



Spring 2024

■ ■ ■ NYMTC NOTES

Welcome to NYMTC Notes

Inside this issue you'll find a recap of the efforts and accomplishments of NYMTC and its members to keep our transportation system optimally funded and functioning.

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About NYMTC

NYMTC is the federally mandated council of governments that directs the use of billions of dollars in federal transportation funds for New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley.

As the area's Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), NYMTC provides a collaborative planning forum that addresses transportation-related issues and develops regional plans and goals through a shared vision for its regional transportation network.

Visit www.nymtc.org/ABOUT-US to learn more!

NYMTC Announces Project Funding Across the Region During Its Annual Council Meeting

NYMTC adopted its 2024-2025 State Fiscal Year Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP) and hosted key government officials who highlighted transportation's vital role in connecting communities during NYMTC's Annual Council Meeting on February 29th. The meeting was open to the public.

The UPWP is NYMTC's guiding fiscal plan that defines its transportation planning priorities and describes all federally funded transportation-related planning activities for the specified year. Council members voted unanimously to adopt the UPWP and approved funding for many exciting projects, some of which include:

- Putnam County Complete Streets Initiative (Putnam County)
- Electric Vehicle Fleet Conversion and Electric Charging Station Masterplan (Nassau County)
- Second Ave Subway West Expansion Study (Metropolitan Transportation Authority)
- Improving Mobility for the Aging Population Study (Westchester County)
- Clarkstown Safety and Sustainability Study for Route 303 & Route 304 (Rockland County)

The event featured two keynote speakers – Federal Highway Administration's Administrator Shailen Bhatt and the Federal Transit Administration's Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool – who described the federal government's steadfast support of high-visibility transportation planning projects under development throughout New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley.



NYMTC Annual Council Meeting

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Federal Highway Administration's Administrator Shailen Bhatt



Federal Transit Administration's Acting Administrator Veronica Vanterpool

NYMTC also gave service recognitions to several government agency administrators and announced transitions of leadership in the Council. Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman will become NYMTC's new co-chair for 2024-2025.

"This was our first in-person meeting since the COVID shutdown, so we are delighted to see the high level of face-to-face engagement and interest in our members' diverse, collaborative approaches to connect communities throughout our planning area," said Adam S. Levine, executive director of NYMTC. "We're looking forward to helping our members implement the many projects they have moving forward."

A recording of the annual meeting is on NYMTC's [YouTube](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrPN8-LusH0) channel at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lrPN8-LusH0>



Co-Chairs Westchester County Executive Latimer and New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Dominguez

NYMTC Recaps its Accomplishments and Member Project Highlights in its 2023 Annual Report

NYMTC's 2023 Annual Report, "Connecting Communities," is now online! Learn about NYMTC's structure, responsibilities, studies, programs, and products, and discover the many member agency activities that have received federal funding through the NYMTC process.

[Read the report here.](#)



NYMTC's 2022 Hub Bound Travel Data Report Shows Noteworthy Increases in Central Business District Travel Volume Since 2021

Released in March 2024, NYMTC's 2022 *Hub Bound Travel Data Report* found that travel volume in and out of Manhattan's Central Business District (CBD) increased since 2021. Hub Bound measures and evaluates the extent of public and private transportation modes operating in Manhattan's CBD, which starts at its northern perimeter at 60th Street and encompasses all areas east and west to the southernmost boundary in Battery Park.

The study reported that the number of people traveling in and out of Manhattan's CBD in 2022 increased across all public and private forms of transportation.

Overall transit ridership grew by 24% since the 2021 report. During rush hour, ridership on MTA subways transported 2.9 million passengers on one weekday in October, a 17% increase from 2021. Commuter and intercity rail trains saw more than 175,600 passengers in 2022 compared to 2021.

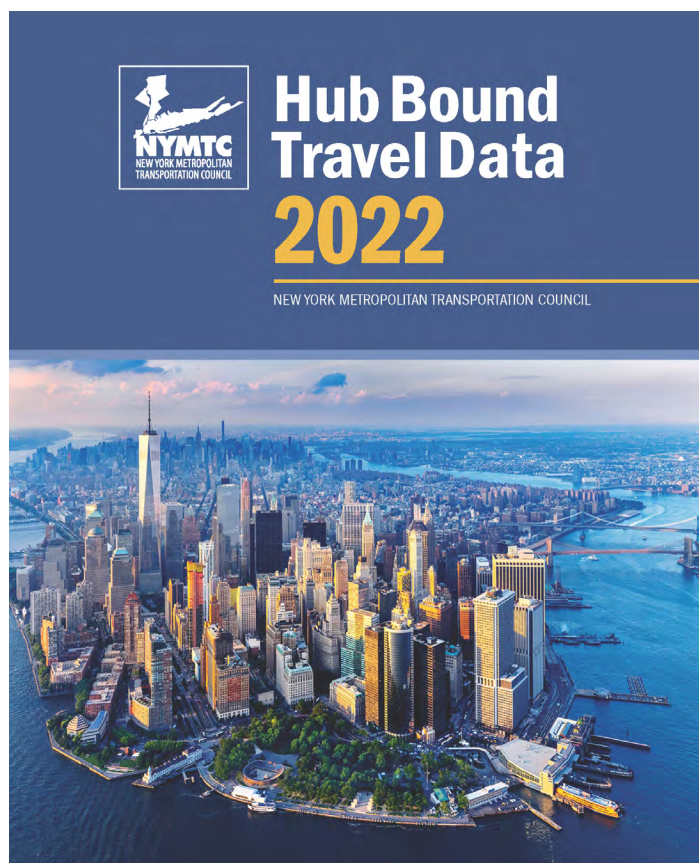
In addition to public transportation, ridership for motor vehicles (including autos, taxis, trucks, and vans), bicyclists, ferry travelers, and the Roosevelt Island Tramway increased from 2021 to 2022.

Despite the increases, the study showed that changes in travel behavior due to the COVID-19 pandemic remain. However, the steady increase in travel into Manhattan's CBD has continued since the beginning of the pandemic in 2020.

The study is an important tool for NYMTC to analyze transportation growth and patterns that can guide future policy, funding, and priorities across the metropolitan region.

"The primary significance of the *Hub Bound Report* is in the transportation planning process: it helps us define priorities that will yield seamless, safe, accessible, and environmentally friendly transportation in and out of the CBD," said Adam S. Levine. "We thank all our member agencies for their assistance in helping us develop this report."

The 2022 *Hub Bound Travel Data Report* is available for download in Excel and in full report format at www.nymtc.org under 'Data and Modeling'. The data can also be visualized using NYMTC's Transportation Information Gateway (TIG) at <https://tig.nymtc.org/>.



Stay Connected

Stay connected to your region! There are a number of ways you can continue to learn more about transportation events and investments occurring within the NYMTC region.



Reach out to us:

NYMTC-Web@dot.ny.gov



Visit our website:

NYMTC.org



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Please be safe and be well.

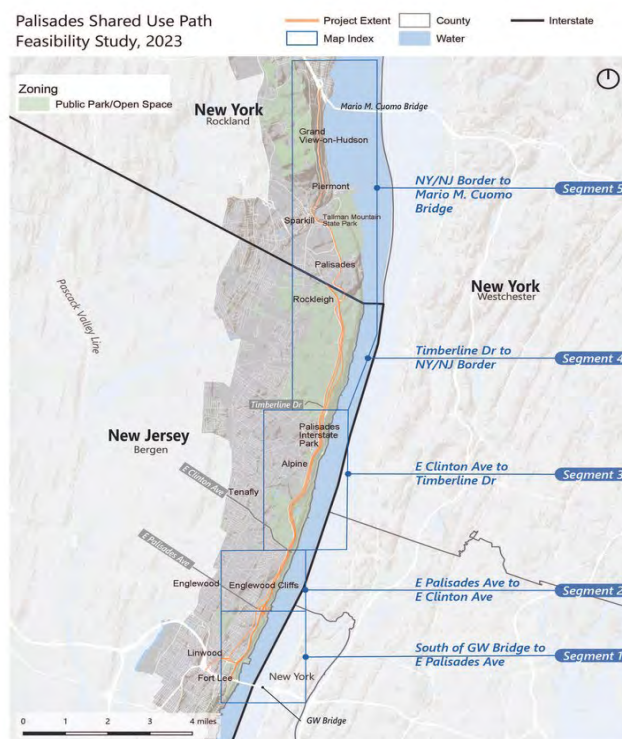
NYMTC Begins Work on the Palisades Shared Use Path Feasibility Study

NYMTC, in collaboration with public agencies and municipalities from New York and New Jersey, has begun work on a feasibility study that will consider a 20-mile shared use path through the lower Palisades that connects the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey, to the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge in South Nyack, New York.

The NYMTC-funded study will analyze the path's potential impacts by considering factors including environmental concerns, proximity to parks and businesses, and connectivity to existing paths. A final study report is expected in early 2025.

NYMTC hosted a series of three virtual workshops in March and will host two in-person workshops in Bergen and Rockland counties in mid- to late spring.

For more information and study updates, please visit www.palisadespathstudy.com.



With *Moving Forward 2055* Underway, NYMTC is Establishing the Foundation for the Transportation Network of the Future

NYMTC is currently developing *Moving Forward 2055*, a foundational and collaborative transportation plan that will address all modes of surface transportation and key focal points of the regional transportation system, including operations, finance, security, safety, and infrastructure. Uniquely designed for the NYMTC region of New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley, *Moving Forward 2055* seeks to address the region's transportation needs while improving access, safety, and efficiency of highways, streets, public transportation, bicycle and pedestrian facilities, movement of goods, and special needs transportation. *Moving Forward 2055* is a long-range, federally required plan that is updated every four years to account for the changing political, social, and economic landscape within the region.



Moving Forward 2055 is the interdisciplinary plan developed by NYMTC, its member agencies, stakeholders, and the interested public that outlines strategies and priorities that shape the growth of the region. Regional transportation plans are a holistic framework to guide the region's future development, covering a wide range of topics including financing, movement of goods, public transportation, and equity.

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NYMTC's regional transportation plan is also a significant opportunity for the region to guide critical federal funding for transportation and infrastructure investment projects. *Moving Forward 2055* is informed by a range of demographic, financial, and socioeconomic data that is used to offer short and medium-term strategies and recommendations for the region's growth and development. These recommendations, informed through community input and stakeholder feedback, are critical for receiving federal funding and investments in transportation infrastructure projects.

To stay updated on future community engagement events and the development of *Moving Forward 2055*, please visit NYMTC's *Moving Forward 2055* website at www.movingforward2055.org.



Moving Forward 2055 pop-up event in Hempstead

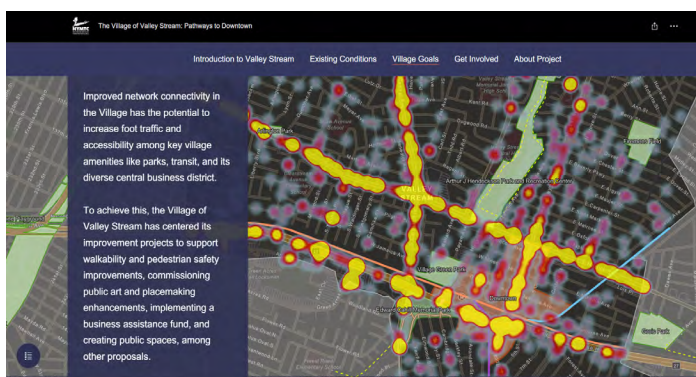
Valley Stream Identifies Transportation Priorities through NYMTC's Community Planning Workshop Program

To better understand the transportation needs and preferences of the Valley Stream community, NYMTC developed a community planning workshop in collaboration with the Village of Valley Stream in late 2023. The workshop, hosted by NYMTC's Community Planning Workshop Program (CPWP), allowed community members to share their ideas for transportation improvements in the village.

Hosted virtually, the workshop included a discussion and interactive solution-building activity facilitated by NYMTC staff. Workshop participants offered ideas and posed questions on virtual boards, which provided the community's feedback on a range of issues important to Valley Stream residents. These included traffic calming, streetscaping, lighting, and walkability in the village's downtown corridor.

During the workshop, participants and village representatives identified potential strategies to incorporate complete streets and biking infrastructure into preexisting downtown roads. Many participants suggested a bike path system as a potential solution to address concerns of shared roadway safety. Other key priorities identified included pedestrian safety and improved sidewalks, especially in the village's downtown. Feedback from the workshop's discussion will be used to pursue federal funding grants and opportunities for roadway safety and infrastructure improvement projects.

The CPWP is NYMTC's technical assistance program, operated in collaboration with the Public Outreach Engagement Team (POET) at Rutgers University, that helps groups of elected officials, citizens, and local government staff analyze their local community's current conditions and identify improvements.



Valley Stream Virtual Story Board Map



Valley Stream Workshop Promotion

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NYMTC recently relaunched the program after a five-year hiatus to further advance the goals identified in Moving Forward 2050, NYMTC's current long-range regional transportation plan. Since the creation of the CPWP in 2001, NYMTC has supported over one hundred workshops in communities and villages across the New York Metropolitan Area.

"Public input is vital to the decisions that will be made in planning the future of transportation in Valley Stream. We're happy to partner with the village on this very important effort," said Adam S. Levine.

NYMTC's Brown Bag Series Features Innovative Transit Initiatives in Suffolk, Westchester, and Rockland Counties

On February 2, 2024, Putnam, Westchester, and Suffolk County representatives shared their innovative transit initiatives at "Reimagining Transit in the Suburban Counties," a NYMTC Brown Bag informational webinar.

Vincent Tamagna, Putnam County Director of Transportation; Barbara Barosa, Putnam County Commissioner of Planning, Development & Public Transportation; and John Tully, Putnam County Director of Purchasing highlighted the county's four fixed route systems, a seasonal trolley in the Village of Cold Spring, and a commuter shuttle service.

Craig Lader, Westchester County's Director of Transportation Planning, highlighted the area's mobility and bus redesign initiatives, which include an in-depth analysis of the Bee-Line bus services. The analysis helped improve east-west connections in the network, strengthen NYC Subway and Metro-North connections, and expand bus operation schedules on weekends. Westchester County has also identified and introduced micro-transit areas and explored how they can be incorporated into the county's redesign initiatives.

Suffolk County's Director of Transportation Operations Chris Chatterton described the County's extended transit system hours, full weekend services, and improved connections and on-time performance as steps taken to decrease commuter travel time and increase their access to reliable transit options.

Learn more about NYMTC's Community Planning Workshop Program by visiting www.nymtc.org/en-us/REGIONAL-PLANNING-ACTIVITIES/Bicycle-Planning/Community-Workshops.



Suffolk County Reimagine Transit and Other Initiatives

Reimagining Transit in the Suburban Counties
February 1, 2024

"We are proud of our members' leading edge transit initiatives and it's our pleasure to showcase them to NYMTC stakeholders and the interested public," said Adam S. Levine. "Our Brown Bag series not only brings the latest in transportation planning to all, but most of our webinars offer AICP Certification Maintenance (CM) credit for the transportation and planning executives who attend."

The Brown Bag presentation is available at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mx0p_4-w2Yw.

Regional Waste Movement Study Collects Feedback Through Public and Stakeholder Workshops

The Metropolitan Area Planning (MAP) Forum's Multi-State Freight Working Group hosted virtual workshops in November and December 2023 to solicit feedback on the Regional Waste Movement Study. With support from the Rutgers Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation, the NYMTC-funded study evaluates the needs and opportunities associated with the movement of municipal solid waste and construction and demolition debris. The study also includes an analysis of all current federal, state, and local legislation pertaining to waste movement and management.

During the November 2023 MAP Forum workshop, the project team delivered a presentation focused on the scope, challenges, and objectives of the study. MAP Forum participants, representing a consortium of 10 metropolitan planning organizations ranging from Eastern Pennsylvania to Connecticut's Capital Region, then participated in interactive activities about the study to share their feedback.

NYMTC hosted a second virtual workshop in December, which was open to the public. Through a series of polls, NYMTC collected feedback on impactful aspects of waste streams and management and gathered consensus on waste disposal and management priorities. Environmental justice, waste reduction, decarbonization of waste transportation vehicles, toxic chemical transportation, and waste movement's impact on roadways emerged as top concerns by participants during the polling exercise.

NYMTC then led a facilitated discussion to hear directly from workshop participants, who cited environmental justice, climate change, cost reduction for transporting waste, and concerns of trail derailments as important issues that should be prioritized in the Regional Waste Movement Study.

The Regional Waste Movement Study is expected to be completed by late 2024. A recording of the public workshop is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L38214Xn7M8>.

Executive Director Adam S. Levine Presents *Moving Forward 2055: Imagination in Motion* at the NYSATE Mini-Conference

Adam S. Levine spoke at the New York State Association of Transportation Engineers (NYSATE) Section 10 NYC Mini Conference on February 28, 2024, delivering a presentation on *Moving Forward 2055*, NYMTC's next regional transportation plan.

The mini-conference gathered advocates, stakeholders, and professionals in the transportation, engineering, and construction industries to discuss important transportation and infrastructure initiatives and projects in New York State. Levine's presentation focused on the progress made in the development of *Moving Forward 2055*, and a look into the goals and objectives of the plan, which have been informed through NYMTC's engagement and outreach to communities across the region.



Adam S. Levine, NYMTC Executive Director