



NYMTC-Notes

Special Edition

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www.NYMTC.org

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– 5:30 – 7:30 pm
Speakerquinn@council.nyc.gov
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- 6 – 8 pm

Editor's Note: On Thursday, September 24, NYMTC held a special Council meeting to adopt the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood provided keynote remarks, discussing the Administration's Sustainable Communities Initiative. This Special Edition of NYMTC-Notes focuses on the Secretary's remarks and the newly adopted Regional Transportation Plan. It also includes upcoming events and activities in the NYMTC region. To view a webcast of the meeting and for links to the Plan, the Secretary's remarks and his blog posting, visit www.NYMTC.org.

A Sustainable Regional Future at Heart of NYMTC Council Meeting

by Joel Ettinger, Executive Director, NYMTC

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council welcomed U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood as he provided keynote remarks at a special Council meeting on September 24. Focusing on the Administration's recently announced Sustainable Communities Initiative, the Secretary said, "The stakes for transportation's future here in New York, and throughout urban America, could not be higher. The economic health of our nation and the quality of life we secure for our children will depend on our ability to achieve greater energy independence, reduce energy costs, and grow our communities in ways that are truly sustainable."



Following Secretary LaHood's remarks, NYMTC's Council members took action to adopt the 2010-2035 Regional Transportation Plan, entitled *A Shared Vision for A Shared Future*, which establishes a sustainable regional framework for future transportation improvements and investments for the next 25 years. The crucial need to



- 10/16 - Westchester County Safe Routes to School Conference
www.westchester.gov.com/transportation
- 10/20 – NY-NJ-CT Metropolitan Area Planning Forum
- 9:30 am – 12:30 pm
- Through 11/1 - Tappan Zee Bridge Exhibition
www.rocklandhistory.org

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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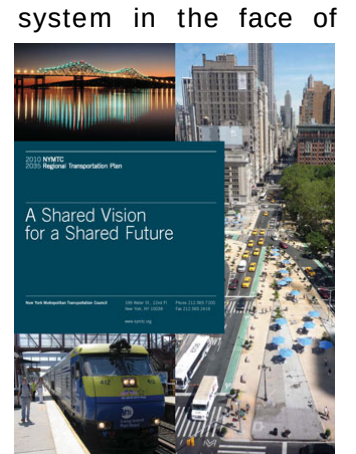
maintain and upgrade the regional transportation system in the face of forecasted growth is the key component of the Plan developed by the Council members. It establishes a shared, long-term vision for the transportation system serving the New York metropolitan region – its roads, bridges, freight and mass transit facilities, and its bicycle and pedestrian networks. Updated every four years, the Plan is the product of a cooperative public involvement and intergovernmental planning process, and its approval by NYMTC's members is required for Federal transportation funding.

NYMTC's members and staff worked extraordinarily hard to develop the Plan, which captures the vision for sustainable regional growth the Principals laid out last March. It includes a list of strategic regional transportation investments, including four foundation improvement projects that are a first step toward improving long-term mobility in the region; and a set of 10 strategic regional policy guidelines. The Plan is rooted in the Council members' mutual desire and need for sustainable development of the region.



This hard work and effort will help support regional growth over the next 25 years. Impressively, Secretary LaHood wrote in his blog in the days following the meeting that, "The Council's plan, 'A Shared Vision for a Shared Future,' gets it right." Read his blog post in the next article.

We are indeed pleased and proud that the U.S. Transportation Secretary took the time to participate in our special Council meeting, and that he then recognized NYMTC's efforts in such a national forum. We also believe that *A Shared Vision for A Shared Future* is built on a strong foundation of supporting critical goals for sustainable development in this thriving metropolitan area.



On sustainable mobility, New York region ready to lead

by Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood (reprinted from *Welcome to the Fast Lane* blog)

On Thursday, I spoke to the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council. They had convened to ratify their 25-year transportation plan for the region. The Council's plan, "A Shared Vision for a Shared Future," gets it right.

Look, our future depends, in large part, on our ability to achieve greater energy independence, reduce energy costs, and grow our communities in ways that



NYMTC Council Members

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- Stanley Gee,
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DOT and NYMTC
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- Amanda Burden,
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City Planning and
NYMTC co-chair
- Helena Williams,
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Director,
Metropolitan
Transportation
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- Thomas R. Suozzi,
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- Janette Sadik-
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- Robert J. Bondi,
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Executive
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Rockland County
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- Steve Levy,
Suffolk County
Executive
- Andrew J. Spano,
Westchester County
Executive

are truly sustainable. And, as the nation's most densely populated, transit-intensive region in the country, the stakes are obviously pretty high for a region like NY.

How do they get it right?

- The "Shared Vision" plan does a great job directing development toward concentrated mixed-use areas, and it envisions more walkable, bikeable neighborhoods.
- From the Second Avenue Subway to Moynihan Station, which is getting back on track, to the 7 line extension, the regional plan includes the most significant investments in public transportation and infrastructure in a century.
- The Council is implementing its first truly coordinated effort to launch a "frontal assault" on global climate change.

Beyond the plan, the region is taking other steps. For example, New York is sprouting new bike paths and new open spaces, like the pedestrian mall at Times Square.



There's a theme emerging here, which is that the New York region is not afraid to experiment, to think outside the box, to envision a future of enhanced mobility with less congestion, less pollution, and less sprawl.

This is consistent with the Obama Administration's "Livable Communities" initiative, which I have discussed often on these pages.

Taken together, these efforts will produce a profound strategic shift in our commuting and travel patterns—with far greater emphasis on efficient, sustainable mobility than this country has seen.

On DOT's end, we're going to work with Congress to streamline federal transportation programs, identify new sustainable funding sources, and provide greater flexibility to metropolitan regions. This approach will give New York greater flexibility to invest in the public transportation projects that feed into the region's agenda to improve mobility and sustainability.

Since metro areas comprise over 80% of the U.S. population—and account for most of the congestion and greenhouse gas emissions, these areas must be empowered to tackle their transportation and energy problems.

In the end, forward-thinking plans like the NY Metropolitan Transportation Council's and greater flexibility for planning regions will move us closer to enjoying cities and suburbs that are cleaner, less congested, and less polluted.

The stakes are high, yes, but with leadership from regions like NY, the future is promising indeed.

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
- 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 Zerrillo,
Council Secretary,
New York State
DOT

Events Update

TIP Comment Period Opens October 5th

- A public comment period for proposed changes to the 2008-2012 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) opens October 5th. The proposed changes impact transportation projects in all three of NYMTC's sub-regions: Lower Hudson Valley, New York City, and Long Island. Details on the proposed amendments will be posted on the NYMTC website by the start of the comment period at: <http://www.nymtc.org/abouttip-down.cfm>. The comment period will end 4 p.m. on Wednesday October 14, 2009.

Public Meeting on Expanded Ferry Service in Manhattan October 5, 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

- The New York City Economic Development Corporation and the New York City Department of Transportation have begun a six-month Comprehensive Citywide Ferry Study that aims to further expand ferry service around New York City and identify areas in each borough that are suitable for new ferry landing sites.
 - Hunter School of Social Work at 129 E. 79th Street in Manhattan.
- RSVP to Speakerquinn@council.nyc.gov or 212-788-9221

Broadway Public Feedback Session October 5, 6 pm – 8 pm

- The public is invited to give feedback on recent changes to Broadway from 23rd Street to Columbus Circle.
 - New Yorker Hotel, 481 8th Avenue at 34th Street in Manhattan.

Westchester County Safe Routes to School Conference October 16, 8:30 am

- The Westchester County Department of Transportation will host a Safe Routes to School Conference (SRTS) Local Initiative to focus on how different communities have risen to the challenge and developed their own SRTS programs.

RSVP by October 13 to Charles Sutter at cjs2@westchestergov.com

For more information visit www.westchestergov.com/transportation

NY-NJ-CT Metropolitan Area Planning Forum October 20, 9:30 am – 12:30 pm

- This meeting will provide a forum for discussion among the key Metropolitan Planning Organizations in the multi-state region, to advance the efforts of regional planning, and to discuss and review areas of coordination, cooperation and consultation, in accordance with the provisions of the Planning Coordination MOU adopted in 2008 by NYMTC, NJTPA, SWRPA, HVCEO and GB/VMPO.
 - NJTPA, One Newark Center, Newark, NJ. The agenda and more information will be available on www.NYMTC.org in the coming days.

Tappan Zee Bridge Exhibition - through November 1, 2009

- This exhibit will explore Rockland County in the 20th century before the building of the bridge, during its construction along with the New York State Thruway, and how the county changed after the bridge.
 - Historical Society of Rockland County, 20 Zukor Road, New City, NY 10956. 845-634-9629. www.rocklandhistory.org