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*** TIP and Conformity Comments Requested** by Chris Hardej

NYMTC announces that July 28 starts a comment period for various proposed amendments to the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). Details are available on our website at: www.NYMTC.org/abouttip-down.cfm.

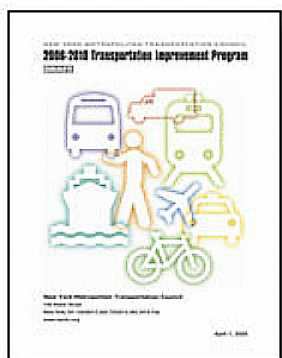
Most of these projects proposed to be amended are classified as "Non-Exempt" in terms of air quality analysis. Thus, the changes in these projects require a new Air Quality Conformity Determination. The conformity determination documentation for these projects is currently posted for public review at www.NYMTC.org/project/conformity/conformity.html. A 30-day public comment period on the draft Conformity Determination will end on August 8, 2008. Public meetings are scheduled on the conformity determination at NYMTC for July 30 at 3pm and 6pm. Please see the Calendar for details.

Contact: Chris Hardej at 212.383.7253 or CHardej@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Providers Being Surveyed** by Nancy O'Connell

Input from community transportation providers is now being gathered by NYMTC through July 25 via an interactive survey, that will be used to develop a new Coordinated Public Transit-Human Services Transportation Plan. To download a .pdf version of the survey or to complete the survey on-line, visit NYMTC's website at www.NYMTC.org/project/PTHSP/PTHSP.html.

If you or your organization is involved in providing or purchasing transportation services, we urge you to take the survey so that our inventory is comprehensive and complete. If you know of a transportation provider in your area, please let them know the survey is available on NYMTC's website. SAFETEA-LU, the federal transportation act, requires that such a plan be in place before services and transportation providers in the region may access certain funding programs offered by the Federal Transit Administration, and targeted for persons with disabilities, older adults and persons with lower income. This new plan will replace NYMTC's existing interim plan. Contact: Nancy O'Connell at 212.383.2529 or nymtcchs@dot.state.ny.us.





*** Rail Plan Workshop was Success** by Alan Borenstein

An interactive public workshop was held on July 10 at NYMTC's offices on the recently released draft 2008 New York State Rail Plan. The draft 2008 New York State Rail Plan presents a proposed vision for the State's rail system to enable it to meet passenger travel demands, freight shipping needs and the challenges of responding to climate change for both today's New Yorkers and future generations. The draft plan is on the NYSDOT website at: www.nysdot.gov/2008drafrailplan.

Contact: Jay Higle at JHigle@dot.state.ny.us.

*** BPM Users Met** by Michael Chiume

NYMTC hosted more than 40 people for a well-attended Best Practices Model (BPM) Users Group meeting on July 10. Participants included representatives from NYMTC's member agencies, consulting firms, academia, and various institutions and stakeholders. The main purpose of the meeting was to provide a forum for users to share their experiences and provide suggestions to improve the BPM. The BPM is a travel demand forecasting model that is being used in numerous projects in this region.

The BPM Graphical User Interface, developed to make the current BPM user- friendly and easy to run, was presented. A progress report was presented on the 2005 BPM base year update, where such data as traffic counts, vehicle counts and truck routes have been updated. There was also a presentation on the evaluation and testing of the BPM project to be completed in a few months, of which the recommendations are in draft form for review.

Contact: Michael Chiume at 212.383.7218 or MChiume@dot.state.ny.us.



*** NYMTC-Notes Marks Anniversary** by Alan Borenstein

NYMTC-Notes recently celebrated its tenth anniversary. Presently, there are almost four thousand subscribers internationally with readers throughout the United States as well as in Canada, Mexico, Nigeria, Australia, Japan, Italy, France, Great Britain, Taiwan and China. NYMTC-Notes has subscribers in the freight and transit industries, in government agencies and academia, elected officials, labor, and citizen and public interest groups, as well as members of the general public.

NYMTC's widely read electronic newsletter is published every other Wednesday with updates on projects, planning activities and calendar announcements. It is delivered automatically in .pdf format with the latest news from NYMTC. To subscribe, please see the instructions at the end of this issue. Past issues can also be accessed from our website (www.NYMTC.org).

Contact: Alan Borenstein at 212.383.7200 or ABorenstein@dot.state.ny.us.



*** Upcoming Community Workshops** by Jan Khan

NYMTC will be hosting a number of community workshops across the region during September and October of this year, as part of the public outreach process for the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan (RTP), currently under development. At these workshops, members of the public will discuss details of the new Plan's framework including various transportation-related trends and issues, the NYMTC

Principals' vision for the region, and federal requirements. The draft regional socioeconomic and demographic forecasts that form a foundation for the new plan will also be discussed.

Workshop details are in the Calendar of Events. Please note that each county or borough has two sessions. Ideas, suggestions and comments can be submitted in writing.

Contact: Jan Khan at 212.383.7251 or JKhan@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Shanghai Visits NYMTC for BPM** by Lisa Daglian

Increasing traffic, congestion and population, a situation mirrored by New York City, brought a delegation from Shanghai to NYMTC to learn more about the internationally-recognized Best Practices

Model (BPM). The July 17 meeting was led by Mr. Xiaosu Shen, Deputy Commissioner of the Urban Construction and Transportation Commission, other officials of the Commission, research scientists of Shanghai Maritime



University and Shanghai City Comprehensive Transportation Planning Institute. Shanghai City is undertaking a major effort to develop a comprehensive transportation model to provide a scientific basis for decision-making on transportation improvement programs and is interested in the BPM.

The delegation received an overview of the model, including its role in the planning and decision-making process, its data collection and information-sharing mechanism, improvement plan, modeling team organization and a demonstration of the BPM at work. Following opening remarks from NYMTC Executive Director Joel Ettinger, the meeting was conducted entirely in Mandarin by Technical Group Director Kuo-Ann Chiao and modeling staff Xia Jin and Fei Yang.

Contact: Lisa Daglian at 212.383.7241 or LDaglian@dot.state.ny.us.

*** Catch Them When You Can** by Gerry Bogacz

The webcasts of NYMTC's first two Public Information Series sessions are archived and available for viewing anytime through www.NYMTC.org by clicking on the Webcasts link on the homepage. The first one in May covered freight transportation planning and the second in June covered pedestrian safety topics.

NYMTC's Public Information Series is offered to interested participants in person, via a live webcast at the time of the session and through the archived webcasts at your convenience. The sessions are primers on important topics in regional transportation planning and are part of NYMTC's initiative to provide community education on topics for officials, stakeholders, practitioners and the general public. Other community education activities undertaken through this initiative have included workshops held in or for local communities on topics such as walkable communities, Safe Routes to Schools, parking management and pedestrian safety. The objective of the community education initiative is to improve the planning process overall by increasing general knowledge of planning issues and techniques while encouraging local communities to "think regionally and act locally" in these areas. Future Public Information Series sessions will be announced in NYMTC-Notes and www.NYMTC.org.

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

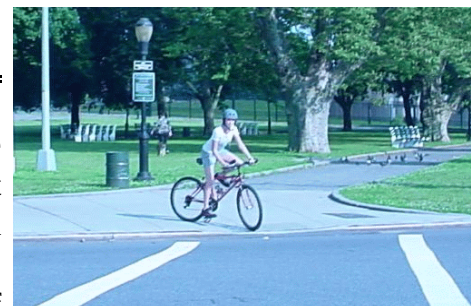


*** DATA CORNER: Bike Data Collecting** by Adam Schildge

As part of a multi-year project to build a comprehensive database of bicycle transportation throughout the NYMTC region, NYMTC's contractor has been out on the streets this summer conducting Phase IV of the Bicycle Data Collection Program. The data gathered will help support regional planning efforts.

Surveyors spend two to eight hours at each location and record the number of cyclists and skaters traveling in each direction. They also make a detailed breakdown of gender, user type, helmet usage and compliance with traffic regulations. Detailed information about NYMTC's bicycle and pedestrian planning programs, as well as data obtained during phases I to III, can be found at: www.NYMTC.org/project/bike_walk/bike_walk.html.

Contact: Adam Schildge at 212.383.7267 or ASchildge@dot.state.ny.us.



*** CALENDAR OF EVENTS ***

7/30/08, 3pm & 6pm, NYMTC Draft Air Quality Conformity Determination Meeting (webcast).

NYMTC, 199 Water Street, NYC. Tarrina Weaver, 212.383.7201, TRWeaver@dot.state.ny.us.

8/21/08, 1:15pm, NYMTC PFAC Meeting (webcast). 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC.

Andrea Miles-Cole, 718.482.4551, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

9/18/08, 1:15pm, NYMTC PFAC Meeting (webcast). Guest Speaker- Chris Ward, PANY&NJ.

199 Water Street, NYC. Andrea Miles-Cole, 718.482.4551, AMiles-Cole@dot.state.ny.us.

RTP Community Workshops- 9/15 - 10/7/08. Jan Khan, 212.383.7251, JKhan@dot.state.ny.us.

9/15/08, 3-5pm & 7-9pm, Brooklyn Borough Hall, Community Room, 209 Joralemon St.

9/16/08, 3-5pm & 7-9pm, Bronx Borough President Office, Hearing Room, 198 East 161 Street.

9/17/08, 3-5pm & 7-9pm, Staten Island Chamber of Commerce, Board Room, 130 Bay Street.

9/18/08, 4-6pm & 7-9pm, NYMTC (webcast), 199 Water Street, 22nd Floor, NYC.

9/19/08, 3-5pm & 7-9pm, Queens Borough President Office, Rm 213, 120-55 Queens Boulevard.

9/22/08, 3-5pm & 7-9pm, Putnam County, County Government Complex, Carmel, NY.

9/23/08, 3-5pm & 6:30-8:30pm, Rockland County, Palisades Mall 4th Floor Community Room.

9/24/08, 3-5pm & 6:30-8:30pm, Westchester County, County Center, White Plains.

10/6/08, 3-5pm & 7-9pm, Suffolk County, Dennison Building Media Room.

10/7/08, 3-5pm & 7-9pm, Nassau County, Legislative Chamber, Mineola.



NYMTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for New York City and the counties of Nassau, Putnam, Rockland, Suffolk, and Westchester.

NYMTC-NOTES, emailed every other Wednesday, contains announcements, short articles and calendar. To unsubscribe, send an email to: NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us with **REMOVE** as the subject. To subscribe, send an email to: NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us with **ADD** as the subject.

For questions and comments, send an email to: NYMTC-Notes@dot.state.ny.us.

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council is located at
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