th to Chris Hardej at chris.hardej@dot.ny.gov.

These amendments will add projects under Federal Transit Administration (FTA) Section 5324 emergency relief funding for Superstorm Sandy-related transit projects. Information on the amendments will be posted by August 19th at http://www.nymtc.org/abouttip-down.cfm

Upcoming Meetings

PFAC Meeting
August 29, 2013 – 1:15 p.m.
199 Water Street, 22nd floor, NYC.
A number of actions, including recommendation of the draft Plan 2040 and 2014-18 TIP, will be taken at this business meeting of NYMTC’s Program, Finance and Administration Committee. This meeting will be webcast.

Council Meeting
September 4, 2013 – 11 a.m.
199 Water Street, 22nd floor, NYC.
The Principal members of NYMTC will come together to adopt the draft Plan 2040 and 2014 – 18 TIP, along with the Transportation Conformity Determination and Congestion Management Process Status Report. This meeting will be webcast.

NY-CT Sustainable Communities Consortium Steering Committee Meeting
September 13, 2013, 10 a.m. – 12 noon
NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, NYC.
For more information on this quarterly Steering Committee meeting of the NY-CT Sustainable Communities Consortium, or to attend in person, please contact Brian Dennis, bdennis@rpa.org or 917.546.4316.
NYMTC Brown Bag Lunch Presentation: September 11 Memorial Program

**September 18, 2013, 12 noon. NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor.**

This meeting may be attended in person or as a webinar. To attend in person RSVP to lisa.daglian@dot.ny.gov or 212.383.7200. To attend as a webinar go to [http://tinyurl.com/NYMTC-9-18-BB](http://tinyurl.com/NYMTC-9-18-BB)

The September 11th Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning honors three NYMTC staff members who died in the attack on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001: Ignatius Adanga, Charles Lesperance, and See Wong Shum. The Program provides assistance to students and organizations for projects in both academic and public policy arenas as a way to educate and motivate those who are interested in transportation technology and planning. This Brown Bag presentation will highlight the work of the four 2012-13 academic year participants in the seventh year of this program:

**Adam Davidson**, Ph.D. candidate at CUNY Graduate Center in Earth and Environmental Sciences. **Project: Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emission Reduction Implementation Planning**

Working at NYMTC, Adam’s work on GHG Emission Reduction Implementation Planning involves the development of selected regional transportation strategies for reducing GHG emissions, including evaluation of potential strategies for implementation by NYMTC member agencies and development of white papers that discuss the relative merits of the strategies, including amount of potential reduction, practical steps to implement the strategy, the cost of the strategy, and inclusion of case study information.

**Stanislav Parfenov**, Master’s of Science candidate in civil engineering at Polytechnic/NYU. **Project: Street Closures in NYC.**

Stanislav’s work in the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) Division of Traffic and Planning focuses on the effects of street closures on New York City’s street network through the development of dynamic and static simulation models, which will be based on datasets of newly created NYCDOT’s Traffic Information Management System supplemented by taxi GPS data from the NYC TLC.

**Jeremy Safran**, Master of Urban Planning candidate, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, NYU. **Project: Bus Lanes in NYC**

Jeremy is interning at NYCDOT with the Transit Development Group within the Division of Traffic and Planning. He is assessing bus lanes in New York City, including assembling data on a wide variety of bus lane features such as signage, design, color, regulation, and enforcement and on bus performance. The research will result in a best practices document that describes and interprets the findings.

**Simin You**, Ph.D candidate in computer science at the Graduate Center, CUNY. **Project: Safety Data Viewer**

Simin You’s internship with the NYCDOT Office of Research, Implementation, and Safety focuses on developing data management and analysis tools and consists of two major components: improving the existing Safety Data Viewer, and providing other management and analysis tools for transportation research and planning needs. The enhanced Safety Data Viewer will provide new functionalities and will be deployed in a production environment.