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*** Upcoming Meetings** by Alan Borenstein

Special Program, Finance and Administration Committee (PFAC) meetings will be held on February 19 and March 5 to adopt resolutions affecting NYMTC's major products to prepare for the economic recovery legislation and to adopt a new Air Quality Conformity determination. It is expected that these will be short meetings and there are no speakers scheduled.

At the next regular PFAC meeting on April 16, we will be welcoming Joseph Marie, Commissioner of the Connecticut Department of Transportation. Also, do not miss NYMTC's Annual Council Meeting on March 19. The Annual Meeting will be held, as in previous years, at New York University's Kimmel Center.

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



Joseph Marie

*** Economic Recovery Comment Periods** by Gerry Bogacz

The first comment period for possible amendments to NYMTC's 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will end on February 6. These amendments are proposed in anticipation of the passage of national legislation for economic stimulus. A second comment period on a supplemental list of possible TIP amendments will open on February 9. The details on these proposed amendments will be available on request and can also be accessed on the NYMTC website at: www.NYMTC.org/aboutTIP.cfm. Comments will be accepted by e-mail or mail by February 20, 2009.

Contact: Chris Hardej at 212.383.7253 or CHardej@dot.state.ny.us.

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

This is a reminder that the comment period for NYMTC's draft Air Quality Conformity Determination ends February 24, 2009. Several projects in the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program are being amended, requiring a new Air Quality Conformity Determination. Draft documents can be viewed or downloaded from our website at: www.NYMTC.org/project/conformity/conformity.html. Public meetings are also scheduled on the Conformity Determination for February 10 at 3pm and 6pm (see the Calendar of Events).

Contact: Chris Hardej at 212.383.7253 or CHardej@dot.state.ny.us.

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL
Transportation Improvement Program



*** Westchester Bus Forum Feb. 13** by Regional Plan Association

How regional bus would affect Westchester County is the subject of a forum presented by the Regional Plan Association and the Tri-State Transportation Campaign on February 13 in New Rochelle (see the Calendar). Speakers and panelists include State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer, Senators Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Jeffrey Klein (invited), Assemblymembers Amy Paulin and George Latimer (invited), Westchester DOT Commissioner Larry Salley, and bus rapid transit expert Walter Hook of the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy.

Regional bus is one of the recommendations in the "Ravitch Commission" report on funding and reforming the MTA. While some of the Ravitch funding recommendations, such as a payroll tax, have received significant public attention, regional bus has not.

As proposed in the Ravitch report, Westchester's Bee-Line and Nassau's Long Island Bus would be consolidated into a new MTA Regional Bus Authority and the MTA would assume financial responsibility for running both systems. The new structure has the potential to streamline operations and end annual feuds between the counties, state and MTA over funding the systems, allowing Bee-Line to more quickly expand, upgrade, and maintain its system. The forum will address this potential, along with the management, labor and funding issues that would need to be overcome to make it a reality.

A regional bus authority could also accelerate the creation of a modern, efficient, 21st Century bus system that includes innovative technologies like bus rapid transit (BRT). BRT uses a combination of technology, infrastructure, and procedure to get buses moving faster;

a pilot BRT route in New York City has increased speeds by 20% and has a 98% approval rating from riders. Westchester planners will discuss the county's plan to create its own BRT line and Walter Hook will describe BRT systems from around the world.

The event is free, but space is limited, so reserve by February 6 by contacting: steven@tstc.org. More information is available at www.rpa.org/.

*** 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.



*** Reducing Marine Emissions** by Gerry Bogacz

Reducing emissions from the vessels which ply our waterways moving people and freight was the topic of NYMTC's Brown Bag presentation on January 20. Dana Lowell, who has been working with Cross Sound Ferry Services on these issues, presented the steps they are taking to reduce vessel emissions in the waterborne services they provide. Mr. Lowell pointed out that the physical characteristics and emissions profiles of the large engines which power vessels on the water are very different from their terrestrial counterparts. Thus, the approach to vessel emissions reduction must be different when marine engines are involved. He pointed out that, due to stringent regulations on the emissions of land-based engines, the proportion of the overall emissions that is coming from the waterborne sector is rising, especially for particulate matter.

But emissions standards are also changing for marine engines. Mr. Lowell indicated that there are good options for cleaning the emissions of vessels. Repowering these vessels' engines is the equivalent of retrofitting many terrestrial engines, due to the size and output of the marine engines. Repowering involves replacing an old engine with a newer model. For the newer engines, technical changes to the engines are also effective in reducing emissions relative to the older engines they are replacing. Catalytic devices are available to be installed in the repowering of marine vessels, but passive filtering is generally not effective.

Repowering can be cost-effective to the vessel operator, but it is not cheap. Ferry operators must still make an investment to repower, raising issues of access to capital. Mr. Lowell indicated that the Port Authority has pursued a marine emissions reduction program in conjunction with their master planning for the Port of New York and New Jersey. This program has included financial support for repowering for vessels operating on the Staten Island Ferry and other commercial marine vessels operating in and around the port. The Port Authority has also financed engine upgrades for other vessels, which overhaul but do not replace the vessels' engines.

Cross Sound Ferry provides service between Orient Point on the East End of Long Island to New London, CT, a one way trip of 16 miles. The service is provided with a fleet of eight vessels, one of which - the vessel they use the most - they are currently repowering on their own, with a second vessel repowering in the planning stages. There will be cost savings due to fuel efficiencies with the repowering. However, the cost of these repowerings is approximately \$2 million per vessel. Cross Sound may not be able to proceed with the second vessel repowering without assistance with the up-front capital costs.

The presentation was webcast and can be viewed from NYMTC's website: www.NYMTC.org. The slide presentation is also available on NYMTC's website from the Presentations link or directly at: www.NYMTC.org/files/CSF-NYMTC-20JAN08.pdf.

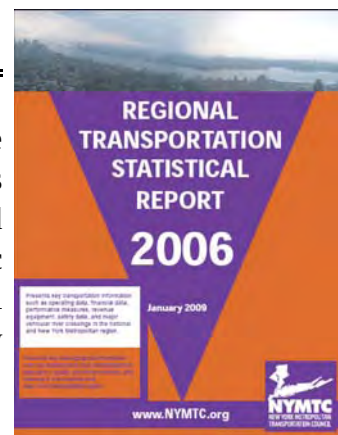
Contact: Gerry Bogacz at 212.383.7260 or GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us.



*** DATA CORNER: Statistical Report Released** by Imran Ahmed

The Regional Transportation Statistical Report 2006 has been released on the NYMTC website. This report presents key transportation information such as operating data, financial data, performance measures, revenue equipment, and major vehicular river crossings data. This report also presents key demographic information such as employment and unemployment, population, public school enrollment, and housing. Tables shown in this report cover national and New York metropolitan regional data. The internet link to the report is: www.NYMTC.org/files/2006_RTSR.pdf.

Contact Imran Ahmed at 212.383.2403 or IAhmed@dot.state.ny.us.



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

2/10/09, 3pm & 6pm, NYMTC Air Quality Conformity Determination Public Meeting.

NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22 Floor, NYC. Jackie Min, 212.383.7248, JMin@dot.state.ny.us.

2/13/09, 9am, What Does Regional Bus Mean for Westchester County?

Radisson Hotel, New Rochelle, NY. www.rpa.org/, steven@tstc.org.

2/18/09, 11:30am, Institute of Transportation Engineers Meeting, White Plains, NY.

Brian Dempsey, 914.592.4040, rdibiase@lkma.com.

2/19/09, 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.

2/24/09, 6pm, NYU Wagner Rudin Center Annual Leadership in Transportation Awards, 60

Washington Square So., NYC. Lina Duran, 212.998.7545, wagner.nyu.edu/transportation/conferences/.

2/25/09, 8:30am, NextGen: The Future of Aviation, Port Authority of NY&NJ and University Transportation Research Center. One Madison Avenue, NYC. www.utrc2.org, www.panynj.gov/nextgen.

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 and Administration Committee Meeting (webcast).

199 Water St., NYC. Andrea Miles-Cole, 718.482.4551, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

Bus Purchase Section 5310 Grant Workshops

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

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

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