

**SYNOPSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2025 MEETING OF THE  
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL****A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL**

The meeting was called to order by Debra Nelson, Director, Office of Policy, Planning & Performance for the New York State Department of Transportation. 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 NYMTC Executive Director Adam Levine for his comments.

**B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPORT**

Levine thanked NYMTC members for gathering for the second time this year, this time to adopt several major required actions, NYMTC's Transportation Improvement Program, also known as the TIP, our Regional Transportation Plan, and the 2025 Congestion Management Process Status Report.

Levine recounted the mission statement of NYMTC in that it focuses the collective efforts of member agencies and NYMTC staff on four pillars – serving as a collaborative forum for transportation discussions; providing sound technical analysis; maximizing the opportunity for bringing additional federal funding to the region; and focusing our efforts on a shared regional vision. All four of these pillars are reflected in the work to be voted on.

Levine added that collaboration isn't a synonym for kumbaya. Each member has a perspective on the needs of their community, and each member fights for those needs, just as NYMTC fights for them and expects them to add their perspectives, concerns, and needs into the conversation.

NYMTC has brought sound technical analysis to the task and has also used extensive socioeconomic and demographic forecasting to show where jobs and housing are expected to grow across the next 30 years.

NYMTC, he added, has been maximizing federal funding opportunities throughout the years, and never more so since the inception of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Since its inception, NYMTC has provided supporting documentation for over 100 grant applications submitted by members and has reported out on the successful awarding of just barely under \$10 billion of discretionary project awards.

Levine noted that creating a shared regional vision was perhaps simultaneously the easiest and the most painstaking to produce. But NYMTC members achieved it together.

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He closed his report thanking the many people who have collaborated to achieve this work: the members, NYMTC staff, the media - both traditional and social - for helping to get the word out; and the traveling public.

#### C. PRESENTATIONS OF PROPOSED NYMTC ACTIONS

- Larisa Morozovskaya together with Leslie Fordjour presented the Regional Transportation Plan, Moving Forward 2055. This is NYMTC's next regional transportation plan, which provides future objectives over a minimum 20-year time frame. The plan must be updated every four years.
- John Simpson presented the Congestion Management Process Status Report, which systematically forecasts traffic congestion in the planning area. It must produce specific performance measurements to identify levels of congestion and prepare a program to reduce that congestion.
- Mike Chiume presented the Transportation Improvement Program or TIP. This TIP establishes the federally funded transportation improvements proposed for planning, design/specification, or implementation/ procurement in the NYMTC planning area during FFYs 2026 through 2030. The TIP includes transit, roadway and bridge, bicycle and pedestrian projects, and other transportation enhancements

#### D. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were four public speakers:

Mary Arnold of the Civics United for Railroad Environmental Solutions (CURES) submitted and read prepared remarks regarding the expansion of trash incinerators in the Regional Transportation Plan, and other issues. See attachment on page 8.

The second speaker was Danielle Dookie who spoke on behalf of TRUE, the Manhattan Solid Waste Advisory Board, and We ACT. Danielle reported that these organizations strongly advise the removal of recommended action addressing the Waste of Energy from Appendix D of the draft Regional Transportation Plan.

The third speaker was Melissa Naeder of Cushman & Wakefield in Melville, Long Island. Ms. Naeder was speaking on behalf of the Commercial Industrial Broker Society on Long Island. The organization is opposed to the draft RTP because it excludes certain Long Island needs. Rush hours have gotten worse, and they will continue if we don't have expansion infrastructure programs available to us.

The fourth speaker was Neile Weissman from the bike advocacy Complete George and is the public relations director for the New York Cycle Club. Mr. Weissman distributed printed copies of his remarks, which focused on the information found in NYMTC's Palisades Shared Use Path Feasibility Study, which concluded earlier this year.

There were no further public speakers/requests to speak from the public.

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#### E. ACTION ITEMS

a. **Accept: Feb. 27, 2025, Council Meeting Synopsis**

A motion to accept the February 27, 2025, Council Meeting synopsis was made by Elisa Picca representing Suffolk County and was seconded by Craig Lader representing Westchester County. There were no objections.

b. **ADOPT: Resolution #2025-4 – Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2055 Regional Transportation Plan and 2025 Congestion Management Process Status Report for Council Adoption**

A motion to adopt the draft Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2055 Regional Transportation Plan and the draft 2025 Congestion Management Process Status Report for Council Adoption was made by Paul Ochoa on behalf of the NYC DOT. It was seconded by Joe Cuomo representing Nassau County. There were no objections; the motion passed.

c. **ADOPT: Resolution #2025-5 –Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program for Council Adoption**

A motion to adopt the draft Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program for Council Adoption was made by Stephen Powers representing Rockland County and was seconded by Conor Clarke, representing the NYCDCP. When asked if there was any discussion, Elisa Picca of Suffolk County read a statement from County Executive Ed Romaine: “Today's vote reflects the strong partnership between governor Hochul and county government and labor to ensure Suffolk County and all Long Island receives its fair share of infrastructure funding. This is important progress, and we look forward to building on it with additional investments in roads, sewers, and mass transit in the years ahead. Long Island deserves a stronger voice in these decisions, and we are grateful that the governor's office has listened to and responded to our concerns. I will continue to advocate tirelessly to ensure Suffolk County secures the resources it needs and guarantees that we receive our fair share. This is not only a priority of my administration; it is a commitment that will guide us well into the future. Thank you.”

There were no further discussions and no objections. The motion passed.

#### F. COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNMENT

Debra Nelson thanked everyone for their hard working in reaching this point together and collaboratively.

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barbara Barosa representing Putnam County and seconded by Elisa Picca representing Suffolk County. There were no objections. The meeting was adjourned.

## MEETING SYNOPSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

### NYMTC COUNCIL MEETING

#### ATTENDANCE

##### **Voting Council Principals/Representatives**

Debra Nelson for Marie Therese Dominguez, NYS Department of Transportation Commissioner  
(*Permanent Co-Chair*)

Paul Ochoa for Ydanis Rodriguez, NYC Department of Transportation Commissioner (*NYMTC Co-Chair*)

Barbara Barosa for Kevin Byrne, Putnam County Executive

Connor Clarke for Dan Garodnick, NYC Department of City Planning Executive Director

Elisa Picca for Ed Romaine, Suffolk County Executive

Joe Cuomo for Bruce Blakeman, Nassau County Executive

Craig Lader for Ken Jenkins, Westchester County Executive

Michael Shiffer for Janno Lieber, Metropolitan Transportation Authority Chair & CEO

Stephen Powers for Edwin Day, Rockland County Executive

##### **Advisory (Non-Voting) Principals/Representatives**

Dan Moser for Michael Culotta, Regional Administrator, FTA

David Behrend, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority Executive Director

Gautam Mani for Richard Marquis, Regional Administrator, FHWA

Hiep Tran for Michael Martucci, Regional Administrator, USEPA

Jay Shuffield for Richard Cotton, Port Authority of New York & New Jersey Executive Director

Robert Bielawa for Amanda Lefton, NYSDEC Commissioner

## MEETING SYNOPSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

### NYMTC COUNCIL MEETING

#### NYMTC Staff and Consultants\*

|                       |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Adam Levine           | Mark Maglienti      |
| Abdus Salam           | Mary Byrne          |
| Ali Asfar *           | Maura Fitzpatrick * |
| Ali Mohseni           | Merrill Frank       |
| Allyce Braddy         | Mike Chiume         |
| Amaury Medina-Milford |                     |
| Babatunde Tugbobo     | Munnesh Patel       |
| Bob Mortell           | Niloo Ghahramani *  |
| Carl King             | Olayinka Alamu *    |
| David Drits           | Rossana Weitekamp   |
| David Lake            | Sandeep Puppala *   |
| Emily McGhee          | Seitu Allen         |
| Fidel Garcia *        | Stephanie Brooks *  |
| German Hernandez      | Vicky Queenie       |
| Husong Han            | Sherry Southe       |
| John Simpson          |                     |
| Joomee Lee            |                     |
| Joy Britton           |                     |
| Kathy Lander          |                     |
| Kwei Pinger           |                     |
| Larisa Morozovskaya   |                     |
| Leslie Fordjour       |                     |
| Lynne Thisse          |                     |
| Manish Shah           |                     |
| Maniza Pritila        |                     |

## MEETING SYNOPSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2025

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#### OTHERS

|                                                     |                                      |                                                |
|-----------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------|
| Abigail Siemann (NYSDOT)                            | Kendra Armstead (Suffolk County)     | Trenise Fuller (Office of AW Larinda C. Hooks) |
| Anna Price (FHWA)                                   | Kenneth Jenkins (Westchester)        | Allison Allen                                  |
| Arthur T. Walsh                                     | Kimberly Pettit (Suffolk County)     | Adeleke Gbamuse (NYCDOT)                       |
| Assemblywoman Larinda Hooks                         | Konstandino Stratigeas (CBS)         | Anna Price (FHWA)                              |
| Ben Amster (NYS Assembly)                           | Kyle Strober (ABLI)                  | Bob Danielson (NYSDOT)                         |
| Berenice Navarrete Perez (NYS Assembly)             | Marc Rivlin                          | Cheryl Rose (NYSDOT)                           |
| Blanca Lopez (Westchester County)                   | Mary Arnold (CURES)                  | Christopher Cook (NYSDEC)                      |
| Brandon Greco (NYSDOT)                              | Mary K Murphy (PANYNJ)               | Esteban (NYC DOT)                              |
| Call-in User_3 (1845475****)                        | Melissa Naeder (Cushman & Wakefield) | Geoffrey Rick (NYSDOT)                         |
| Chris Chatterton (Suffolk County)                   | Michael Tolliver (KS Engineers)      | Jennifer Obler (NYSDOT)                        |
| Connie Lamos (Infrastructure Engineering)           | Mike Florio (LIBI)                   | Julia Seltzer (MTA)                            |
| Danielle Dookie (TRUE)                              | Milorad (NYC DOT)                    | Lisa Cataldo (NYSDOT)                          |
| DiGravio, Vicker (Community Board – number unknown) | Olga Kleymann (NYSDOT)               | Lisa Daglian (PCAC)                            |
| Don Mattimore (NYSDOT)                              | Peter Gill (Newsday)                 | Nicole Farmer (NYSDOT)                         |
| Eric Forte (CM Paladino)                            | Rae Shih (Governor's Office)         | Renee Peters-Smith (NYC DOT)                   |
| Hau Cho Li (NYSDOT)                                 | Randi Marshall (Newsday)             | Rockland County (no name)                      |
| Jeffrey Otto (NYC DOT)                              | Ron Shaffer (NYSDOT)                 | Rolando Infante (NYSDOT)                       |
| Jerry Morse (NYSDOT)                                | Sam Bowden Akbari, PhD               | Sandra Jobson (NYSDOT)                         |
| Joan McDonald (Westchester)                         | Sarah Lansdale (Suffolk County)      | Sean Bennett (Putnam County)                   |
| Josh Schneider (MTABT)                              | Stephen Canzoneri (NYSDOT)           | Steve Scaduto (NYSDOT)                         |
|                                                     | Talia Hoch (NYS Assembly)            | Ted Ritter (NJTPA)                             |
|                                                     | Terri Alessi – Miceli (HIA-LI)       | Tiana Grimes (MTA)                             |
|                                                     |                                      | Vincent Marciano (NYC DOT)                     |
|                                                     |                                      | Neile Weissman (citizen)                       |
|                                                     |                                      | George Paralemos                               |

**MEETING SYNOPSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 5, 2025**

**NYMTC COUNCIL MEETING**

**Respectfully Submitted,**

*Rossana Weitekamp*

**Public Information Officer**

draft and unapproved document

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### NYMTC COUNCIL MEETING



September 5, 2025

Recommended Action #4 in Appendix D that includes expansion of trash incinerators must be removed from the Regional Transportation Plan. It's not a transportation project, it works against Conformity, and it's unsupported by the Regional Waste Movement Study's crude projections – which are due to lack of available data.

One type of missing data the Study identified is solid waste management planning. For example, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's – DEC's – website shows the status of Local Solid Waste Management Plans (LSWMPs). It shows the Town of Brookhaven has no approved LSWMP. There is no indication of activity by the North Hempstead Solid Waste Management Authority after DEC's July 2018 comments, or by the Town of Babylon and Town of Hempstead after DEC's March 2018 comments. Other Towns in both Suffolk and Nassau Counties also do not have approved LSWMPs. In addition, Putnam County's LSWMP expired in 2020, with no further activity noted.

So, while advocating for expanded incinerators as so-called "renewable energy" with Governor Hochul, and preparing to vote on a transportation plan that slips in expansion of incinerators, some voting Members of NYMTC also are leaders of jurisdictions that have failed to complete required New York State LSWMPs. LWSMPs require local governments to plan – first and foremost – to reduce waste. Other jurisdictions have rejected the false choice between rail or truck to landfill or incinerator. They really are moving forward, with plans to reduce pollution and export to disposal -- including New York City's curbside organics collection and local composting. Replacing trucks with ash-by-rail-to-landfill is an insignificant emissions mitigation in this incineration scheme. And residents by freight rail operations fear toxics from ash-by-rail based on our experience with C&D-by-rail.

Finally, NYMTC's response to CURES' comment about ongoing use of Tier 0 freight locomotives in the MTA-LIRR right of way is insulting. The LIRR has had a so-called "active procurement" since 2018. And yet my 12 and 17 year old grandsons are still breathing the LIRR's and the New York & Atlantic Railway's locomotive pollution, even though PANY-NJ bought Tier 4 locomotives in 2015. Thank you. Please do better.