



NYMTC-Notes

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Calendar of Events

- 7/15 - 3-5pm and 6-8pm: RTP Public Review Meetings for Long Island. Babylon Town Hall, 200 East Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst, NY
- 7/16 - 3-5pm and 6-8pm: RTP Public Review Meetings for New York City. 199 Water Street, 22 floor, New York. (3pm meeting will be webcast on www.NYMTC.org)

Comments Sought on Draft Plan by Lisa Daglian

The first set of public review meetings for NYMTC's draft 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, entitled *A Shared Vision for a Shared Future*, were held in White Plains on July 14; upcoming meetings are scheduled for today on Long Island and tomorrow in Manhattan (see Calendar of Events). The public comment period for the draft Plan, which opened on July 1, closes July 31 at 4PM. Besides providing comments in person at a review meeting, the interested public can submit comments through the Plan's webpage at www.NYMTC.org/rtp. The draft Plan is available for download from this webpage. Comments may also be sent via e-mail at JKhan@dot.state.ny.us, via fax to 212.383.2418, or by mail to Jan Khan at NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York, NY 10038.



NYMTC's draft 2010-2035 Plan describes the shared vision of NYMTC's members for both the region's future growth and for the transportation system serving NYMTC's planning area. Updated every four years, the Plan is the product of a collaborative planning process among NYMTC's members with input from the region's stakeholders and local communities. The Plan's adoption by NYMTC's members will fulfill an important requirement in the federally-mandated metropolitan planning process, which establishes the region's eligibility for Federal transportation funding. The draft Plan uses socio-economic, demographic and travel forecasts to identify future transportation needs, and establishes a long-range framework for future improvements and investments. An Environmental Justice Assessment accompanies the draft Plan, which examines the transportation planning process in the context of the requirements of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and the Federal Executive Order on Environmental Justice.



The remaining meetings are as follows. They will be held from 3 – 5pm & 6 – 8pm

Long Island: 7/15/09 – **Babylon Town Hall**, 200 East Sunrise Highway, Lindenhurst, NY

New York City: 7/16/09* – **NYMTC**, 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, New York, NY 10038

*Note: 3PM meeting on 7/16/09 will be webcast on www.NYMTC.org.

- 7/20 – Congestion Management Process Status Report Comment Period Opens
- 7/24 – TIP Comment Period Ends
- 7/31 – RTP Public Review Ends
- 8/19 – CMP Public Comment Period Ends
- 9/17 – PFAC Meeting
- 9/17 – ITE Metropolitan Section contact: Lynn Weyant/Brian Lenz 631.451.6480
 - Afternoon: Reconstruction of Roslyn Viaduct
 - Evening: Nassau Hub Study/LI Lighthouse Project
- 10/8 – ITE Metropolitan Section contact: Jeff Smithline 201.587.9040
 - Afternoon: Career Day
 - Evening: Traffic Bowl
- 11/17 – ITE Metropolitan Section – Annual Meeting. Contact: John Miller 212.685.0900
 - Afternoon: TBD
 - Evening: Second Avenue Subway Project

Did You Know? In 1652, for safety reasons, the rulers of New Amsterdam instituted the first traffic regulations in America. The law barred wagons, carts and sleighs from being driven at a gallop.

Comment Period Opens on Congestion Report by Larry McAuliffe and Stephanie Camay

NYMTC's draft 2009 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Status Report will be available for public review and comment from Monday, July 20 through Wednesday, August 19. The draft Report will be available for



download at www.NYMTC.org beginning Monday, July 20. During the comment period, NYMTC has scheduled two public webinars on Tuesday, August 11th at 3:00pm and 6:00pm. The webinars will provide details on the Report and solicit public comments. Further details on accessing the webinars will be announced on www.NYMTC.org prior to August 11th.

The 2009 CMP Status Report provides a summary description of traffic congestion in NYMTC's planning area. Developed in conjunction with NYMTC's draft 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, the Report includes two different levels of analysis. The county/borough-level analysis provides county-level summaries of congestion for the 2009

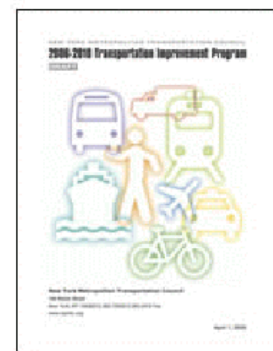
Base Year and for the 2035 horizon year of the Plan, while the regional-level analysis provides an overview of the level of congestion in the NYMTC planning area.

Federal planning regulations require urbanized areas with a population over 200,000 to develop and implement a CMP as part of the metropolitan planning process to manage traffic congestion through the integrated management and operation of the transportation system. The CMP should result in strategies that can be reflected in the Plan and in the transportation improvement Program.

Comments on the 2009 CMP Status Report can be submitted during the comment period by e-mail to lmcauliffe@dot.state.ny.us, by fax to 212.383.2418 or by mail to Larry McAuliffe at NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York, NY 10048. Comments will be accepted through the close of the comment period at 4pm on August 19th.

TIP Comment Period Closes July 24 by Chris Hardej

The current public comment period on proposed changes to NYMTC's 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) will close at 4pm on Friday July 24. The proposed changes include the addition of three Safe Routes to School projects to the TIP in the Long Island area. Details of these changes are available at www.NYMTC.org/aboutTIP.cfm. Comments can be submitted by e-mail to chardej@dot.state.ny.us, by fax to 212.383.2418, or mail by to Chris Hardej at NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York, NY 10038. Comment will be accepted through the close of the comment period at 4pm on Friday, June 24, 2009.



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
 - Helena Williams, Acting Executive Director, Metropolitan Transportation Authority
 - Thomas R. Suozzi, 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
 - Andrew J. Spano, Westchester County Executive

Advisory Members

- Christopher O. Ward, Executive Director, Port Authority of NY&NJ
- Richard R. Sarles, Executive Director, New Jersey Transit
- Mary K. Murphy, Executive Director, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority

GenSet Engines Will Reduce Emissions by Lisa Daglian

Four ultra-low emissions "GenSet" locomotives, purchased with Congestion Mitigation/Air Quality (CMAQ) funds programmed by NYMTC, were unveiled at Oak Point Yard in the Bronx on June 29. Howie Mann, NYMTC's freight planning coordinator, participated in the unveiling, speaking along with Representative Jose Serrano, Representative Jerrold Nadler, and leaders of CSX Transportation, the private company which will operate the locomotives.

NYMTC's Executive Director, Joel Ettinger, noted, "Improving air quality and ensuring the efficient movement of freight in our region do not need to be mutually exclusive. The technology that will power the new locomotives will reduce NOX and Particulate Matter (PM) and in doing so, will bring us closer to reaching air quality improvement goals established in our Regional Transportation Plan. NYMTC is pleased to have been able to play a role in securing CMAQ funding for these new engines."



Making the Way Clear for Stimulus by Gerry Bogacz

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) offers a unique opportunity for the New York metropolitan region to access additional funding for transportation projects that will maintain and improve the region's vast transportation system, creating jobs and economic activity throughout the region. Since all planning requirements must be met to establish the eligibility of transportation projects to receive these Federal funds, metropolitan planning organizations like NYMTC have played a prominent role in evaluating and selecting candidate projects and in facilitating the actual use of these funds within the ambitious timeframes of the legislation.

In NYMTC's case, that role has played out over the last nine months, beginning during the latter part of 2008, when discussions began among NYMTC's members and staff about the then-pending stimulus legislation, its relationship to the metropolitan planning process and to potential projects. NYMTC worked closely with the Association of New York State Metropolitan Planning Organizations and with program management staff of the New York State DOT, as well as with national groups such as the Association of Metropolitan Planning Organizations and the National Association of Regional Councils, to consider approaches and keep abreast of key elements of the legislation as it was developed. This groundwork helped NYMTC prepare for the evaluation and selection of candidate projects for ARRA funding and ensure that the procedural steps could be taken within the timeframes dictated by the legislation once it was signed.

ARRA was passed by Congress and signed by the President in February 2009, initiating a period of intense activity. NYMTC's preparations surely paid off during this period, as hundreds of possible projects were considered and evaluated and candidate projects were programmed into the Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Multiple public comment



- 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
- George Pavlou, Acting Regional Administrator, US Environmental Protection Agency

Joel P. Ettinger,
Executive Director,
NYMTC

Robert Zerillo, Council
Secretary, New York
State DOT

NYMTC-Notes is a monthly newsletter of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. NYMTC is a regional council of governments that is the metropolitan planning organization for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson valley.

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periods were initiated beginning in late January 2009 for those project actions that required public review. In the five months since the passage of the legislation, NYMTC has taken 122 actions to amend or modify the TIP so that candidate projects totaling nearly \$2 billion in potential ARRA funding could be readied for certification and ultimate obligation of funding by the Federal government. Each of the candidates meets strict tests of eligibility and deliverability within the parameters defined by ARRA. These candidate projects cover a wide range of project types, including bikeway development, bridge replacement, signal upgrades, procurement of transit equipment, pedestrian improvements, transit center expansion, ferry terminals and roadway repairs.

A complete record of NYMTC's actions to-date on candidate ARRA projects is available on the home page of the NYMTC website, www.NYMTC.org, by scrolling down to the section titled "Candidate Projects for ARRA 2009." Links in this section will take you to listings of the candidate projects and maps which indicate their locations.

For more information, contact Gerry Bogacz at 212.383.7260 or GBogacz@dot.state.ny.us

America Is Changing; So Is the Census by US Census Bureau

One of the most significant changes in modern census history will occur in 2010 – for the first time since 1930, all addresses in the U.S. will receive a census short form.

**United States®
Census
2010**

In recent censuses, most addresses received one of two forms: either the short form, which focused on the population count and demographics; or the long form, which included additional questions on socioeconomic and housing characteristics.

Nationwide, about one-in-six addresses in 2000 received the long

form. Together, the two parts of the decennial census showed not only the number of people living in America but also the way we live: education, housing, jobs and more. This information will still be part of the decennial census, but it will be collected on a continuing basis as part of the American Community Survey.

Although the U.S. Census Bureau's Population Estimates Program provides estimates of population and housing in the years between censuses, there were no updates on the estimates for the long form's characteristics data. Our nation is not static, however, and communities need current data to make informed decisions.

After a decade of testing and development, the Census Bureau launched the American Community Survey (ACS) in January 2005. The ACS is officially part of the decennial census and includes essentially the same questions as the long form. But rather than once a decade, the ACS is sent to a rolling sample of addresses every month, every year, throughout the nation. By 2010, the new survey will yield current annual data for all geographic areas of the country in the form of single- or multiyear estimates.

More information about the American Community Survey can be found on the Census Bureau Web page at <http://www.census.gov/acs>.

NYSERDA Funds Available

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) has issued Program Opportunity Notice (PON) 1520 to support development, demonstration, and commercialization of innovative transportation products, systems, and services. PON 1520 is titled "Advanced Transportation Technologies" and offers a total of \$2,000,000 of NYSERDA funding. Proposals are due September 16, 2009. NYSERDA anticipates making multiple awards. Projects can span a range from initial feasibility studies to full-scale product development efforts. The full PON can be downloaded from NYSERDA's web site at www.nyserda.org.



Interns on Board at NYMTC by Ben Kurland

Eight student interns are working at NYMTC this summer. With backgrounds in engineering, urban planning and administration, this group boasts impressive skill sets.



Constantine Spanos is a senior at the Macaulay Honors College at City College majoring in civil engineering. Ben Kurland is a junior at Columbia University and is an urban studies major with a specialization in economics. Yihong Song will enter her second year of her urban planning masters at Columbia. Yuan Tang and Jiuyuan Liu are both recent graduates of Columbia's urban planning masters program. Bhaumik Shah is pursuing a masters degree in computer science from the Polytechnic Institute of NYU. Amanda Bogacz will be entering her senior year at The Calhoun School and is working for community service credits. William Duong is a senior at Pace University and is pursuing a bachelors degree in business administration with a major in public accounting.

Currently, interns in the Technical Group are taking on projects like the construction of a GIS database for the 'Hub Bound Travel Report,' drawing relationships between economic indicators and travel behavior, assisting with socioeconomic and demographic forecasting and researching benefits of land-use/transportation models. In the Administrative Group, interns are reviewing sub regional and consultant bills for financial accuracy and checking billing schedules prepared by the accountants. In the Information Technology Unit of the Administrative Group, interns are assisting with the NYMTC web servers and transportation modeling software, and working with computer programming. In the Planning Group, interns are working with GIS, freight and bike/pedestrian planning, aiding with data collection, scheduling meetings outreach, and assisting at meetings and workshops, in addition to providing technical typing and tracking expenditures and milestones.

2006 Safety Report Released by Imran Ahmed

The 2006 Transportation Safety Report has been released and is available on the NYMTC website. This report presents the key transportation safety statistics for the twelve counties in the downstate New York region. Various data summaries are provided in this report. The report can be downloaded at http://www.nymtc.org/files/Safety_Report_2006.pdf. For more information contact Imran Ahmed at iahmed@dot.state.ny.us or 212.383.2403.