



NYMTC-Notes

May 2010

www.NYMTC.org

In This Issue

- NYMTC Annual Meeting Focused on Livability
- Save the Date: Next Brown Bag is May 19
- Metropolitan Area Planning Forum Held
- Long-Range Planning in Northern New Jersey
- Freight Working Group Meeting on June 2
- Hubs and Spokes: The Region on Two Wheels
- Walk-Bike New York Symposium: June 7
- Two Upcoming Conferences

Calendar of Events

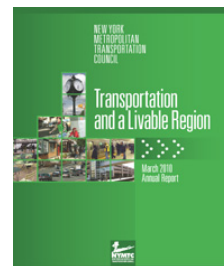
- 5/17 – *Robert Moses, Jane Jacobs and the Automobile*.
- 6:30 pm. Public Program at the Museum of the City of New York.
<http://tinyurl.com/MCNY-event>
- 5/19 – Brown Bag Lunch: Recycling Railroad Rights of Way - 12 noon, 199 Water Street, 22 fl, NYC. webinar – see details in Calendar of Events on www.NYMTC.org
- 5/21 - UTRC Visiting Scholar Seminar.

NYMTC Annual Meeting Focused on Livability

Transportation and a Livable Region was the focus of NYMTC's 2010 Annual Meeting, which was held on March 18th at NYU's Kimmel Center. Keynote speaker Adolfo Carrión, Director of the White House Office of Urban Affairs, discussed the Federal focus on building strong regional economies, supporting responsible and sustainable infrastructure and creating opportunity-rich neighborhoods. He noted that around the pace of urbanization – both at home and internationally – creates new opportunities and challenges for creating sustainable growth and more affordable living overall.



In his remarks, Director Carrión praised NYMTC and its members for being in tune with the Federal emphasis on livability through the collaborative regional planning process that recognizes the need to enhance and expand sustainable development and transportation systems. Following Director Carrión's presentation, the Council members spoke about initiatives they are undertaking individually and collectively to support livability. They reiterated their commitment to supporting sustainable growth and development for the region through a shared vision based on integrated planning and strategic transportation investments. These efforts are detailed in NYMTC's 2010 Annual Report, entitled *Transportation and a Livable Region*, which is available for download at www.NYMTC.org. The meeting was webcast in its entirety, and can be viewed through the webcast link on the NYMTC website.



Save the Date: Next Brown Bag is May 19th

Recycling Railroad Rights-of-Way will be the topic of the next Brown Bag lunch, at 12 noon on May 19. James Greller of the Hudson County Improvement Authority will discuss how abandoned and little used railroad rights-of-way need to be preserved for potential reuse opportunities. In New Jersey, for example, these rights-of-way have been used to create a light rail network in Hudson, Essex and Bergen counties. His presentation will describe the acquisitions that have been undertaken to create that system as a model for other locations in the metropolitan region.



The meeting will be held in NYMTC's offices at 199 Water Street, 22 floor, NYC; to RSVP contact Gretchen Riederer at GRiederer@dot.state.ny.us. The meeting will also be available as a webinar. Please see the Calendar of Events at www.NYMTC.org for details on how to register.

"Meeting the Nation's Transportation Challenge: How to Finance the Transportation Program."

- 9:30 am – 12 noon,
Baruch College,
Conference Center, 151
E. 25 Street, 7 floor,
NYC.

<http://tinyurl.com/UTRC-event>

- 6/2 – Freight Transportation Working Group
- 1:30 pm., 199 Water Street, 22 fl, NYC.
webinar – see details in Calendar of Events on www.NYMTC.org
- 6/7 – Walk-Bike New York Symposium
- 8:00 am – 4:00 pm., Hyatt Regency Long Island. Hauppauge, NY.
<http://tinyurl.com/Walk-Bike>
- 6/17 – High Speed Rail: Leveraging Federal Investment Locally
- 8:30 am – 2:00 pm., NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, NYC.
<http://tinyurl.com/HSR-event>

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

Metropolitan Area Planning Forum Held

The latest in a series of meetings of the Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum was held in Stamford, CT on May 3, 2010. The five MPOs in the NY-NJ-CT region – NYMTC, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), South Western Region Metropolitan Planning Organization (SWRMPO), Housatonic Valley Council of Elected Officials (HVCEO) and Greater Bridgeport/Valley Metropolitan Planning Organization (GB/VMPO) – established this multi-MPO collaborative forum in early 2008 to discuss regional transportation and planning issues.



At the meeting, Jim Redeker, Director of Public Transportation for the Connecticut DOT, delivered the keynote address on Thinking Across Regions. The meeting also featured presentations from the executive directors of the three Connecticut MPOs on planning priorities in southwestern Connecticut. Additionally, Kuo-Ann Chiao made a presentation on NYMTC's regional household travel survey, which just started in pretest, with the full survey scheduled to commence after the summer of 2010. The next meeting of the MAP will be held in November 2010. Information will be posted on www.NYMTC.org as it becomes available.

Long-Range Planning in Northern New Jersey

At a NYMTC Brown Bag lunch held on April 21, Lois Goldman, Director of Long-Range Planning for the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA), presented information about their recently adopted long-range Regional Transportation Plan entitled *Plan 2035*. NJTPA is NYMTC's sister metropolitan planning organization, covering thirteen counties in northern New Jersey.

Lois emphasized that during the Plan's development, NJTPA gathered as much public input as possible and then built future scenarios that could be tested through simulation modeling. At visioning workshops held throughout NJTPA's planning area, participants were asked to make choices among transportation strategies for the future, each of which would result in varying transportation and land use impacts. Software was used to organize the input into future story lines that included parameters such as land development, level and cost of travel, and levels of traffic congestion. Long-term funding needs were also estimated based on the strategies chosen.



Among the themes emerging from these sessions were the need for smarter growth, the priority needed for maintenance and preservation, and the need to focus on developing the bus network. The scenario planning element was built on these results and included assumptions about funding availability, the level and nature of growth and the level and nature of transportation investments. The outcomes of the scenarios were forecast using simulation modeling. Plan 2035 is available at www.NJTPA.org.

Freight Working Group Meeting on June 2nd

The next NYMTC Freight Transportation Working Group meeting is scheduled for June 2, beginning at 1:30 pm, in NYMTC's offices; it will also be available as a webinar. The meeting will include a detailed presentation by CSX Transportation on the National Gateway Corridor rail project, one of

NYMTC Council Members

Voting Members

- Stanley Gee, Acting Commissioner, New York State DOT and NYMTC co-chair
- C. Scott Vanderhoef, Rockland County Executive and NYMTC co-chair
- Amanda Burden, Director, New York City Department of City Planning
- Jay Walder, Chairman and CEO, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
- Edward P. Mangano, Nassau County Executive
- Janette Sadik-Khan, Commissioner, New York City Department of Transportation
- Robert J. Bondi, Putnam 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

the major national freight rail corridors under development in the United States, and its implications for the nation and for the region. This project is aimed at linking mid-Atlantic ports with Midwestern markets. Future Working Group meetings will focus on detailed discussions of other major freight-rail corridors.



The meeting will also include a presentation on barriers and opportunities for urban goods movement by Kendra Adams of the New York State Motor Truck Association and Stacey Hodge, of the New York City Department of Transportation. This discussion will cover the results of a collaboration between NYC Department of Transportation and the NYS Motor Truck Association to identify ways of addressing the needs of both truckers and the City.

To RSVP contact Gretchen Riederer at GRiederer@dot.state.ny.us. For more information on the webinar and the agenda, see Calendar of Events at www.NYMTC.org.

Hubs and Spokes: The Region on Two Wheels

Planning at NYMTC is not only about cars, trucks and trains. Bicycles are an important part of designing the transportation future of our region. Everyday, more and more people are riding bicycles, either to commute to work or recreationally. Currently, residents of the NYMTC region have about 1,100 miles of bike lanes they can enjoy, with more on the way. NYMTC's 2010-2035 *Regional Transportation Plan* anticipates that \$1.8 billion will be spent over the next twenty years on implementing pedestrian and bicycle related projects that will both meet the growing demand for bike lanes as well as incentivize the use of bicycles. By providing safe and direct bicycle routes, cycling can become accessible to a large range of ability levels.



The explosive growth of cycling has become evident at the region's core. According to the New York City Department of Transportation, bicycle commuting grew 26% during 2009. This surge in cycling is only second to the previous year's 32% jump. To accommodate cyclists, the city has built 200 miles of bike lanes in the last three years. However, New York City is not the only place in NYMTC's planning area with a commitment to cycling. Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley are attempting to make cycling safe, practical and attractive. The counties of Westchester, Rockland and Putnam have been collaborating on the Mid-Hudson South Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan for almost ten years. Currently, Westchester County is building a 52 mile multi-use path along the Hudson River called The Hudson River Walk; it is also exploring the construction of a 13 mile bicycle path known as NYS Bike Route 1, which would serve as the first phase of the East Coast Greenway's implementation in Westchester, from the Bronx



- Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Alexander B. Grannis, Commissioner, NYS 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

Joel P. Ettinger, Executive Director, NYMTC

Robert Zerrillo, Council Secretary, New York State DOT

NYMTC-Notes editor:
Lisa Daglian
212.383.7241 or
ldaglian@dot.state.ny.us

Contact Us:
<http://www.NYMTC.org>

NYMTC-
Notes@dot.state.ny.us

Did You Know?
1890 - Street Transit -
The first cable cars appear, replacing animal-powered streetcars.

Gotham Gazette –
www.gothamgazette.com

border to the Connecticut state line. This 2,600 mile corridor would extend from the Florida Keys to Maine.

On Long Island, Nassau County is planning to extend the Bethpage Bikeway to Syosset. When completed, this 8 mile corridor will connect the towns of Syosset and Massapequa, as well as providing recreational opportunities around Bethpage State Park. Within the next few months, Suffolk County's entire bus fleet will be outfitted with bike racks, which have been a popular addition for both recreation purposes and journey to work.



Jurisdictions in the NYMTC region have recognized the growing interest in biking as an opportunity to plan and support the bike-ped elements of the Plan. Harnessing this momentum will be key in building a more sustainable transportation system for the future.

Walk-Bike New York Symposium: June 7

Creating walkable and bikeable environments requires an active collaboration of people with interests in safety, land use, economic development, transportation, education, law enforcement, and health promotion. **Walk-Bike New York...Encouraging Sustainable Movement** is a livable communities symposium will provide participants with the tools to work together to create walkable and bikeable communities in New York State. It will be held at the Hauppauge Hyatt Regency from 8 am to 4 pm.

Topics will include Complete Streets, Safe Routes for Seniors and Youth, Education & Encouragement, Law Enforcement, Local Highlights, Funding Sources and Legislative Updates. This one-day symposium is sponsored by the NYS Governor's Traffic Safety Committee, the NYS Department of Health, and the Institute for Traffic Safety Management & Research in conjunction with the NYS Department of Transportation, NYS Department of State, New York Bicycling Coalition, Parks & Trails New York, Federal Highway Administration, NYS Association of Chiefs of Police, Inc., NYS Metropolitan Planning Organization Association and AARP.



For more information go to www.NYMTC.org, Calendar of Events, or visit www.itsmr.org.

Two Upcoming Conferences

May 21st – UTRC Visiting Scholar Seminar, featuring Michael C. Walton, Professor, Cockrell School of Engineering, University of Texas at Austin. *Meeting the Nation's Transportation Challenge: How to Finance the Transportation Program.* <http://tinyurl.com/UTRC-event>



June 16th – Rudin Center Conference. *High Speed Rail: Leveraging Federal Investment Locally.* Keynote address by Polly Trottenberg, Assistant Secretary for Policy, USDOT. <http://tinyurl.com/HSR-event>

