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*** Annual Meeting with USDOT Deputy Secretary** by Alan Borenstein

Do not miss NYMTC's Annual Council Meeting on March 19 from 10am to noon. The meeting's special guest speaker will be the Deputy Secretary of the United States Department of Transportation (USDOT), Vice Admiral Thomas J. Barrett. Deputy Secretary Barrett serves as the Department's chief operating officer, responsible for the day-to-day management of DOT's \$61.1 billion budget, 10 modal administrations, and approximately 60,000 employees. Unfortunately, Secretary LaHood was asked to accompany the Vice President on a trip and is unable to participate in the meeting at this point in time. If those plans change, the Secretary will attend the meeting. In addition, Timothy Gilchrist,

Governor Paterson's Senior Advisor for Infrastructure and Transportation, will make a presentation on implementation of stimulus projects in New York State.

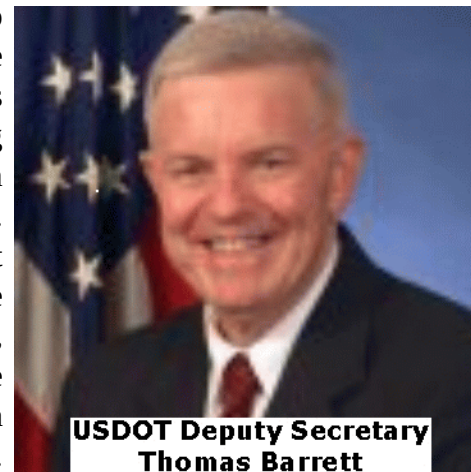
Also on the agenda will be the announcement of a set of strategic transportation investments to support the regional vision announced at last year's Annual Meeting of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. The Council Members will also welcome New York City's Chair of the City Planning Commission and Director of the Department of City Planning, Amanda Burden, as this year's rotating co-chair and will adopt the \$43 million Unified Planning Work Program for NYMTC's staff and its members.

As in previous years, the meeting will be at New York University's Kimmel Center, due to the size of the anticipated audience. Please reserve your space and see the Calendar below for details.

Contact: Andrea Miles-Cole at AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us or call 212.383.7200.



Amanda Burden



**USDOT Deputy Secretary
Thomas Barrett**



*** Comment Period Closing on TIP Amendments** by Chris Hardej

The current comment period for proposed changes to the NYMTC 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) is closing on March 6. The proposed changes impact projects in all three of NYMTC's regions: Lower Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island. The proposed changes for Long Island include several additional projects proposed for the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. Details can be viewed on the NYMTC website:

www.NYMTC.org/aboutTIP.cfm. Written comments will be accepted by 4pm on March 6, 2009. Contact: Chris Hardej at 212.383.7253 or CHardej@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Unique Transit at March Brown Bag** by Gerry Bogacz

The Roosevelt Island Tramway has been a unique and significant component of New York City's mass transit landscape for the past 32 years. At NYMTC's next Brown Bag presentation on March 18, Rosina Abramson, Vice President of Planning and Inter-Governmental Affairs for the Roosevelt Island Operating Corporation, will discuss the Tramway, its operating history, and the major \$25 million overhaul planned for July of 2009. See the Calendar of Events.

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



*** JARC/New Freedom Applications Due March 27** by Nancy O'Connell

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) and NYMTC are currently soliciting project proposals from the New York metropolitan area for possible funding under the Federal Transit Administration Job Access Reverse Commute (JARC) and New Freedom programs. The deadline for applications is **March 27, 2009**.

These programs are intended to fund innovative and flexible programs and projects which identify and address the transportation needs of individuals with limited incomes and persons with disabilities. Eligible applicants include private not-for-profit organizations, state and local government authorities and operators of public transportation services. This year's solicitation in the NYMTC Region makes available \$12 million in federal funds. Applications and information on these grant

programs are available through the NYMTC website at www.NYMTC.org.

Contact: Nancy O'Connell at 212.383.2529 or NLOconnell@dot.state.ny.us

*** \$2.5 Million Grants for Buses** by Nancy O'Connell

NYSDOT has announced approval of 95 grant applications statewide for the purchase of buses for transportation of individuals with disabilities and older adults through the Federal 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 fund the purchase of buses that transport elderly individuals and persons with disabilities. The program funds 80% of the vehicle purchase cost, with 20% provided by the applicant.

A total of 30 buses has been approved for agencies in New York City, 20 buses for the Lower Hudson Valley, and 13 for the Long Island area. NYSDOT has notified pending applicants of their estimated grants, pending final approval from FTA. Information and applications for the 5310 grant program are available at: www.nysdot.gov/public-transportation.

The deadline for submitting applications is **May 1, 2009**.

Contact: Matthew Haas at 518.457.8335 or mhaas@dot.state.ny.us.



*** DATA CORNER: Ferry Ridership in the Region** by Adam Schildge

The number of passengers traveling by ferry in the New York metropolitan region averaged 104,662 per day during the third quarter of 2008. This information is presented alongside a survey of vehicle and transit use in NYMTC's quarterly *Travel Patterns in the New York Metropolitan Region* brochure, available for download on the NYMTC website. Ferry ridership data in this report was obtained from a survey of ferry operators including NY Waterway, NY Water Taxi, Seastreak, Liberty Park Water Taxi, Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Steamboat Co., and the Staten Island Ferry.

According to the survey, the largest number of daily ferry passengers, 69,850, was carried by the Staten Island Ferry. Ferry passengers traveling to and from New Jersey averaged 33,262 per day, with roughly equal numbers traveling on BillyBey routes operated by NY Waterway (13,870) and on NY Waterway routes (13,696). In addition to these routes, an average of 5,183 passengers rode the Seastreak and NY Waterway ferries daily between Manhattan and coastal Monmouth County, NJ. Finally, an average of 513 passengers rode the Liberty Park Water Taxi from Battery Park, Manhattan to Liberty State Park, NJ.

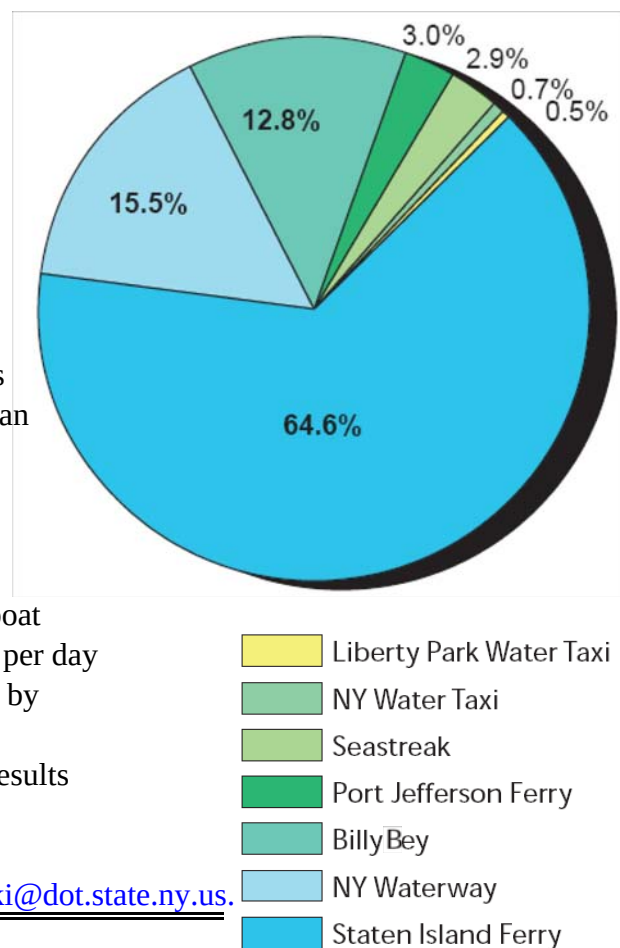
Looking upstate, the survey found that an average of 1,032 passengers rode the NY Waterway ferries across the Hudson River on the Haverstraw-Ossining and Newburgh-Beacon routes. On Long Island, the Bridgeport-Port Jefferson Steamboat Co. reported that they carried an average of 3,253 passengers per day during the third quarter. Overall passenger ferry ridership fell by 1,000, or 1%, since the third quarter of 2007.

Individual percentage changes, as well as previous survey results back to 2001, are available on the NYMTC website at:

www.NYMTC.org/files/Travel_Patterns_3Q_2008.pdf.

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

Average Weekday Ferry Ridership
Proportion of Ridership by Ferry Operator
Q3 2008



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

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.

3/18/09, 12pm, NYMTC Brown Bag Presentation- Roosevelt Island Tramway (webcast).

NYMTC, 199 Water Street, NYC. Gerry Bogacz, 212.383.7260, GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us.

3/19/09, 10am, NYMTC Annual Council Meeting, New York University, Kimmel Center.

Reservations required. Andrea Miles-Cole, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us or 212.383.7200.

3/20/09, 10am, Mid-Hudson South Mobility Advisory Forum: Access to the Region's Core-

An Update. Rockland Cty Department of Planning & Public Transportation, 50 Sanatorium Rd, Bldg T, Pomona, NY. Naomi Klein, 914.813.7758, nkk3@westchestergov.com.

4/7/09, 3pm, Westchester/East Coast Greenway Bicycle Summit, Westchester County Center,

198 Central Ave, White Plains, NY. Howie Mann, 212.383.2530, HMann@dot.state.ny.us.

4/9/09, 9:30am to 12:30pm, ITS Working Group Meeting. NYMTC, 199 Water Street, NYC.

Sal Mamone, 212.383.7228, SMamone@dot.state.ny.us.

4/16/09, 1:15pm, NYMTC Program, Finance & Administration Committee Meeting (webcast). 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, 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 Building, 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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