



NYMTC-Notes

August 2009

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In This Issue

- Secretary LaHood to Keynote Sept. 24 Council Meeting
- CMP Public Comment Period Now Open
- Air Quality Conformity Comment Period Open
- TIP Comment Periods Open
- New I-95 Corridor Website Live
- Information RFP Due Sept. 17
- Save the Date: Sept. 17 PFAC on Smart Growth
- Parking Management Workshops Focus on Connectivity
- JARC/New Freedom Grants Announced
- 2007 Regional Demographics Brochure Available
- Join the Regional Planning Corps

Calendar of Events

- 8/14 – TIP Comment Period Closes

Transportation Secretary LaHood to Keynote September 24 Council Meeting by Lisa Daglian

Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood will discuss the Obama Administration's commitment to Sustainable Communities during keynote remarks at NYMTC's September 24 Council Meeting. The Sustainable Communities initiative, which was announced as an interagency partnership in June, incorporates six livability principles that will be used to coordinate Federal transportation, environmental protection and housing investments. The Secretary will also touch on other timely transportation topics.



Following the Secretary's remarks, NYMTC's members will discuss and vote on the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, entitled *A Shared Vision for A Shared Future*. The Plan forecasts future trends and provides a blueprint for long-range strategic transportation studies and investments to support sustainable regional growth. The meeting will be held at NYU's Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, from 10:30 - noon. Space is limited. Please RSVP to Andrea Miles-Cole at AMiles-cole@dot.state.ny.us or call 212.383.7200.

Congestion Report Comment Period Open

by Larry McAuliffe and Stephanie Camay

NYMTC's draft 2009 Congestion Management Process (CMP) Status Report is available for public review and comment through Wednesday, August 19. It is available for download at www.NYMTC.org, along with a summary Power Point presentation.



The 2009 CMP Status Report provides an overview of traffic congestion in NYMTC's planning area. Developed in conjunction with NYMTC's draft 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, the 2009 CMP Status 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. 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 through August 19 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 10038.

- 8/18 – RFP pre-proposal conference - 10:30 a.m.
199 Water St,
22 floor, NYC
10038
- 8/19 – CMP Comment Period Closes
- 8/25 – Air Quality Conformity Public Meetings
- 3p.m. & 6 p.m.
199 Water Street,
22 floor, NYC
10038
- 9/17 – PFAC Meeting
- 1:15 p.m.
199 Water Street,
22 floor, NYC
10038
- 9/17 – ITE Metropolitan
Section contact:
Lynn Weyant or
Brian Lenz
631.451.6480
- 9/22-9/24 – The 2009 Highway Data Workshop and Conference (HiDaC), in Oakland California will be webcast, with no registration fee.
<http://tinyurl.com/hidacconf>.
- 9/24 NYMTC Council Meeting
- 10:30 a.m. – noon
NYU Kimmel Center, 60 Washington Square South, NYC
- 10/8 – ITE Metropolitan
Section contact:
Jeff Smithline
201.587.9040

Air Quality Conformity Comment Period Open

NYMTC's draft Air Quality Conformity Determination, undertaken for the draft 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan and for proposed amendments to the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP), is available for public comment and review at www.NYMTC.org through Wednesday, September 9. Two public review meetings will be held on August 25, 2009 at 3 p.m and 6 p.m. The 3 p.m. meeting will be webcast live and will also be archived for viewing at a later date.



Federal regulations require NYMTC to produce a new Regional Transportation Plan every four years. Additionally, member agencies periodically change the TIP through the amendment process. Air quality analyses are required to accompany these types of actions.

Comments on the draft Air Quality Conformity Determination can be submitted through September 9 by e-mail to CHardej@dot.state.ny.us, by fax to 212.383.2418 or by mail to Chris Hardej at NYMTC, 199 Water Street, 22nd floor, New York, NY 10038. For the public review meetings, please RSVP to Tarrina Weaver at TRWeaver@dot.state.ny.us or 212.383.7201

TIP Comment Periods

* A new comment period opens August 17 for proposed changes to the 2008-2010 TIP, which will impact the lower Hudson Valley, New York City and Long Island; documents will be available on www.NYMTC.org at the beginning of the comment period. Comments should be sent by Friday, August 28 to:

Mid-Hudson South - JShanahan@dot.state.ny.us;
New York City - CKing@dot.state.ny.us;
Long Island: NLOconnell@dot.state.ny.us.

* The comment for proposed TIP changes for transit projects in Suffolk County which opened on August 3 closes on August 14 at 4 p.m. Comments may be sent to Nancy O'Connell at NLOconnell@dot.state.ny.us.

New I-95 Corridor Website Live by Lexi Bijelic (PBS&J)

A newly launched website, www.i95travelinfo.org, uses real-time data to allow long distance travelers to see congestion and get travel times on the I-95 corridor from the northern border of New Jersey through the southern border of North Carolina. The portion of the corridor that runs through New York State is expected to be included in 2010. The "Traffic" page offers users speed and congestion information on the I-95 corridor, including I-95, the beltways surrounding each major city, and all associated routes that together make up the corridor. Visitors to the website can manipulate the map to zoom to any of the covered states and D.C. The "Travel Time" page provides both the current, and the normal travel time for the selected route, using a list of provided locations. Users can select from a list of large cities, airports, and other landmarks to set departing locations and destinations, and the system will return real-time travel time estimates, based on live vehicle probe data.



Information RFP Now Available

NYMTC has released a Request for Proposals (RFP) seeking a consultant to provide professional consulting and planning services to develop a Transportation Information Gateway. Proposals are due by September 17. The project will create a Data Repository for maintenance, transactions, and data

- 11/17 – ITE Metropolitan Section – Annual Meeting. Contact: John Miller 212.685.0900

Did You Know?

The 1901 Oldsmobile was the first model equipped with a speedometer.

In 1901 the first speeding driver law enacted by a state was passed by the General Assembly of Connecticut in which the speed of motor vehicles should not exceed 12 mph on country highways and 8 mph on highways within city limits.

By 1910 the first drinking and driving laws were passed in New York State.

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

sharing, and a Data Warehouse with predefined browser-based Geographic Information System (GIS) and other applications for querying and analysis of data. The scope of the RFP includes determining hardware and software requirements and developing applications for input, storage, archival, query, and output. The RFP is now available on the NYMTC web site at www.NYMTC.org in the Downloadable Files under Request for Proposals.

A pre-proposal conference will be held on August 18 at 10:30 a.m. at NYMTC. To participate, RSVP to Ismet Apdiroglu at IApdiroglu@dot.state.ny.us

Save the Date: PFAC Meeting, September 17

At the next meeting of NYMTC's Program, Finance and Administration Committee, Paul Beyer, the State Director of Smart Growth at the NYS Department of State, will discuss Smart Growth and Energy/Climate Change. Thursday, September 17, at 1:15 pm. 199 Water Street, 22 floor. RSVP to Andrea Miles-Cole at Amiles-cole@dot.state.ny.us or 212-383-7200.



Parking Management Workshops Focus on Connectivity by Brian Kennedy and Larry McAuliffe

As part of its series of community workshops, NYMTC sponsored Parking Management Workshops in the spring of 2009 in the Town of Riverhead in Suffolk County, and in the Town of Greenburgh and the City of Mount Vernon in Westchester County. The workshops are developed in cooperation with NYMTC's member agencies and local governments. Upcoming workshops will be held in the Village of Farmingdale in Nassau County and the Village of Greenport on the North Fork of Suffolk County.



Parking management strategies can result in a better use of parking and transportation resources and can enhance economic vitality, add density, and improve traffic circulation. A key element in developing a parking management plan is to identify who should have priority for the best parking spaces – should they go to customers, residents, owners, employees, or commuters? Answering that question is one of the first tasks faced by the stakeholders at each of the workshops. The basic principals that impact demand, location, time, cost, and supply of parking are discussed, and then the participants examine the study area and develop a set of recommendations that are detailed in a meeting report.

Case studies from recent workshops

The Town of Greenburgh is studying how to incorporate potential new Bus Rapid Transit service along Route 100 (Central Avenue) as part of an update of the Town of Greenburgh's Comprehensive Plan. Ample off-street parking already exists through the corridor, so there are several opportunities for synergy with future BRT. The workshop participants agreed to the following building blocks for managing parking in conjunction with



the development of BRT:

1. Consider the potential of transit oriented development.
2. Enhance connectivity between the town's "Hamlets" and the surrounding residences to encourage walking and biking.
3. Encourage shared parking and parking trade programs.
4. Determine the appropriate level of parking required at new and existing development and reduce parking requirements when appropriate.

- 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
- Alexander B. Grannis, Commissioner, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation

The City of Mount Vernon is evaluating ways to maximize use of the Gramatan Avenue Parking garage, a large structure close to the Mt. Vernon East Metro-North Railroad station and adjacent to the downtown parking district. At present, the preferred parking spaces are on the streets in front of the stores and at the lots adjacent to the newly refurbished Petrillo Plaza.



Mount Vernon hopes to create a “sense of place” at the structure and tie it into the street network in order to maximize existing parking resources for retail customers. The group made these recommendations:

1. Extend the streetscape to the parking garage.
2. Place security personnel.
3. Renovate the garage to current standards.
4. Give priority to customers of the business district.

The Town of Riverhead is interested in maximizing parking availability and efficiency in order to enhance economic vitality in the downtown area as new development projects begin. The participants agreed to:



1. Develop a plan to share existing parking lots.
2. Encourage use of transit and walking and biking.
3. Manage supply through efficient pricing and timing strategies.
4. Develop improved signage to direct motorists to under utilized parking.

More information about NYMTC's Parking Management Program can be found at http://www.NYMTC.org/project/parking/parking_about.html

Contact: Larry McAuliffe at 212.383.7281 or lmcauliffe@dot.state.ny.us

JARC/New Freedom Grants Announced

On July 31, Governor Paterson announced the award of \$11.3 million for projects that promote transportation services for limited-income individuals or improve transportation accessibility for individuals with disabilities. These projects were selected through a competitive solicitation conducted by NYMTC.



The grants will support 13 projects throughout the New York metropolitan area and are distributed through two Federal Transit Administration programs: more than \$7.3 million in Job Access and Reverse Commute (JARC) grants and \$3.9 million in New Freedom Program funds. The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) will administer the funds.

The projects are expected to be approved by the FTA and implemented throughout the next year. This is the second year of these project awards, which help improve mobility by coordinating human service and public transportation needs. The selected projects provided clear evidence of needs that would benefit from new or expanded services. Additionally, the selected proposals demonstrated strong local financial commitments necessary to sustain the services and to support ongoing job-access efforts.

Governor Paterson said, “The New York metropolitan area has one of the greatest transit systems in the world, but many people have difficulty accessing it because of financial or physical limitations. The funding will provide assistance and additional services to thousands of individuals, supporting their careers and promoting independence.”



For project details go to <http://tinyurl.com/JARC-NF-projects>

- 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.

To submit an article or event, contact 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

Central Avenue BRT Study Report Available

by Naomi Klein, Westchester County DOT

The Central Avenue BRT final study report and newsletter are now available on the Westchester County Department of Transportation website: http://www.westchestergov.com/transportation/bus_rapid_transit.htm

Growing ridership and increased bus travel times on Central Avenue led Westchester County to examine alternatives to making bus trips more efficient in terms of travel time, information scheduling and passenger convenience.



An extensive analysis determined that as part of an integrated set of improvements, several components associated with Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) could contribute to achieving the County's objectives of reducing travel time, attracting new riders, improving corridor mobility and creating an integrated and customer-friendly transit service. Key elements of the Central Avenue BRT system could include fewer stops,

transit signal priority, a dedicated bus lane, off board fare collection and all door boarding, transit supportive land use and an in-line station at the Cross County Shopping Center. These improvements could decrease travel times by 25-35%.

Contact: Naomi Klein at 914.813.7758 or nkk3@westchestergov.com

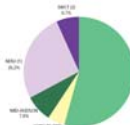
2007 Regional Demographics at a Glance Now Available

by Imran Ahmed

The Regional Demographics at a Glance 2007 brochure is now available. The brochure presents key demographic information such as employment and unemployment, public school enrollment, and housing in the national and New York metropolitan area. The brochure is available for download at http://www.nymtc.org/files/2007_Dem_at_a_Glance_final.pdf

Contact Imran Ahmed at 212.383.7225 or IAhmed@dot.state.ny.us

Regional Housing Unit Permits
Percent of the Region
2007



A Call to Action: Join the Regional Planning Corps

by Lisa Daglian

An integral part of the transportation planning process is an active and involved community. NYMTC is seeking to expand increase community participation with the help of community leaders and organizations that are willing to help spread the word about upcoming meetings and planning activities.

As a member of the Regional Planning Corps, your involvement will help us increase public participation in the planning process to build consensus on prospective transportation improvements in our region. We ask that Corps members share information on upcoming meetings and events with their constituents to increase the contacts we make



in our public outreach efforts.

Please join NYMTC's Regional Planning Corps and help us spread the word about the collaborative transportation planning process and how to get involved. Contact Lisa Daglian at LDaglian@dot.state.ny.us or 212.383.7241 to be added to the list, or with any questions.