



NYMTC-Notes

March 2010

www.NYMTC.org

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Calendar of Events

- 3/8 - Freight Transportation Working Group
- 1:30 pm. 199 Water Street, 22 fl, NYC (webcast)
- 3/18 – NYMTC Annual Meeting
- 10:30 - noon
NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, NYC. RSVP to Andrea Miles-Cole at 212.383.7200 or AMiles-cole@dot.state.ny.us

NYMTC Annual Meeting to be Held March 18

Join NYMTC's Council Members at their Annual Meeting, featuring keynote speaker Adolfo Carrión, Director of the White House Office of Urban Policy, who will discuss the Administration's urban policy agenda with a focus on building strong regional economies, responsible and sustainable infrastructure, and capitalizing on human capital in urban areas. The meeting will also include a roundtable discussion by the Council members who will discuss *Transportation and a Livable Region*, followed by a vote to adopt the 2010-2011 Unified Planning Work Program. Visit www.NYMTC.org for more details about the meeting, including the agenda and to view the final draft UPWP.



Thursday, March 18, 2010 from 10:30 – noon, at NYU's Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, NYC. RSVP to Andrea Miles-Cole at 212.383.7200 or AMiles-cole@dot.state.ny.us.

FTA Deputy Administrator at PFAC

Therese McMillan, Deputy Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration, provided an Update from Washington DC on the Administration's Livability Initiative at the January 21 PFAC meeting. Her presentation touched on four major topics: Livability and Sustainability, noting a new focus on bicycle and pedestrian projects that support transit; New Starts streamlining and recently announced policy guideline changes; Transit Safety, enhancing



activities and actions already being undertaken by state oversight agencies; and the critical importance of maintaining a State-of-Good-Repair and addressing backlogs that exist nationally.

As former Deputy Executive Director-Policy at the San Francisco Bay Area Region's Metropolitan Transportation Commission, Deputy Administrator McMillan has had direct experience in regional planning activities. Her presentation is available for download at <http://tinyurl.com/ydasrex>.



Taking The Plan on the Road

Since the adoption of the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, entitled *A Shared Vision for a Shared Future*, NYMTC has gone on the road to present the Plan to planning boards and stakeholders' groups around the region. Presentations have been made to date to Westchester County's Planning and Transportation boards, to the Long Island Regional Planning

- 3/22 – APA NY Metro Chapter and AIA NY Panel Discussion: Planning for a Sustainable Region.
- 6:30pm.
Center for Architecture, 536 LaGuardia Place, NYC
RSVP to <http://cfa.aiany.org/index.php?section=calendar&evtid=1668>
- 3/23 – Public Meetings - Air Quality Draft Conformity Determination
- 3 - 5 pm (webcast) and 6 – 8 pm. 199 Water Street, 22 fl, NYC

NYMTC is a regional council of governments that is the metropolitan planning organization for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley.

NYMTC Council Members

Voting Members

- Stanley Gee, Acting Commissioner, New York State DOT and NYMTC co-chair
- Amanda Burden, Director, New York City Department of City Planning and NYMTC co-chair
- Jay Walder, Chairman and CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Council, to the East End Transportation Council in Suffolk County, to the Transportation Committee of the New York Metro Chapter of the American Planning Association, to the Suffolk County Planning Commission, to Vision Long Island's Smart Growth Working Group, and at NYMTC's Mobility Advisory Forum in the lower Hudson Valley.

These presentations help to spread the word about the metropolitan transportation planning process and to share information about the shared vision of NYMTC's member agencies. If your group is interested in having a presentation, please contact Jan Khan at 212.383.7290 or JKhan@dot.state.ny.us. For more information about the Plan please visit www.NYMTC.org/rtp.



Regional BRT Conference a Huge Success

Regional, national and international experiences and opportunities for developing a regional approach to Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) was the topic of *Catching the Next Ride: The Potential for Regional Bus Rapid Transit Systems*, a well attended conference cosponsored by NYMTC, NYU's Rudin Center and UTRC on February 24. Rudin Center Director Tony Shorris and



NYMTC Executive Director Joel Ettinger welcomed the group and introduced the topic and objective of the conference. Keynote speaker Therese McMillan, Deputy Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration (FTA), provided insight into the FTA's commitment to transit options, including a Small Starts award to New York City for BRT along Nostrand Avenue in

Brooklyn. She was followed by New York City Department of Transportation Commissioner Janette Sadik-Khan, who spoke about the city's success with it's pilot BRT project, the Select Bus Service along Fordham Road in the Bronx and into Manhattan, and its next efforts on First and Second Avenues on the east side of Manhattan.

With the groundwork set, the program consisted of two panels of recognized experts, and featured unique research papers specially commissioned for the event.

The first panel spoke about their experiences implementing regional BRT. Panelists discussed the characteristics of BRT systems and the importance of buy in from all involved constituencies, from riders to operators to users of the roadways that will be affected. They noted it helped to begin the process by selecting congested routes with high ridership that would benefit the most from improved travel times.



The second panel was comprised of local BRT experts representing NYCDOT, the MTA, New Jersey Transit and including Rockland County Executive Scott Vanderhoef, a strong advocate for integrated BRT service along the I-287 corridor as a key component of construction of a new Tappan Zee Bridge. The experiences of the New York region mirror those of more mature systems, recognizing that it is one tool in a complex tool box of transportation options. The presentations and research papers are available at <http://wagner.nyu.edu/rudincenter/conferences/symposia.php>

- Edward P. Mangano, Nassau County Executive
- Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation
- Robert J. Bondi, Putnam County Executive
- C. Scott Vanderhoef, Rockland County Executive
- Steve Levy, Suffolk County Executive

Rob Astorino, Westchester County Executive

Advisory Members

- Christopher O. Ward, Executive Director, Port Authority of NY&NJ
- James Weinstein, Executive Director, New Jersey Transit
- Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Alexander B. Grannis, Commissioner, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation
- Brigid Hynes-Cherin, Regional Administrator, Federal Transit Administration
- Jeffrey Kolb, Divisional Administrator, Federal Highway Administration
- Judith Enck, Regional Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency

Freight Working Group Reconvenes

The next Freight Transportation Working Group (FTWG) meeting is scheduled for March 8, beginning at 1:30 pm, in NYMTC's offices. The agenda for the meeting, which will also be webcast live, is available in the Calendar of Events at www.NYMTC.org.



Presentations will include a discussion by Norfolk Southern on their Crescent Corridor rail project and its implications for the nation and for the region, as well as a look at an innovative concept being explored by Jeff Kinzler focusing on moving freight by subway. RSVP to Gretchen Riederer at 212.383.7258 or GRiederer@dot.state.ny.us. For more information contact Howie Mann at 212.383.2530 or HMann@dot.state.ny.us.

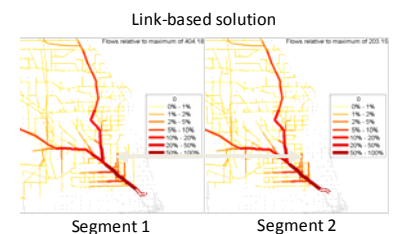
TAPAS - A New Traffic Assignment Tool

On January 15, NYMTC hosted a seminar on "Practical Implications of Using Consistent Route Flows" by Dr. David Boyce, Adjunct Professor at Northwestern University, jointly sponsored by NYU Wagner Rudin Center, NYMTC, and UTRC. Dr. Boyce's presentation was based on a study he conducted with Dr. Hillel Bar-Gera of Ben-Gurion University of Israel to create a new algorithm to improve the traffic assignment process in simulation modeling.

Traffic assignment process calculates distribution of vehicular flow in a roadway network considering demand between locations and the transportation supply of the network. The assignment algorithm distributes traffic on a roadway network according to a set of constraints which are related to roadway capacity, travel time between origin/destination, and travel cost. The traffic assignment process provides a tool for the decision-makers to do long-term transportation planning.

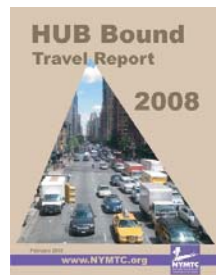
Dr. Boyce introduced a new traffic assignment tool, "TAPAS," currently limited to research purposes, that offers quick-precision as well as reasonable route consistency and proportionality in the distribution of traffic. Additional experiments will be needed before it can be successfully implemented in the industry.

North Avenue Bridge Paired Alternative Segments



2008 Hub Bound Travel Report Available

The 2008 Hub Bound Travel Report is now available for download at www.NYMTC.org. This report presents information of travel patterns by time of day, mode, and point of entry of Manhattan's Central Business District (CBD) – the portion of Manhattan lying south of 60th Street – on a typical day in the fall of 2008.



On that day in 2008, more than 2.2 million people went to work in the CBD, and an additional 1.5 million also entered the area. Between 2007 and 2008, the number of travelers arriving in the CBD by motor vehicles decreased by 5 percent while people entering using public transportation increased by 4 percent. The Hub Bound report provides information on the total travel in the CBD, together with hourly counts of persons and vehicles entering and leaving the hub. For the analysis purpose, points of entry and exit are grouped into

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Did You Know?

1874 - [Link to New Jersey](#)
- Colonel Dewitt Haskins
breaks ground for the first
tunnel under the Hudson,
designed to connect
Hoboken and Lower
Manhattan. It is
completed almost 30
years later. Parts of it are
still used in the PATH rail
system.

Gotham Gazette –
www.gothamgazette.com

five sectors: 60th Street, Brooklyn, Queens, New Jersey, and Staten Island.

The report in PDF format is available on NYMTC's website

http://www.nymtc.org/files/hub_bound/HUB_Bound_2008_Report.pdf

along with the tables presented in Excel.

http://www.nymtc.org/files/hub_bound/2008HB_EXCEL_TABLES.zip.

Census 2010 Underway

In March 2010, more than 130 million addresses will receive a 2010 Census form by mail or hand delivery. The 2010 Census will document the changes

United States[®]
**Census
2010**

in our nation since the last decennial census in 2000. Because census data affect how more than \$4 trillion in federal funding is distributed to tribal, state and local governments, the census also will frame the future of our country and our community for the next 10 years. During Census 2000, the mail participation rate was 72 percent

as of the April 2000 cut-off. About \$85 million is saved for every one percent increase in mail participation.

Here's what you should know about the 2010 Census:

It's easy. It's important. It's safe.

The most efficient way to respond to the 2010 Census is to complete the form as soon as it arrives and return it in the postage-paid return envelope. Census workers will visit households that do not return forms to take the count in person. For more information about the 2010 Census and the "Take 10" initiative, visit www.2010census.gov

Recent Brown Bags Address Complete Streets and Walkable Communities

At NYMTC's February 17th Brown Bag Lunch presentation, AARP's Will Stoner discussed the importance of transportation policy – specifically Complete Streets – to assisting seniors in maintaining their independence and mobility. Elements of Complete Streets – sidewalks, bike lanes, medians, high visibility crosswalks, pedestrian signals and signage, and transit stops improve safety, encourage walking and biking for health, provide better connections to public transit, improve economic vitality and encourage sustainable growth. Mr. Stoner described AARP's interest in these design policies, since improvements to safety, access and mobility are beneficial to seniors and help to maintain their health and independence.



At the January 20th NYMTC Brown Bag lunch presentation, Naomi Klein of the Westchester County DOT outlined the County's efforts since 2001 to develop a cohesive program to address walkable communities and Safe-Routes-to-Schools. Westchester first became active in organizing these workshops by acting as an intermediary with local municipal officials, and expanded its role by providing centralized information on the workshops to



all of the County's 43 municipalities, with the result that 24 workshops have been held to date in Westchester communities. Presentations from both Brown Bags are available on www.NYMTC.org in the Downloadable Files area, under Presentations.