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Six Fellowships in Transportation Planning Are Awarded by NYMTC's 9-11 Memorial Program

NEW YORK, October 30, 2024 – The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council today (NYMTC) announced that six graduate students from universities across New York and New Jersey have been awarded one-year academic fellowships in transportation planning as part of the agency's September 11 Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning. NYMTC established the program to honor the memory Ignatius Adanga, Charles Lesperance, and See Wong Shum, the three employees it lost during the World Trade Center attacks in 2001.

Students selected for the fellowship program conduct innovative research on significant transportation planning topics under the guidance of a mentor from NYMTC or a NYMTC member agency.

The six fellowship awardees are:

1. Afia Ibnat Subah

Ph.D. Civil and Environmental Engineering candidate
Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute

Afia's fellowship is with the New York State Department of Transportation where he will conduct research that determines latent demand and mode shift potential for shared mobility, micro-mobility & active transportation across rural, suburban, and urban settings.

2. Bennett Jonathan

Master of Science in Civil Engineering candidate
Columbia University

Bennett's fellowship involves spearheading a New York City Department of Transportation initiative to research and evaluate best practices to improve curb cut safety near schools.

3. Elliott Wareham

Master of Urban Planning candidate
New York University

Elliott's fellowship with the New York City Department of City Planning includes research into the public realm assessment of stations along the proposed Interboro Express (IBX) railway. The railway

aims to connect the currently underserved areas of Brooklyn and Queens. This assessment would include land use and zoning and an urban design analysis of existing physical conditions, including key streets and corridors, open spaces, and station locations.

4. EunJin Shin (E.J. Shin)

Candidate for a Master of Science in Civil Engineering and a Master of Architecture
Columbia University

E.J.'s fellowship with the New York State Department of Transportation will focus on exploring the use of open/crowd source data for transportation and community planning, and document international and national transportation and community planning examples of innovation.

5. Paula Yaghi

Ph.D. Civil and Environmental Engineering Candidate
Rutgers University

Paula's fellowship is with the New York City Department of Transportation and will examine best practices in mitigating air and noise pollution from urban highways. Her research project will identify and summarize existing lessons learned for urban highway mitigation worldwide, technology and innovation ready to be tested, and the applications for both to NYC's own highway infrastructure.

6. Vivek Dsouza

Candidate for a Master of City and Regional Planning
Rutgers University

Vivek's fellowship with the New York State Department of Transportation will explore the economic impacts of complete streets improvements and develop a process that transportation agencies and metropolitan planning organizations could utilize to measure the economic benefits of complete streets improvements along a roadway or downtown area.

NYMTC works with the Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation at Rutgers, part of the Rutgers' Schools of Engineering, to administer the 9/11 Memorial Fellowship Program.

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. NYMTC has nine voting members and seven advisory members representing 2,440 square miles and serving a population of 13 million – approximately 65% of New York State's residents. Between federal fiscal years 2023-2027, over 1,000 transportation projects will be funded in the NYMTC region totaling \$36.9 billion.