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NYMTC-Notes!

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* **MPO MOU Approved** by Alan Borenstein

NYMTC's Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC) adopted a record agreement in the form of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) at its January 17 meeting last week. The MOU was developed with four other Metropolitan Planning Organizations (MPOs) in the region: North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Org, the Greater Bridgeport/Valley MPO and the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials. The MOU was recommended in the most recent and in past Federal

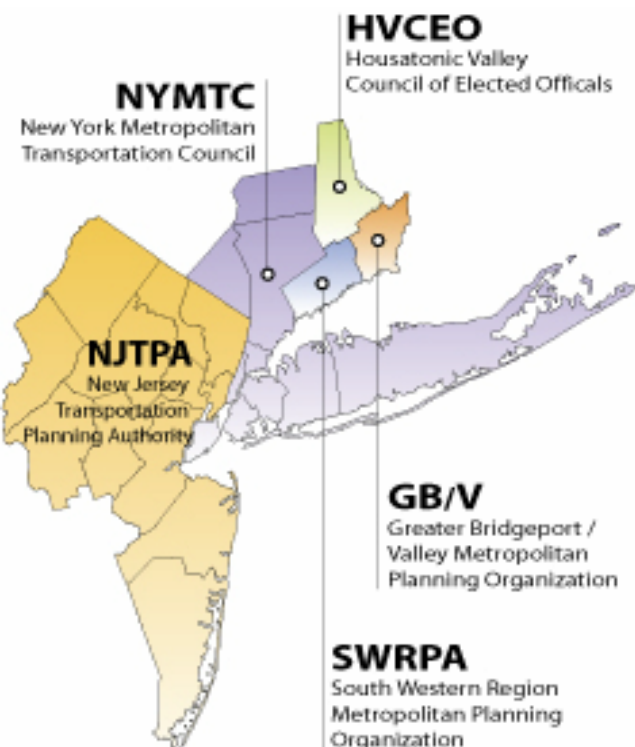
Certification Reviews of NYMTC and NJTPA. But even without the suggestion being in the federal Certification Reviews, this is a good thing to do.

The MOU is an agreement among the MPOs to voluntarily coordinate, cooperate and consult in each others' transportation planning processes. The MOU is intended to ensure that the products of each MPO transportation planning process take into account the impacts of the plans and programs developed by the other MPOs; help avoid duplication of effort; reflect consistency of approaches where possible; and ensure the consideration of the interests of all five MPOs. NJTPA and the Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials adopted a resolution last week at their meetings and we expect the other MPOs to adopt the MOU soon. The MOU can be viewed at:

www.NYMTC.org/files/Draft_MPO_MOU.pdf.

Contact: Alan Borenstein at 212.383.7200 or

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*** An Agenda for Change** by Gerry Bogacz

Speaking by video conference from Washington, Frank McArdle, a senior advisor to the General Contractors Association of New York, reported to NYMTC's members on the results of the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission, on which he served. Reporting at the January 17 meeting of NYMTC's Program, Finance and Administration Committee, Mr. McArdle outlined a broad agenda for change which lies at the center of the Commission's recently released report, entitled "Transportation for Tomorrow." The Commission was charged with looking at transportation policy and financing in the context of expected growth over the next fifty years and making recommendations that can inform the development of the next Federal transportation bill.

As reported by Mr. McArdle, the Commission's recommendations, released on January 15, call for a fundamental reconfiguration of the Federal transportation program and national transportation policy. This reconfiguration is to be achieved through streamlining the planning process and project delivery, as well as through the conversion of the current modally-targeted funding programs into a simpler set of performance-driven and outcome-based programs. The Commission recommends a simplified program structure built around six emphasis areas: asset management, national strategies for freight and metropolitan mobility, smaller cities and rural areas, intercity passenger rail, environmental responsibility and energy. Notably, these consolidated programs would be based on bottom-up planning in response to performance standards that would be cooperatively set.

Mr. McArdle indicated that the Commission underscores the need for additional spending for the country to be able to accommodate anticipated future growth and demand. The Commission recommends that current spending levels (approximately \$86 billion per year nationally) must reach as much as \$300 billion per year for the transportation system to be able to respond to anticipated future demands. In the short-term, the Commission recommends that increases in the gas tax be the source of the additional funding while a national transportation commission is created to look at long-term sources of funding. Mr. McArdle's presentation can be viewed in the archived webcast of the meeting on the NYMTC website (www.NYMTC.org).

Contact: Gerry Bogacz at 212.383.7260 or GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us.

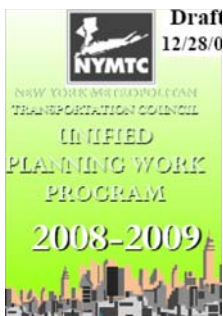
*** UPWP Approved** by Alan Borenstein

NYMTC's Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC) approved a resolution at its January 17 meeting to recommend the 2008-09 Unified Planning Work Program for action by the Council at the annual meeting in March. The draft program is available on the NYMTC website (www.NYMTC.org/aboutupwp.cfm) and comments can be provided at the meeting.

The UPWP contains \$26 million in new transportation planning funds for activities by NYMTC's staff and member agencies. These funds are used to develop NYMTC products: Regional Transportation Plan, Transportation Improvement Program, and Congestion

Management Process as well as transportation planning studies and research, forecasting and needs assessment activities. 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. The planning program is drawn from the Regional Transportation Plan, the planning priorities of the member agencies and public requests, both individually and through NYMTC's Planning Prospectus.

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*** NYMTC Addresses Water Council** by Joel Ettinger

I represented New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Astrid Glynn at a meeting of the New York Ocean and Great Lakes Conservation Council earlier in January. The role of the council is to address "coastal ecosystem-based management issues" and to issue a report to the Governor and State Legislature by November 2008. Members of the council include the Secretary of State and the Environmental Conservation Commissioner.

I made a presentation on the role of Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the planning and programming of transportation projects and discussed the role of NYMTC. This was followed by comments on how environmental factors enter into the transportation planning process.

Specifically, I noted that in developing the next NYMTC regional transportation plan, we must comply with new Federal requirements to identify environmentally sensitive areas in our region (including watersheds, preserved areas, waterfronts, etc.). The presentation was well received by the approximately 50 people in attendance at the meeting.

Contact: Joel Ettinger at 212.383.7236 or NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us.

*** School Safe Routes Application due April 1** by Jaeki Min

A Safe Routes to Schools Workshop will be held in Nassau County on January 24 (see the Calendar below). Safe Routes to School programs motivate children to walk or bike to school and encourage an active and healthy lifestyle. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), which will administer the program for New York, will reimburse 100 percent of project costs for successful applicants. A majority of the funding will go toward infrastructure improvements located within a two-mile radius of an elementary or middle school (e.g., new traffic signals or crosswalks and sidewalks). A smaller amount of funding will be provided to local municipalities, school districts, police agencies, and nonprofit organizations for public education and student outreach. Applications are due April 1, 2008. Please visit the NYSDOT website for the guide book and more information and to download an application form at:

www.nysdot.gov/portal/page/portal/divisions/operating/opdm/local-programs-bureau/srts.

Created by federal law in 2005, the Safe Routes to School program makes federal funding available to states based upon its population of kindergarten through eighth grade students.

Contact: Jaeki Min, at 212.383.7248 or JMin@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Sustainability Down Under** by Gerry Bogacz

On the evening of February 13, NYMTC, the New York Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association, and the New York Chapter of the American Institute of Architects will host three expert planners from Australia at NYMTC's offices in New York City.

South East Queensland is Australia's fastest growing urban region, increasingly confronted by issues of sustainability. In recent years, new regional planning processes and evolving changes in urban planning and urban design thinking are significantly changing both the role and ideology of governments at different levels and the nature and emphasis of the urban development being delivered or sought. But not without debate. Warren Rowe, Greg Vann and John Byrne have all had significant parts to play in this changing world from across different parts of governments and the private sector. Through looking at a variety of current and recent major urban projects, they will explore some of these issues and welcome feedback from New York's planning community.

Contact: Gerry Bogacz at 212.383.7260 or GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us.



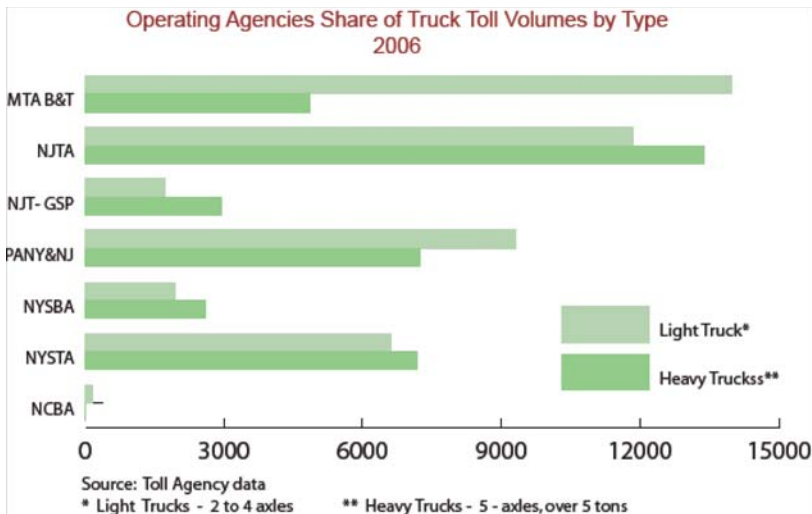
* DATA CORNER: Which Trucks Are Most Popular? by Mary Hrabowska

The 2006 *Truck Toll Volumes* report, which contains information relating to all aspects of truck travel over the region's bridges and water crossings is now on NYMTC's website:

www.NYMTC.org/data_services/TTV.html.

The report shows that in 2006 there were a 2.7 million vehicles with commercial license plates registered in the three state New York metropolitan region, a 5 percent increase from 2005. The most popular vehicle types were the two-axle and five-axle vehicles which combined total account for 76 percent. The graph represents the number of Light Trucks (2-4 axles) and Heavy Trucks (5-axles or more) by agencies.

Contact: Mary Hrabowska at 212.383.7231 or MHrabowska@dot.state.ny.us.



* CALENDAR OF EVENTS *

1/24/08, 2pm, Safe Route to Schools Workshop, Legislative Chamber, Mineola, New York.

Jaeki Min, 212.383.7248, JMin@dot.state.ny.us.

1/24/08, 7pm, NYMTC's Town Hall Meeting for the RTP, 2010-2035 (webcast). NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22 Floor, NYC. Jan Khan, 212.383.7251, JKhan@dot.state.ny.us.

2/7/08, 6- 8pm, 2008 Leadership Awards Ceremony, NYU Wagner Rudin Center, Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, NYC. Marta Panero, 212.998.7545, m.panero@nyu.edu.

2/13/08, 6pm-8pm, Sustainability Down Under, (webcast), NYMTC, APA, AIA. 199 Water Street, NYC. Gerry Bogacz, 212.383.7260, GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us.

3/11/08, 10am, Metropolitan Mobility Network, (webcast), NYMTC, 199 Water Street, NYC. Jan Khan, 212.383.7251, JKhan@dot.state.ny.us.

3/13/08, NYMTC Annual Council Meeting, New York University, Kimmel Center, NYC. Andrea Miles-Cole 718.482.4551, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.



NYMTC, an association of governments and transportation providers, is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for the region of New York City and the counties of Nassau, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester.

NYMTC-NOTES, emailed every other Wednesday, contains announcements, short articles and calendar. To unsubscribe, send an email to: NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us with **REMOVE** as the subject. To subscribe, send an email to: NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us with **ADD** as the subject.

For questions and comments, send an email to: NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us.

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