



Photo by NYMTC Staff

Summer 2021

NYMTC NOTES

Welcome to NYMTC Notes.

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) wants to share with you what our agency is working on with its members to keep our transportation system funded and functioning.

About NYMTC

As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley, NYMTC provides a collaborative planning forum to address transportation-related issues, develop regional plans and make decisions on the use of federal transportation funds for its planning area.

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

September 11th Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning

Program Overview

The September 11th Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning is a lasting memorial to the three NYMTC staff members who died in the attacks on the World Trade Center on September 11, 2001: **Ignatius Adanga, Charles Lesperance, and See Wong Shum.** The Program provides funding to graduate students to work on transportation planning projects with NYMTC or its member agencies.

Since 2005, NYMTC has proudly worked with the University Transportation Research Center (UTRC) to fund and support talented students who undertake transportation technology and planning projects to address identified planning needs for NYMTC and its member agencies. Past projects have explored innovative concepts in transportation, and enhanced public awareness and involvement in transportation issues. **This Program provides a unique and tangible benefit to NYMTC, its member agencies, the participating universities, and the selected students.**

NYMTC will fund up to four September 11th Memorial Program internships during the 2021-2022 Academic Year.



IN MEMORY OF
IGNATIUS ADANGA
CHARLES LESPERANCE
SEE WONG SHUM

Opportunities will be available for students to work on planning projects for NYMTC staff or a member agency. The project topics for 2021-2022 are posted at: <http://www.utrc2.org/education/available-internships-9/11>. **This Program is only open to full-time graduate-level students attending a UTRC member university.** Click [here](#) to apply.

The Memorial Program's planning projects challenge students to develop creative solutions to difficult problems while working directly with professional

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staff. These projects provide benefits to the region while also enhancing the educational experiences of the selected students.

Selected students typically begin their project in mid-September and will be

required to work on their projects **for up to 15 hours per week**. All students selected for internships make a final presentation on their project at one of NYMTC's Regional Trends Series Brown Bag Presentations.

The current students will make their final presentations on September 15, 2021 at 12:00 pm. Please see the event details at the following link: <https://bit.ly/3dvtuSP>.

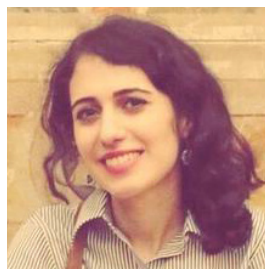
Students Selected for the 2020-2021 Current Academic Year



Carla Tejada

Carla Tejada is a Ph.D. student in Transportation Engineering at the City College of New York (CCNY). Before joining CCNY, Carla obtained a master's degree in Logistics and Supply Chain from the University of Maryland at College Park and a graduate certificate in Supply Chain Management from MIT. She also spent several years in the industry in companies such as DHL Express and SONY.

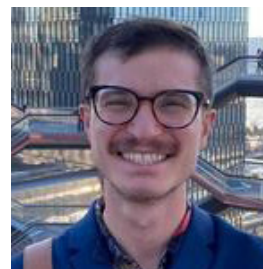
Carla's September 11th Memorial Program internship is with The New York City Department of Transportation (NYCDOT) with the Pedestrian Unit. NYC is the city with the highest number of pedestrian trips in the United States. Carla's work focuses on developing a Pedestrian Network Flow Model that will allow NYCDOT to identify pedestrian generators, dense walking areas, and walking trip flows within NYC. This model will provide information to the New York City Comprehensive Pedestrian Map that will help create more rationality in the decision-making process within NYC streets.



Niloufar Nouri

Niloufar Nouri is pursuing her Ph.D. in the civil engineering program at CCNY. She obtained her bachelor's and master's degrees in environmental engineering in her home country, Iran. Her doctoral research activity lies in the intersection of resilient infrastructure systems and data-driven environmental risk assessment. Along with her Ph.D. studies, she has worked as an adjunct lecturer at CUNY Bronx Community College. Niloufar has also been involved in various data-oriented projects while working as a research scientist at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Center for Earth System Sciences and Remote Sensing Technologies (CESSRST).

Niloufar's September 11th Memorial Program research at NYMTC focuses on evaluating new methods of collecting travel data and identifying how such methods can complement traditional travel surveys. She is identifying potential alternative travel data sources such as cellular data and Location Based Services (LBS). Niloufar is analyzing the methodology, statistical properties, strengths, and limitations of these travel data sources.



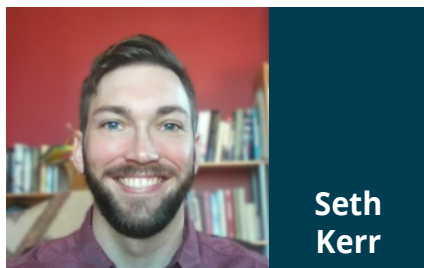
David Anton

David Anton is a second-year student in the Master in Public Administration program at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA). Prior to his graduate studies, David served as policy advisor for Argentina's Federal Government in the areas of transit planning and affordability. He was also a policy advisor for Argentina's Presidency of the G20 Economic Forum, supporting the harmonization of regulations concerning public-private partnerships for infrastructure development among country members.

David's September 11th Memorial internship is at NYMTC, where he is studying the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on the agency's socioeconomic and demographic forecasts and travel demand models. The project is focused on assessing how the increase in telework due to the pandemic impacts location of job opportunities across the New York Metropolitan Area and commuting patterns over time.

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Seth Kerr is pursuing a Master of Urban Planning degree at New York University's Wagner School of Public Service. Before graduate school, he served as a United States Army Officer specializing in medical logistics for eight years. During his service, Seth spent six years living in Kenya and Germany.

Seth's internship is also at NYMTC and his planning project focuses on helping NYMTC improve its long-range infrastructure needs assessment and financial forecasting processes. He has had the opportunity to undertake benchmarking research involving regional councils and state DOTs across the country for best practices. Seth is also helping NYMTC develop internal procedural checklists for long-range financial forecasting.

Last Year's Student Profiles (2019-2020)

When awarded last year's internship, **Yaxin Zhang** was a third year Ph.D. student in the Grove School of Engineering at CCNY, with a specialization in transportation. Prior to coming to CCNY, Yaxin completed her undergraduate program at Taiyuan Industrial College in China where she studied polymer materials and engineering. She then received a master's degree in logistics and operations management from Cardiff University in the UK.

While studying at Cardiff University, Yaxin began to see "connections" that influence transportation performance such as the relationship between growth of e-commerce and traffic congestion. She also realized that awareness of environmental, social, and behavioral science issues is required in order to plan and manage transportation operations.

The understanding of the multiple, connecting issues together with an interest in making things work more efficiently led Yaxin to her current studies at the Grove School where she has been able to apply a variety of research methods, survey techniques, and analytical approaches. Her research area was mainly focused on e-commerce, city logistics, and parking activity in New York City.

Yaxin's September 11th Memorial Program planning project was titled Analyzing Freight Congestion and Transportation Performance Measures Using National Performance Measurement Research Data Set (NPMRDS). During her internship, she assisted NYMTC staff by using real-time probe data to produce more accurate congestion analyses in the NYMTC planning area. The project focused on the use of NPMRDS, which is used to assess the performance of the nation's roadways.



NYMTC CMP Dashboard Final Report <https://bit.ly/3dRWHrm>

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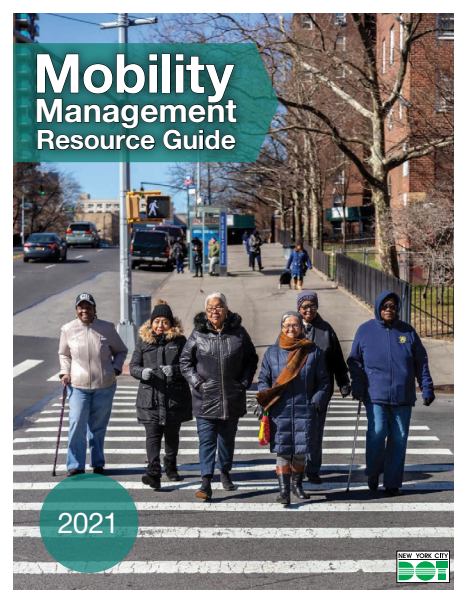


Gabrielle O'Grady

When awarded last year's internship, **Gabrielle O'Grady** was a second year master's student studying Sustainability in the Urban Environment at CCNY. This interdisciplinary program recognizes the various considerations needed to design sustainable and resilient urban infrastructure. Her studies involved coursework in architecture, engineering, science, and social science. She had previously completed her Bachelor of Science degree in biological sciences and chemistry at the University of Connecticut.

Gabrielle aims to use her compassion, analytical skills, and design eye to be a part of New York City's infrastructure planning. Gabrielle is most interested in helping create designs that are not only aesthetically pleasing, structurally sound, and functional, but are also environmentally responsible, socially conscientious, and accessible to all.

As a September 11th Memorial Program intern at the New York City Department of Transportation in the Transportation Planning and Management Division, Gabrielle worked with the Mobility Management team and key stakeholders to produce the 2021 Mobility Management Resource Guide. This resource guide is a compilation of all accessible transportation information in the New York City region. This guide educates New Yorkers on existing transportation infrastructure, resources, and



programs that cater to people with disabilities, older adults, people with limited English proficiency, and low-income populations.

Former Students' Reflections



Max Sokol
Program Intern
2011-2012

“When submitting my application to the September 11th Memorial Program, I viewed the prospect of an internship at NYMTC as a unique opportunity to achieve intellectual and professional self-growth. The 10th anniversary of September 11th took place during my first couple of weeks at NYMTC, and it is apropos to be reflecting upon the transformative experience of my internship as we approach the 20th anniversary.

My work at NYMTC advanced my career in transportation planning in profound ways, for instance by imparting a nuanced appreciation of longstanding and emerging infrastructure needs in the region. Building upon my prior work in the region for Nassau County and the Regional Plan Association, my NYMTC internship jumpstarted my career advancement for years to come, including my ongoing professional development at WSP, my two terms as President of the American Planning Association New York Metro Chapter, and my inclusion in the City & State 2020 NYC 40 under 40.

I will forever feel grateful to the UTRC Region 2, NYMTC Central Staff (most notably my mentors Jan Khan and Gerry Bogacz) and member agencies, and the Columbia University Graduate School of Architecture, Planning & Preservation for offering me the opportunity to participate in the prestigious September 11th Memorial Program to honor the memories of Ignatius Adanga, Charles Lesperance, and See Wong Shum. ”



**Nury Martinez
Gutierrez**
Program Intern
2018-2019

“ Participating in the NYMTC September 11th Memorial Program while attending my master’s studies in Urban Sustainability at CCNY was a great experience for my career and academic development. My project focused on a community planning initiative to improve public involvement that allowed me to learn about how MPOs work and transportation planning. This opportunity allowed me to investigate NYMTC’s communities and stakeholders in the suburban areas, enhanced my knowledge of public involvement and strengthened my data management skills. The funding I received helped me to cover my school expenses and professional development activities. ”

NYMTC is pleased to continue its partnership with UTRC at CUNY to provide opportunities for our future leaders in transportation planning. We look forward to seeing what our 2021-2022 program will bring. Stay tuned.



Plan Update

**Moving
Forward**

Your Region, Connected

NYMTC has released a draft of *Moving Forward*, its next Regional Transportation Plan. We invite you to review and comment on this draft. The comment period is open from **June 28th through July 27th, 2021.**

Visit the website below to view summary information and the draft documents, provide commentary, and register for a virtual public review session:

<https://www.nymtc.org/planmovingforward/>

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. Here is how you can stay involved.



Visit our website:
[NYMTC.org](https://www.nymtc.org)



Reach out to us:
NYMTC-Web@dot.ny.gov



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Please be safe and be well.

