



**SYNOPSIS OF THE FEBRUARY 29, 2024 MEETING OF THE
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order by Debra Nelson, Secretary of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) and Director of the Office of Policy, Planning & Performance Division within the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). She completed a roll call of the Council members and declared a quorum under the NYMTC’s operating procedures. She then turned the meeting over to the NYMTC Co-Chairs, New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner, Marie Therese Dominguez and Westchester County Executive George Latimer.

B. CO-CHAIRS’ REMARKS

New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez welcomed and thanked everyone for joining NYMTC’s first live, in person meeting since February 2020, which was the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. She noted that the meeting’s theme is “Connecting Communities” and talked about the importance of transportation and how the agencies are putting people in communities at the center of transportation decisions. She noted that there’s opportunity and an obligation to make wise investments in transportation that would shape and enhance communities across the board, not just for today, but into the future, and that included addressing New York State’s climate goals. She added that connecting communities also meant writing the wrongs of the past and listening to what people and communities are asking of their transportation systems in order to make informed and equitable decisions that help communities to be strong, connected and vibrant. Commissioner Dominguez proudly said that there’s not a state in the nation that’s doing more than New York to connect and reconnect communities--from the Bronx to Buffalo and many places in between. She said that there’s an incredible level of investments and that investing in projects meant investing in people and investing in the entire journey of their life. She said that she appreciated the presence of Veronica Vanterpool, Acting Administrator of Federal Transit Administration and Shailen Bhatt, Administrator of Federal Highways Administration, both of whom represent the partnership at the federal level and are the meeting’s keynote speakers. She said that she appreciated their partnership and the collaboration in the work they do with NYMTC. Commissioner Dominguez said that she’s honored to serve as the NYMTC Co-Chair and to work with an esteemed group of colleagues.

Westchester County Executive Latimer talked about his use of New York State’s transportation system throughout his years of childhood through adulthood that included the various modes of transportation from Westchester County into Manhattan and Brooklyn. He noted that transportation was essential, whether it is for recreational trips or business trips, there were millions of people in this region, from Long Island to New Jersey, to Connecticut to Hudson Valley, who travel for whatever reason. He noted that the region is tied together, and transportation connection is critical for people to live their lives to get to work, or school or places of entertainment, all of those things require everyone to have the best possible transportation system. He talked about the importance of the NYMTC’s Unified Planning Work Program and how it represents an opportunity for studies to be done that help us advance in our county. He noted that NYMTC, as a regional entity, is able to access resources to make improvements in the region such as Westchester County’s Bee-Line Bus system, which has one of the largest riderships in

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New York State, that connect communities as well as make connections into the New York City system. County Executive Latimer proudly mentioned that the Bee-Line Bus system was almost completely electric or electric hybrid, and the county has also been able to suspend the bus fare during the summer months and holiday season. He said that we are all tied together in this region and that it's the decision-makers job to make sure that the system works for the people and for the future and that the right things happen in the future because the right decisions are made today. County Executive Latimer thanked Commissioner Dominguez for her leadership; he thanked Adam Levine and the NYMTC staff for their hard work; and he recognized Joan McDonald and Blanca Lopez of his staff.

C. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Executive Director, Adam Levine welcomed everyone back to NYMTC's first in-person annual meeting since 2020. He expressed his appreciation to Co-Chairs, Commissioner Dominguez and County Executive Latimer and the Council Principals for selecting him to serve as NYMTC's 9th Executive Director. He then proceeded to provide his report. He talked about how the Annual Meeting's theme, "Connecting Communities" tied into the work NYMTC does such as making new connections, improving accessibility and enhancing safety; removing obstacles in communities; and creating new spaces that allow people and neighborhoods to come together, through its \$8.3 billion discretionary grants across thirty-two projects, through collaborative forums that focus on achieving a share regional vision, and as well from outreach efforts through NYMTC's regional transportation plan, "Moving Forward 2055. He reported that NYMTC's Thriving Communities Network that was patterned after the program led by member agency federal partners, brought together community leaders and non-governmental organizations to help them learn more about the transportation planning process so that they can compete for federal, state, and local transportation funds to advance projects in traditionally underrepresented and disadvantaged communities. He reported that NYMTC's Community Planning Workshops were relaunched in late 2022 and continued through 2023 and that the workshops that were held in Westchester, Putnam and Nassau counties, brought together community members, local officials and the NYMTC team to focus on specific transportation issues with a level of detail and a volume of spirited discussion that could only come from living in a place for many years. He said that several planning studies were initiated or continued such as a Palisades Shared-Use Path study to connect the George Washington and Governor Mario M. Cuomo bridges, a Northern Westchester East-West Corridor Study from Peekskill to the state line, and a Regional Waste Movement study that goes across the entire NYMTC region and well beyond. Adam Levine noted some of the member agencies' initiatives funded through the Unified Planning Work Program, such as efforts by Putnam, Suffolk and Westchester counties to reimagine their transit networks; a safety and sustainability study in Clarkstown on Routes 303 and 304; Nassau County's Electric Vehicle Fleet Conversion and charging station master plan; the development of a First Mile Last Mile planning toolkit by the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), to help improve access to Metro North and Long Island Rail Road stations; and studies undertaken by NYC Department of Transportation and NYC Department of City Planning to improve freight movement and study the impacts of telecommuting. Adam said that he was excited that NYMTC's Annual Meeting was once again in person and thanked the staff at NYMTC, the members of PFAC and the Council for their dedication and service to the people of New York City, Long Island and the Lower Hudson Valley. He said that the necessity of these gatherings should not be understated, for one cannot connect communities by oneself. It takes the ideas and the efforts and the determination of the people all across the NYMTC region to help bring together communities of all sizes.

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D. KEYNOTE SPEAKER –

**Veronica Vanterpool, Acting Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
Shailen Bhatt, Administrator, Federal Highway Administration**

Keynote speakers Federal Highway Administration's Administrator Shailen Bhatt and the Federal Transit Administration's Acting Administrator, Veronica Vanterpool addressed the audience, recounting the federal government's steadfast support of many high visibility transportation planning projects happening throughout New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley. The full presentation can be found on www.NYMTC.org.

E. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Murray Bodin, Concerned Grandparents, said that New York State Department of Transportation has not enforced the guidelines of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices. He said that there needed to be consistency in what the drivers see on the road.

George Haikalis submitted the attached prepared remarks on page 8.

F. ACTION ITEMS

1. ACCEPT: FEBRUARY 23, 2023 MEETING SYNOPSIS

County Executive Latimer referenced the February 23, 2023 Council meeting synopsis and asked if any of the members had any comments. There were none. Acceptance of the meeting synopsis was moved by Stephen Powers representing Rockland County Executive Edwin Day and seconded by Kenneth Arnold representing Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman. The meeting synopsis was unanimously accepted by the members of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council.

2. ADOPT: RESOLUTION #2024-1 – COUNCIL ADOPTION OF THE STATE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025 UNIFIED PLANNING WORK PROGRAM

Seitu Allen of NYMTC staff gave a presentation on NYMTC's State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP). He noted that the federally required UPWP served as NYMTC's annual budget that described how federal transportation planning funds would be used for transportation planning activities in the NYMTC region. He said that the new UPWP totals \$65 million for transportation-related planning activities to be undertaken by NYMTC staff and its member agencies. He noted that the UPWP was an important part of the core planning process that included the Regional Transportation Plan, the Transportation Improvement Program, the Congestion Management Process and Regional Emissions Analysis and said that the UPWP provides funds to NYMTC staff and the member agencies for discretionary planning projects. Detailed information on the draft 2024-2025 UPWP can be found at www.NYMTC.org.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2024-1, Council Adoption of the State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program was made by Jack Schmidt representing New York City Department of City Planning Director Dan Garodnick and seconded by Barbara Barosa representing Putnam County Executive Kevin Byrne. There was no discussion. The resolution was passed unanimously.

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3. ADOPT: RESOLUTION #2024-2 – RECOGNITION OF SERVICE BY FORMER SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE STEVE BELLONE AS A PRINCIPAL MEMBER AND FORMER CO-CHAIR OF THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Commissioner Dominguez noted that the resolution expressed the members' appreciation to former Nassau County Executive Steve Bellone, who served as a Principal member and Co-Chair of NYMTC. The resolution noted that Steve was an active Council Principal with a regional vision who used the NYMTC process, and who sought to shape the future of Suffolk County as well as the larger metropolitan region. She thanked Steve for this guidance and leadership and wished him well on his future endeavors.

Westchester County Executive Latimer said that he had the pleasure of working with Steve Bellone, who was a mentor to him. He said that they worked together on transportation-related and non-transportation-related projects that benefited Suffolk and Westchester County residents. County Executive Latimer credits Steve Bellone as a very open and easy person to work with and said that the recognition is well suited.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2024-2, Recognition of Service by Former Suffolk County Executive Steve Bellone as a Principal member and Former Co-Chair of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council was made by Darnell Tyson representing Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine and seconded by Westchester County Executive George Latimer. There was no discussion. The resolution was passed unanimously.

4. ADOPT: RESOLUTION #2024-3 – RECOGNITION OF SERVICE BY FORMER FEDERAL TRANSIT ADMINISTRATION REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR STEPHEN GOODMAN AS AN ADVISORY PRINCIPAL MEMBER OF THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

Commissioner Dominguez noted that the resolution expressed the members' appreciation to former advisory Principal member Stephen Goodman for his many years of service, valuable guidance and expertise that helped to shape NYMTC's planning process. He was an active Principal who served with dedication and distinction. Commissioner Dominguez noted that after 35 years of service, Stephen retired from the U.S. DOT, and she wished him well on his future endeavors.

Federal Transit Administration Regional Administrator Michael Culotta said that Stephen Goodman has a lasting impact on the region through his work with the September 11th and Hurricane Sandy recovery efforts, through his efforts to deliver critical Covid-19 funding to the region during the pandemic, and through his leadership as the former Regional Administrator. He thanked Stephen for his mentorship; he congratulated him on this recognition; and wished Stephen all the best in his new chapter.

Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator Richard Marquis said that he enjoyed working with Stephen Goodman and valued all the advice he provided. He wished him well on his on his future endeavors.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2024-3, Recognition of Service by Former Federal Transit Administration Regional Administrator Stephen Goodman as an Advisory Principal Member of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council was made by Barbara Barosa representing Putnam County Executive Edwin Day and seconded by Kenneth Arnold representing Nassau County

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Executive Bruce Blakeman. There was no discussion. The resolution was passed unanimously.

5. ADOPT: RESOLUTION #2024-4 – RECOGNITION OF SERVICE AS THE NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL CO-CHAIR BY WESTCHESTER COUNTY EXECUTIVE GEORGE LATIMER

Commissioner Dominguez recognized Westchester County Executive George Latimer for his service and leadership as co-chair. She noted that the resolution expressed the members' appreciation for his valuable guidance and that she looked forward to continuing to collaborate with him as a Principal Council member and as the County Executive of Westchester.

A motion to adopt Resolution #2024-4, Recognition of Service as the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council Co-Chair by Westchester County Executive George Latimer was made by Stephen Powers representing Rockland County Executive Ed Day and seconded by Jack Schmidt representing New York City Department of City Planning Director Dan Garodnick. There was no discussion. The resolution was passed unanimously.

6. CONFIRM: NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE BRUCE BLAKEMAN AS THE INCOMING CO-CHAIR FOR PROGRAM YEAR 2024-2025

Commissioner Dominquez noted that the Council Co-Chair is rotated annually among the three NYMTC Transportation Coordinating Committees. She welcomed Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman as the incoming NYMTC Co-Chair, representing the Nassau/Suffolk Transportation Coordinating Committee for the 2024-2025 program year.

G. ADJOURN

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Westchester County Executive George Latimer and second by Jack Schmidt representing New York City Department of City Planning Director Dan Garodnick. The meeting was adjourned.

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ATTENDANCE

Voting Council Principals/Representatives

Kenneth Arnold for Bruce Blakeman, Nassau County Executive (Incoming Co-Chair)
Barbara Barosa for Kevin Byrne, Putnam County Executive
Marie Therese Dominguez, NYS Department of Transportation Commissioner (Permanent Co-Chair)
George Latimer, Westchester County Executive (Outgoing Co-Chair)
Debra Nelson, NYMTC Secretary
Stephen Powers for Edwin Day, Rockland County Executive
Yogesh Sanghvi for Ydanis Rodriguez, NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner
Jack Schmidt for Dan Garodnick, NYC Department of City Planning Executive Director
Michael Shiffer for Janno Lieber, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chair & CEO
Darnell Tyson for Ed Romaine, Suffolk County Executive

Advisory (Non-Voting) Principals/Representatives

David Behrend, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Executive Director
Jonathan Binder for Basil Seggos, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation Commissioner
Jeremy Colangelo-Bryan for Kevin Corbett, New Jersey Transit President & CEO
Michael Culotta, Federal Transit Administration Regional Administrator
Matthew Laurita for Lisa Garcia, US Environmental Protection Agency Regional Administrator
Richard Marquis, Federal Highway Administration Division Administrator
Michael Wojnor for Richard Cotton, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Executive Director

NYMTC Staff & Consultants*

Ali Afshar *	Kathy Lander
Afolabi Aiyedun	Joomee Lee
Olayinka Alamu *	Adam Levine
Leonidas Alexandropoulos	John Lopez
Seitu Allen	Emily McGhee
Allyce Braddy	Amaury Medina-Milford
Gerry Bogacz	Andrea Miles-Cole
Joy Britton	Ali Mohseni
Stephanie Brooks *	Larisa Morozovskaya
Mary Byrne	Robert Mortell
Michael Chiume	Munnesh Patel
David Drits	Kwei Pinger
Maura Fitzpatrick *	Maniza Pritila
Merrill Frank	Dominique Queenie
Yevgeniy Galinski	Manish Shah
Fidel Garcia *	John Simpson
German Hernandez	Lynne Thisse
Husong Han	Rossana Weitekamp

OTHERS

Rajat Agarwal, NYSDOT
Hoque Ahar, FTA
Seth Berman, NYCDOT
Shailen Bhatt, FHWA
Lily Black, USEPA
Allison Blanchette, NYCDOT
Tony Bobba, FHWA
Murray Bodin, Concerned Grandparents
Brit Byrd, Bklyn Boro Pres Office
Katherine Burgos-Brown, FTA
Frank Carlone, Paraco
Christopher Chatterton, Suffolk County
Louis Cheng, FTA
Conor Clarke, NYCDCP
Spe Collis, FTA
Kara Cumoletti, NYSDOT
Joseph Cuomo, Nassau County
Eric Saleo, Gateway Development Commission
Bob Danielson, NYSDOT
Djuretic Danilo, FTA
Chris DeLuca, Suffolk County
Nicole Farmer, NYSDOT
Michael Fleischer
Oluseye Folarin, MTA
Robert Ford, FTA
John Formosa, FHWA
Ian Francis, NYSDOT
Chris Gatchell, FHWA
David Gellman, BXCBS
Patrick Gerdin, Rockland County
Kathleen German, AM Epstein
Robert Gibbon, NYSDOT
Tatyana Golikova, NYSDOT
Stephen Goodman, HMBT
A. Goodwin, FTA
James Govoia, FTA
Erin Green, FTA
Tiana Grimes
Janet Ho, NYSDOT
Jonathan Howard, FTA
Maryan Jean Jacques, FTA
Michelle Kaske, Bloomberg Press
Naomi Klein, Creighton Manning
Craig Lader, Westchester County

Franca Licon, FTA
Blanco Lopez, Westchester County
Ryan Lynch, NYSDOT
Lance MacMillan, NYSDOT
Uchenna Madu, NYSDOT
Forence Mak, FTA
Gautam Mani, FHWA
Jonathan Masserario, MTA
Joan McDonald, Westchester County
Sean Moore, NYSDOT
Daniel Moser, FTA
Glenn Merrell, NYSDOT
Waseal Nagi, FTA
Art O'Connor, FHWA
Jeffrey Otto, NYCDOT
George Paralemos, NYSDOT
Lauren Pessao, FTA
Judith Peter, NYSDOT
Nikhil Puri, Cambridge Systematics
Joseph Raguzin, Rockland County
Meole Andrea Rayne, FTA
Juan Reyes
Geoffrey Rick, NYSDOT
Ted Ritter, NJTPA
James Roth, Paraco Gas
Steve Scaduto, NYSDOT
Ayla, Schermer, FTA
Julia Seltzer, MTA
Michael Sheehan, NYSDEC
Victoria Sheehan, TRB
Jay Shuffield, PANYNJ
Kimberly Singleton, FTA
Sheldon Soleyn
J. Springer, MTA
Hiep Tran, USEPA
Veronica Vanterpool, FTA
Donovan Vincent, FTA
Ilana Wagner, Westchester County
Lisa Weiss, NYSDOT
Michael Wojnar, PANYNJ
William Wong, FTA

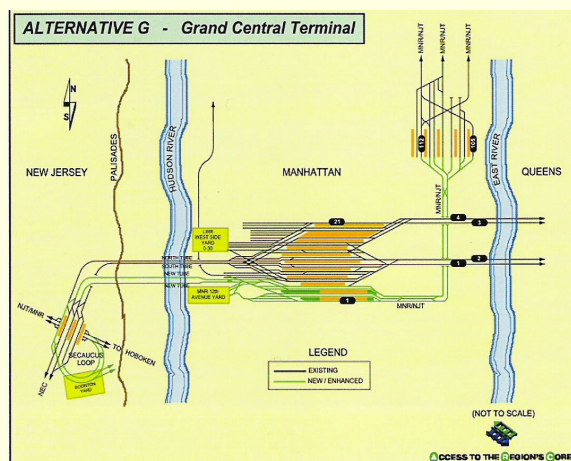
"I certify that this February 29, 2024 Council Meeting Synopsis was unanimously accepted by the voting members of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council during its February 27, 2025 Annual Council Meeting."

Respectfully Submitted,

Andréa Miles-Cole

MPO Council Liaison & Coordinator

The Penn Station – Grand Central connection plan would be the centerpiece of a world class regional rail system



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Thursday, September 9, 2021

IRUM Welcomes Honorable Nuria Fernandez, Federal Transit Administrator, to the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) meeting on Thursday September 9, 2021 at 11:00 a.m.

IRUM is a NYC-based nonprofit concerned with reducing motor vehicular congestion and improving the livability of dense urban places. NYMTC is the shriveled remains of what used to be the Tri-State Regional Planning Commission which was dissolved 1982. The IRUM commends NYMTC staff in its effort to maintain a bare minimum of regional cooperation in a hostile world of competing bureaucracies.

IRUM urges FTA Administrator Fernandez to continue to support this effort and fund initiatives like the 2003 Access to the Region's Core study that demonstrated that the link shown above is feasible and beneficial. While many urban regions throughout the world have made productive use of their rail assets, the three commuter rail lines serving the NY-NJ-CT metropolitan area continue to drag their feet in this effort. The Biden Administration can make a difference and IRUM urges FTA to take the lead in creating a coherent metropolitan rail system.

George Haikalis, President, Institute for Rational Urban Mobility, Inc.