



NYMTC-Notes

June 2010

www.NYMTC.org

In This Issue

- Hudson River Valley Greenway Study a Hit at Riverdale's First Riverfest
- TIP Comment Period Opens June 28
- Regional Travel Survey Gets Underway
- A New Vision for New York City's Waterfront
- Freight Working Group Explores Rails & Roads
- Sustainable Strategies for Long Island
- The Greening of Route 347
- Save the Date: Metro Mobility Network Meeting June 29

Calendar of Events

- 6/23 – Newman Institute Conference: Freight and Our Region's Future - 8:30am – 10:30pm Newman Conference Center, Room 750, 151 East 25th St., NY <http://www.baruch.cuny.edu/realestate/events>
- 6/24 –Suffolk County Transportation Division Public Hearings to consider increased bus fares on SCT and SCAT service to potentially advance Sunday service - 3 p.m. – 7 p.m., County Center Building, Legislature's Meeting Room, Center Drive, Riverhead, NY <http://tinyurl.com/Suffolk-Bus>

Hudson River Valley Greenway Link Study a Focus at Riverdale's First Riverfest

The *Hudson River Greenway Link Study* was a featured component of *Riverdale Riverfest 2010*, held June 13th on the grounds of the College of Mount St. Vincent. The study is an ambitious project which seeks to connect the Hudson River Greenway in Manhattan with the Old Croton Aqueduct Trail in Yonkers, via Riverdale in the northwest Bronx. Dozens of area residents and politicians, including Sen. Charles Schumer, pictured below with organizer Paul Elston and NYMTC's Howie Mann, visited NYMTC's table to learn more about this important study, with several noting that they are looking forward to both the recreational aspects of a greenway link and the commuting options it could bring.



The goals of the *Hudson River Greenway Link Study* include providing a safe and direct route so that bicycling and walking will become practical alternatives to motorized travel and offer new opportunities for outdoor recreation. The Hudson River Valley Greenway Link will connect with the East Coast Greenway which runs from Florida to Maine—a true 'green' super highway.



As part of the *Hudson River Valley Greenway Link Study*, NYMTC is evaluating current conditions and formulating different alternative



alignments. There are four potential routes being considered. Each alignment comes with its own set of constraints. Moreover, they all share the challenge of finding a viable way of crossing the

Harlem River to connect Manhattan and the Bronx. For more information go to http://www.nymtc.org/project/bike_walk/Greenways.html

TIP Comment period Opens June 28

A new public comment period for proposed amendments to the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) opens Monday, June 28, and will end Friday, July 9. Amendments include four new projects proposed for programming in New York City; programming additional funding for Moynihan Station redevelopment; and deleting funding for two programmed projects in Nassau County. Details on the proposed amendments are available at <http://www.nymtc.org/abouttip-down.cfm>.



- 6/28 – Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Project Open House, Westchester County - 4 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Westchester Marriott Hotel, Grand Ballroom, 670 White Plains Road, Tarrytown, NY. www.tzbsite.com
- 6/29 – Metro Mobility Network meeting - 10:30 a.m., 199 Water Street, 22 fl, NYC. See details in Calendar of Events on www.NYMTC.org
- 6/29 – TRF Conference on Tomorrow's Airports with Susan Baer, PANYNJ - 12:15 - Moran's, 103 Washington Street (corner of Rector Street), 2nd fl. www.trforum.org
- 6/30 –Suffolk County Transportation Division Public Hearings to consider increased bus fares on SCT and SCAT service to potentially advance Sunday service - 3 p.m. – 7 p.m., Dennison Office Building, Media Room, 100 Veterans Memorial Hwy, Hauppauge, NY. <http://tinyurl.com/Suffolk-Bus>
- 6/30 – Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Project Open House, Rockland County - 4 p.m. – 8:00 p.m., Palisades Center, Adler Community Room, 1000 Palisades Center Drive, West Nyack, NY. www.tzbsite.com

Regional Travel Survey Gets Underway

The new Regional Travel Survey being undertaken by NYMTC and the North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority (NJTPA) reached a major milestone in April, with the initiation of the pre-test survey. During this phase of the project the survey design, survey instruments and methodology are being tested before the start of the main survey, where travel data will be collected from 18,800 households across 28 counties in New York, New Jersey and Connecticut. The pre-test survey is expected to be completed this summer, and the main survey is to start by the fall.

The new brand name and logo for the survey present this data collection effort as a keystone for the upcoming update of the NY Best Practice Model, NYMTC's regional simulation model, as well as for the provision of key travel statistics for the region. Representing the region's multi-modal transportation system, both the brand name and the logo will be used in all survey materials and on the new survey website, www.regionaltravelsurvey.org



Regional Travel Survey
For a better transportation future.

A New Vision for New York City's Waterfront

The Department of City Planning is currently preparing a Comprehensive Plan for the over 500 miles of New York City's waterfront, defined as New York Harbor and its tributaries, creeks and bays. *Vision 2020* will build on the original Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, published in 1992, and the city's experience over the past 18 years in order to set forth a new long range vision for a 21st Century NYC waterfront. Specifically, *Vision 2020* will identify key opportunities for improving its waterfront and outline strategies to realize this new vision.

The City's original Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, published by the Department of City Planning in 1992, established a framework for the citywide reclamation of the waterfront, guiding land use decisions along New York City's shoreline for the last 18 years. The plan recognized the diversity of the waterfront and the importance of balancing the needs of environmentally sensitive natural areas and the working waterfront with opportunities for public access, open space, housing and commercial activity.

Since 1992, and as a result of the original Comprehensive Waterfront Plan, New York City has made great progress in redefining its waterfront as a critical asset, understanding the sense of place it can create, and reconnecting New Yorkers to the water as an additional form of open space.



The Department of City Planning is required by local law to complete *Vision 2020* by December 31, 2010 and to revise the report every 10 years thereafter to ensure that the city's waterfront policies are updated. The process will include significant opportunities for the public to participate in the planning process. The first public meeting was held on April 8, 2010 and workshops for each borough will be held through the end of June. More information can be found on the project website at: nyc.gov/waterfront.



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.

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

Freight Working Group Explores Rails & Roads

The NYMTC region is almost wholly dependent on trucks for moving both the line haul and distribution portions of all freight trips. There are two ways to address this: shift more freight to other modes such as rail and marine; and address the attendant issues for trucks on which freight will remain. Modal diversion and diversity, and improving existing infrastructure for more efficient movement of freight are two key goals of NYMTC's Regional Freight Plan. On June 2nd, NYMTC's Freight Transportation Working Group (FTWG) held a meeting that explored addressing these goals.

The first presentation at the meeting was made by William Goetz of CSX Transportation, which is one of seven Class One railroads operating in the United States. He discussed CSX's National Gateway projects, one of the major national freight rail corridors under development in the United States, and its implications for the nation and for the region. Locally, in order to handle more freight in an environmentally preferable way, CSX used NYMTC CMAQ funding to obtain four Genset switcher locomotives to work in the Oak Point Yard and vicinity. In addition, CSX will benefit from yard improvements in that same location.



The second part of the meeting was a panel which included Kendra Adams of the New York State Motor Truck Association, and Stacey Hodge and David Wolloch of the New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT), discussing the results of a collaboration between NYCDOT and the NYS Motor Truck Association to identify ways of addressing the needs of both truckers and the City. They described how the City has undertaken unprecedented outreach to truckers, shippers and carriers leading to several initiatives including development of a truck route map, and improved coordination with other agencies.



Both presentations are available at <http://tinyurl.com/June2FTWG>

Sustainable Strategies for Long Island

At NYMTC's June 10 PFAC meeting, Michael White, Executive Director of the Long Island Regional Planning Council, provided an update on the development of the Long Island 2035 Regional Comprehensive Sustainability Plan. He noted that analysis and findings from the first phase of the Plan, a Regional Visioning Initiative, financed by NYMTC, will inform the overall plan, whose overarching goal is to achieve a regional public consensus for where the next generation of Long Islanders could live and work, the transportation systems needed to support these settlements, and the institutional actions required to ensure a prosperous, equitable and environmentally sustainable Long Island.



During his presentation, Mr. White discussed Long Island's assets – its institutions; entrepreneurial energy; abundant and inexpensive energy supply; the Long Island Rail Road; and Long Island's highway and arterial grid. It also details its challenges, which fall under the four pillars of tax and governance, economy, equity, and infrastructure. He noted the plan's goals: ensuring that Long Island is rationally governed; affordable for all; prosperous; and protected.

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, 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

Next steps in advancing the Plan are the development of a strategic framework with outreach to stakeholder resource groups, refinement of the strategy and ultimately, implementation. Immediate priorities have been identified for addressing the challenges that Long Island face to help move it toward a more sustainable future.



The presentation is available on www.NYMTC.org in the downloadable files area; more information on the Plan is available at www.lirpc.org.

The Greening of Route 347

Route 347 is the major arterial east-west roadway along the north shore of Suffolk County, picking up where the Northern State Parkway ends. At the June 16th Brown Bag lunch, Heather Sporn, Senior Policy Advisor and Mark Bocamazo, Regional Design Engineer for the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), discussed NYSDOT's vision plan to turn this fifteen mile long "road of a thousand curb cuts" into a suburban greenway that is better integrated into the fabric of the community it runs through, with a focus on safety, sustainability and choice.



Originally developed as a farm road in the 1950s, Route 347 now carries on average 70,000 vehicles per day. The vision plan effort was undertaken as a collaboration of engineers, landscape architects and environmental scientists. NYSDOT has awarded this project a rating of "Evergreen," the highest sustainability rating under NYSDOT's new GreenLITES program. It will be constructed as ten individual projects. When completed, the roadway reconstruction will include seven greenway stops; reduce energy use and promote transit use; protect and improve wildlife habitats and water quality; encourage biking and walking with a continuous separate shared-use bikeway and pedestrian path and sidewalks. The shared use path will connect a network of the many existing and proposed bikeways and pathways and parks in the area; and will improve safety for all roadway users. The vision plan builds on the current approved design alternative; improves quality of life, aesthetics & the environment; integrates the transportation system with local land use plans; and partners with communities and stakeholders.



In addition to receiving an Evergreen rating with the highest GreenLITES project score to date, the vision plan will receive the Vision Long Island Smart Growth award for 2010. This presentation is available on www.NYMTC.org in the downloadable files area.

Upcoming Events:

June 29, 10 a.m. – Metro Mobility Network Meeting

NYMTC continues to engage its members, stakeholders and the general public through the Metro Mobility Network on the mitigation of traffic congestion and improvement air quality through transportation demand management (TDM) strategies such as ridesharing, telecommuting, and parking management. The 511NY branding initiative and New Jersey's Global Warming Response Act Recommendation Plan will be discussed at the June 29th meeting. Please go to www.NYMTC.org calendar of events for agenda and details.