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NYMTC's Prestigious 9-11 Memorial Program is Open for Graduate Student Applications, April 29 Through June 24

NEW YORK, April 29, 2025 – The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) today announced that applications to its highly regarded [9-11 Memorial Program](#) - which provides impactful fellowship opportunities in transportation research to graduate students - are now available. The 9-11 Memorial Program honors the memories of three NYMTC staff lost in the 9/11 attacks – See Wong Shum, Charles Lesperance, and Ignatius Adanga.

With funding of up to \$35,000 for each student selected, the 9-11 Memorial Program offers graduate-level students attending universities in New York and New Jersey the opportunity to conduct a full year of hands-on, impactful research in transportation planning while being guided by experienced mentors from NYMTC or its member agencies. The potential 2025-2026 research topics include:

- Computer Vision Mobility Counting Prototype
- Cleaner Truck Refrigeration Units in New York City Communities
- Cargo Bike Regional Network Planning
- Vision Zero Street Improvements Projects
- Public Realm Programming
- Pedestrian Delay Reduction
- Mobility Management
- Investigating the Relationship Between Street Projects and Local Businesses
- Designing a Freight Policy Tool – Driving Data-Informed Planning for the Future of Freight
- Elevated Infrastructure and Public Waterfront Access

Interested students should apply on the 9-11 Memorial Program [website](#). The application deadline is June 24, 2025.

“Our research program will challenge students to develop creative solutions to difficult transportation problems, providing a benefit to the region while enhancing their educational experiences,” said Adam S. Levine, executive director of NYMTC. “This program has been called a game changer by previous students. It’s a wonderful way to keep the memories of our beloved colleagues alive while contributing to the advancement of transportation planning and each student’s academic experience.”

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The 9-11 Memorial Program's goal is to help educate and motivate people interested in transportation technology and planning and to encourage innovations in planning activities throughout the NYMTC region. This year's program is administered by the [Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Transportation at Rutgers](#).

Under the full 12-month program, the student will commit the time outside the classroom to conduct research and submit the required research outputs. For this involvement, a graduate student will receive financial support up to \$35,000 over 12 months. Awards will be available for up to six students during the 2025-2026 academic year and each awardee will be able to select the specific breakdown of this funding (tuition reimbursement/ stipend) based on their own individual financial needs. Together with a full class schedule, this program constitutes a full-time commitment. Students will be invited to participate in activities that promote their development as transportation professionals, including attendance at research and professional conferences. At the end of the program, students will make a public presentation on the results of their projects.

This program is open to full-time graduate-level students at a college/university in New York or New Jersey. International Students must have a valid F-1 Visa to participate. Prospective students not yet enrolled in graduate school may apply to the September 11th Memorial Program concurrently with their application to any of these schools.

Student questions about the application process should be emailed to Seitu Allen at seitu.allen@dot.ny.gov.

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 fiscal years 2023-2027, over 1,000 transportation projects will be funded in the NYMTC region totaling \$36.9 billion.

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