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NYMTC Program, Finance and Administration Committee Hears Moynihan Station Presentation, Adopts Various Resolutions

Draft Plan 2045 – NYMTC's new regional transportation plan – begins public comment on May 1



NEW YORK - During its April 20 meeting, members of the **New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's (NYMTC) Program, Finance, and Administration Committee (PFAC)** heard a special presentation from **Michael Evans**, president of the **Moynihan Station Development Project**.

The presentation discussed the future of [Moynihan Station](#) – including upcoming improvement plans to connect the

historic James A. Farley Post Office with Penn Station, one of the busiest transit hubs in the country. The project can be traced back to first conception more than 25 years earlier and is named after late U.S. Senator Daniel Patrick "Pat" Moynihan. It is a multi-phase plan to transform the landmarked Post Office building into the new Manhattan home for Amtrak.

Mr. Evans highlighted to PFAC members and the general public that real construction has already started in creating the great Train Hall. Because Penn Station is currently at full capacity, with over 700,000 plus daily riders and 1,200 trains daily, Mr. Evans noted that "it is the busiest transportation node in the Western Hemisphere," with two of the busiest commuter railroads (Long Island Rail Road and New Jersey Transit) and two of the busiest subway stations.

"What is so incredible about this project is we are going to take 100-year-old infrastructure, a beautiful historic gem and adaptably reuse it to solve a 21st century problem and create a 21st century transportation facility," **Mr. Evan said during the April 20 PFAC meeting**. He added that this new Farley solution will help to alleviate the congestion at Penn Station and address the incredible surge in growth of the Far West Side of Manhattan.

Other highlights of presentation included:

- **Both Amtrak and LIRR will utilize the Moynihan Station** – including plans by Amtrak to move all passenger facing to the new facility (i.e. ticket information, baggage handling, etc.) that will connect Midtown to the Far West Side.
- The Farley building will **increase concourse space by 50 percent** and increase vertical circulation of passengers.

- **Moynihan Station Project - Phase 1:** Expanded West End Concourse, Vertical Circulation, new entrances/connections.
- **Moynihan Station Project - Phase 2:** Taking courtyard of original Farley building – initially used for all mail sort of the Post Office building, and build a [three-story atrium space](#) for LIRR and Amtrak. Also, the Grand Train Hall will maintain prior historic trusses and [incorporate a skylight system](#) for added natural light to the transportation facility.
- Projected timeline for the project, valued at appropriately \$1.594 billion, includes an expected completion by 2020.

In other action items, PFAC members [adopted various resolutions](#), which included:

- Amendments to the State Fiscal Years (SFYs) 2016-2018 **Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP)** passed, which included a motion for adjustments to various projects NYMTC staff and its member agencies are currently carrying out in their SFY 2017-2018 UPWP. The modification included a project sponsored by the New York City Department of Transportation and projects sponsored by the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey that do not require any new funding for completion. The UPWP helps to determine how federal funding for planning activities will be spent over the course of a program year.
- Adopted amendments to **the Vision and Pedestrian Elements-Bicycle Elements of the Fiscal Years 2014-2040** Regional Transportation Plan: adding four project concepts – the Replacement of the Grand Street Bridge over the Newtown Creek; the Arthur E. Sheridan Expressway Enhancement Project; the Expansion of the Weigh-in-Motion Program; and the Expansion of the Clean Vehicle Program will be included to the vision element of [Plan 2040](#), NYMTC's prior regional transportation plan. Also, the South Bronx Greenway along the Bruckner Boulevard project will be added the Pedestrian-Bicycle Element of [Plan 2040](#) to show the New York City Department of Transportation as a co-sponsor, along with the New York City Economic Development Corporation.
- Adopted resolution for the **Arthur E. Sheridan Expressway**, currently classified as an inter-state, to be classified as a principal arterial roadway due to the fact than an arterial road or arterial thoroughfare is a high-capacity urban road whose primary function is to deliver traffic from collector roads to freeways or expressways.



Also, NYMTC Staff offered a recap of the planned Public Review of *Plan 2045* – Federal regulations require that NYMTC update its regional transportation plan (RTP) every four years. As a result, a new plan is required by Oct. 1 2017. Following the hard work of members and staff, and input from the public, NYMTC is close to having a draft plan to be presented.

“Plan 2045, which we are labeling as ‘Maintaining the Vision for a Sustainable Region,’ covers the Federal Fiscal Years 2018-2045 and builds on the progress made in the past Regional Transportation Plan 2040. Our Regional Transportation Plan covers all facets of transportation – including roadways, public transportation, bicycles, pedestrians and transportation for those with special needs,” said **NYMTC Executive Director José M. Rivera**.

“NYMTC’s planning area is slated to grow to 14.3 million by 2045; it is essential that the programs and projects in Plan 2045 continue to move forward in order to maintain our existing infrastructure in a state of good repair and address long-range transportation needs,” Executive Director Rivera continued.

Starting in May, there will be a 30-day mandatory public comment for the draft [Plan 2045](#), the [Congestion Management Process](#) and [Transportation Conformity](#). In total 10 in-person meetings are planned across the NYMTC planning area – including Putnam County, Westchester County, New York City, Suffolk County and Nassau County. The New York City meetings will be available as webinars as well. Public comment will also be available at <https://nymtc.mysidewalk.com/>.

The final [Draft Plan 2045](#) will come to a vote to the PFAC and Council Members on June 27 and June 29, respectively.