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*** Comments Welcomed on Conformity** by Chris Hardej

NYMTC is pleased to announce the start of a thirty day comment period on January 26 for NYMTC's Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination. Several projects in the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program are being amended and these changes require a new Air Quality Conformity Determination. Public meetings are scheduled on the Conformity Determination on February 10 at 3pm and 6pm. Please see the Calendar.

Contact: Chris Hardej at 212-383-7253 or CHardej@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Comment Period Starts on TIP Amendments** by Gerry Bogacz

The comment period for the related amendments in NYMTC's 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) opens on January 26 and will end on February 6. These amendments are proposed in anticipation of the passage of national legislation for economic stimulus. The details on the proposed amendments are available on request and can also be accessed on the NYMTC website, www.NYMTC.org/aboutTIP.cfm. Written comments will be accepted by e-mail or mail by 4pm on Friday, February 6, 2009. Contact: Chris Hardej at 212-383-7253 or CHardej@dot.state.ny.us.

*** LIRR President Addressed PFAC** by Alan Borenstein

Helena Williams, President of the MTA Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) spoke to a packed house at NYMTC's Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC) meeting on January 15. Ms.

Williams talked about the history and future of the LIRR and its current operations, including record on-time performance. She discussed future plans to modernize and expand operations, including the East Side Access project to Grand Central Terminal. Ms. Williams also discussed the role of the LIRR in Transit Oriented Development and then answered a number of pertinent, thoughtful questions from the audience. The meeting was webcast and can viewed from a link on NYMTC's home page (www.NYMTC.org) and Ms. Williams' presentation can be viewed at: (www.NYMTC.org/files/HelenaWilliams-01-15-09.pdf).

Contact: Andrea Miles-Cole at 718.482.4551 or AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.



*** UPWP at PFAC** by Alan Borenstein



NYMTC's Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC) voted to recommend the annual Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) at its January 15 meeting. The Council will act on the program at its annual meeting on March 19. The draft program consisting of the 386 page document including project details and 100 page Management Summary is available on the NYMTC website for your comments at: www.NYMTC.org/aboutupwp.cfm.

The UPWP contains \$25 million in new transportation planning funds for activities by NYMTC's staff and member agencies. The funds are used to develop NYMTC products: Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, Unified Planning Work Program and Congestion Management Process. The funds are also used to maintain and improve NYMTC's Best Practices Model and carry out air quality conformity analysis, as well as planning activities by NYMTC's member agencies.

Contact: Stephen Hausch at 212.383.7282 or SHAUSCH@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Bus Purchase Grants Available** by Nancy O'Connell

New York State Department of Transportation has just announced the availability of applications for this year's Section 5310 Grant Program. This program, which is funded through the Federal Transit Administration and administered through NYSDOT, helps not-for-profit organizations and certain public bodies who transport elderly individuals and persons with disabilities fund the purchase of buses. The program funds 80% of the vehicle purchase cost, with the remaining 20% provided by the applicant. The recipients are responsible for 100% of the operating expenses for buses awarded through this program.



A series of workshops will be conducted statewide in March 2009 to assist prospective applicants filing for the program. Please see the Calendar of Events for workshop locations and dates in the NYMTC Region. For those who are unable to attend the workshops, the March 24 workshop in New York City will be webcast live and also recorded for future viewing on the NYMTC and NYSDOT websites. Additional information and applications for this grant program are available through the NYSDOT website at www.nysdot.gov/public-transportation. The deadline for submitting applications is **May 1, 2009**.

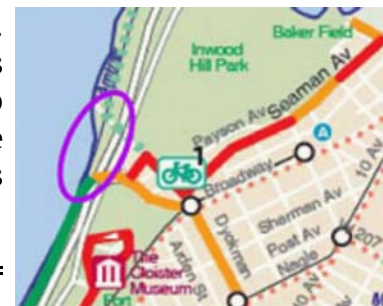
Contact: Matthew Haas at 518.457.5771 or mhaas@dot.state.ny.us.

*** We Upload- You Download** by Howie Mann

Prepare to enter a world of fresh new information. NYMTC staff has added new content to our website. We have uploaded new web pages for two of our projects: Assessment of Freight Villages In the NYMTC Region (www.NYMTC.org/project/freight_planning/freight_projects.html) and Hudson River Valley Greenway Link study (www.NYMTC.org/project/bike_walk/Greenways.html). Both pages contain information about the topics as well as downloads germane to the project and relevant links to

other websites. Please also visit the other freight pages on our website (www.NYMTC.org) and visit the pages periodically as the projects progress as content will be added on a continuing basis.

Contact: Howie Mann at 212.383.2530 or HMann@dot.state.ny.us.





* High Speed Rail by Abdus Salam

On December 16, 2008, the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) put out a request for expressions of interest in implementing a High-Speed Intercity Passenger Rail in the Northeast Corridor.

The request calls for proposals for financing, design, construction, operation, and maintenance of a high-speed intercity passenger rail system within either the Northeast Corridor or a Federally designated high-speed rail corridor. FRA is requesting interested parties to provide names and contact information by January 30, 2009.

Please see FRA's website at: www.fra.dot.gov/us/home.

Contact: Abdus Salam at 212.383.7231 or ASalam@dot.state.ny.us.

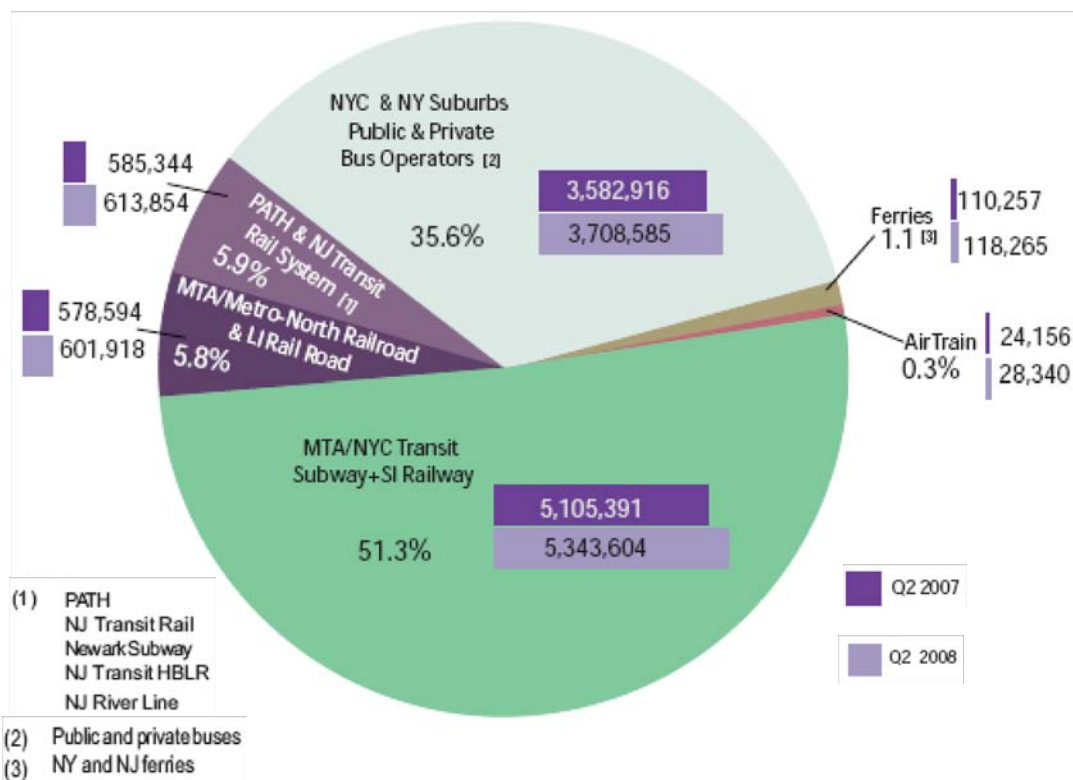


* DATA CORNER: Travel Patterns Changed by Adam Schildge

In anticipation of the upcoming 2008 3rd Quarter Travel Patterns Brochure, NYMTC has been reviewing the trends that were noted in the 2nd Quarter brochure covering April through June 2008. The second quarter of 2008 saw a 3% decline in the number of vehicles crossing the region's major bridges and tunnels as compared to the previous year. Crossings with free alternatives, such as the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel, the Manhattan Plaza of the Triboro Bridge and the Henry Hudson Bridge, saw the highest percentage declines in vehicle counts, ranging from 5.3% to 8.2%. The Queens Midtown Tunnel also saw a decline of 3.3%. The Bronx Whitestone Bridge was the only crossing to register an increase in traffic-1.2%. A combined average of 1.7 million vehicles traversed these facilities each business day.

In contrast to vehicle river crossings, regional rail and bus ridership increased by 4.3% in the second quarter of 2008 as compared to the previous year. Suburban bus ridership increased by 4.9%, New Jersey Transit Rail service increased by 4.4%, Port Authority PATH service increased 5.6%, New York City bus service increased 3.1%, and MTA-operated rail services

Average Weekday Passengers by Public Transportation Mode Q2 2007 and Q2 2008



increased a total of 4.6%. The combined average daily passenger numbers for these transit systems dwarfed the number of daily vehicle river crossings with a total of nearly 10.3 million passengers. The graphic, above, shows the share of daily transit passengers by agency as well as the year-to-year change in average daily passenger counts.

The upcoming report for the 3rd Quarter of 2008 will provide updated statistics for all of these measures, and will be available within the next few weeks alongside previous reports back to 2001 on the NYMTC website at www.NYMTC.org/files/TP_2Q_2008.pdf.

Contact: Leokadia Glogowski at 212.383.7223 or LGlogowski@dot.state.ny.us.

*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

1/22/09, 6:30pm, Access to the Region's Core Panel Discussion. Museum of the City of New York, 1220 Fifth Avenue at 103rd Street. \$5 for Museum members, seniors, and students and \$9 for general admission. 212.534.1672, ext. 3395, www.mcny.org/public-programs/.

2/10/09, 3pm & 6pm, NYMTC Air Quality Conformity Determination Public Meeting. NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC. Jackie Min, 212.383.7248, JMin@dot.state.ny.us.

3/5/09, 1:15pm, NYMTC Program, Finance and Administration Committee Meeting (webcast). 199 Water Street, NYC. Andrea Miles-Cole, 718.482.4551, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

3/19/09, 11am, NYMTC Annual Council Meeting. New York University. Andrea Miles-Cole, 718.482.4551, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

4/16/09, 1:15pm, NYMTC Program, Finance & Administration Committee Meeting (webcast). 199 Water Street, NYC. Andrea Miles-Cole, 718.482.4551, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

Workshops Nancy O'Connell, 212.383.2529, NLOconnell@dot.state.ny.us

-JARC/New Freedom Workshops- 3-5pm & 6-8pm,

1/29/09, Hudson Valley- Westchester County Center, 198 Central Ave., White Plains.

2/3/09, New York City (webcast)- NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC.

-Bus Purchase Section 5310 Grant Workshops

3/19/09, 10am to 12pm, Westchester County Center, 198 Central Ave., White Plains.

3/24/09, 11am to 1pm, NYMTC (webcast), 199 Water Street, NYC, 22nd Floor.

3/25/09, 10am to 12pm, H. Lee Dennison Bldg., 100 Veterans Highway, Hauppauge.



NYMTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization for New York City and the counties of Nassau, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester. NYMTC-Notes, issued every other Wednesday, contains articles and a calendar of events. Email: NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us for questions and comments or with **REMOVE** or **ADD** as the subject to unsubscribe or subscribe.

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