



Fall 2023

... 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!

Moving Forward 2055 Outreach Underway

Outreach is now underway to collect public input to develop the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC)'s next Regional Transportation Plan, **Moving Forward 2055**. The 30-year Plan, which will be created in collaboration with stakeholders and the public, will serve as a blueprint to guide federal investments in regional transportation from 2025 to 2055, covering all modes of ground transportation in the NYMTC region.



The Plan, themed *Connecting Communities, Creating Opportunities*, will consider current and future mobility issues to identify goals and funding priorities. Pop-up meetings around the region, along with the launch of an online survey, kicked off outreach to gather input to inform the Plan.

"Moving Forward 2055 will play an important role in shaping the future of transportation investments for the next 30 years," said NYMTC Executive Director Adam S. Levine. "We are looking forward to developing the NYMTC region's

transportation network collaboratively with our member agencies, other stakeholders, members of communities across the region."

The survey, open through December 15, asks the public to tell NYMTC what the future of transportation in the region should look like. Three participants who complete the survey will be randomly selected to receive a \$75 gift card. The survey is available at:

bit.ly/movingforward2055.

Additionally, the *Moving Forward 2055* team has been meeting with community members at pop-up sites across the region, providing information about the Regional Transportation Plan and how to participate in the planning process. To date, *Moving Forward 2055* representatives have staffed pop-up tables at events including:

- October 7: Long Island Fall Festival
- October 8: Nyack's Famous Street Fair
- October 21: Hempstead Lake Fall Festival
- October 28: Bed Study Alive
- November 11: White Plains TransCenter
- November 17: Concourse Plaza in the Bronx.

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Photo Courtesy of NYMTC



Photo Courtesy of NYMTC

For more information about *Moving Forward 2055*, please visit www.movingforward2055.org.

Four September 11 Memorial Program Students Present Original Research

NYMTC's September 11th Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning 2022-2023 class of student scholars presented their year-long research and planning projects in a virtual Brown Bag event on September 13, 2023.

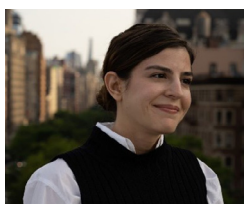
The September 11th Program is NYMTC's living memorial to Ignatius Adanga, Charles Lesperance, and See Wong Shum—three members of the NYMTC team who perished in the World Trade Center attacks. This initiative offers graduate students competitive stipends and opportunities to engage in research and planning each academic year. The program focuses on regional planning and research projects, curated by the members and staff of NYMTC to meet the identified needs of the area.

Projects this year focused on the following research topics:

Andrés Castelo Rebeil: Identifying best practices to improve suburban traffic safety and education programs.



Rachel Elm kies: Expanding micromobility and shared mobility outside New York City.



Bradley Hershenson: Identifying and understanding cultural trends and ridership patterns in underrepresented biking populations.



Jessie Ho: Evaluating the practicality and implications of using an open-source mapping network as the transportation network for the New York Best Practice Model.



NYMTC is proud to honor the memory of our lost team members by offering opportunities to promising students who have a passion for transportation technology, research, and urban planning," said NYMTC Executive Director Adam S. Levine.

[Click here](#) to watch the Brown Bag presentations and learn more about what 9/11 Scholars accomplished this year.

NYMTC Adopts Transportation Conformity Determination at September PFAC Meeting

NYMTC's Program, Finance, and Administration Committee (PFAC) met on September 19, 2023 to report on recent and upcoming NYMTC developments.



September's PFAC meeting featured a presentation from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) about its I-495 Integrated Corridor Management (ICM) project, which covers Northern New Jersey to the border of Queens and Nassau Counties. ICM projects, like this one, bring partnering agencies together to coordinate responses to both unplanned conditions (including severe weather events or unplanned traffic incidents) and planned events for safer and more efficient movement of people and goods.

NYSDOT's Geoffrey Rick, associate transportation analyst, and Fred Libove, manager, Project Development and Sustainability Unit for Region 11, shared how NYSDOT

is partnering with federal, state, and local agencies on the project.

Executive Director Levine discussed the completion of the Draft Transportation Conformity Determination in connection with the Federal Fiscal Year (FFYs) 2023-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) and FFYs 2022-2050 Regional Transportation Plan (Plan). The transportation conformity determination found that the TIP and the Plan are both in compliance with state and federal air quality requirements. PFAC unanimously adopted the Transportation Conformity Determination. PFAC adopted three additional resolutions at this meeting:

- The adoption of a new Native Nations Consultation Plan to enhance NYMTC's engagement with tribal nations,
- An amendment to the current Plan to reflect new financial information about the Second Avenue Subway – Phase Two project, and
- Amendments to the current Unified Planning Work Program to reflect the addition of a Northern Westchester East-West Corridor Study and additional planning activities from the New York City Department of Transportation and Suffolk County.

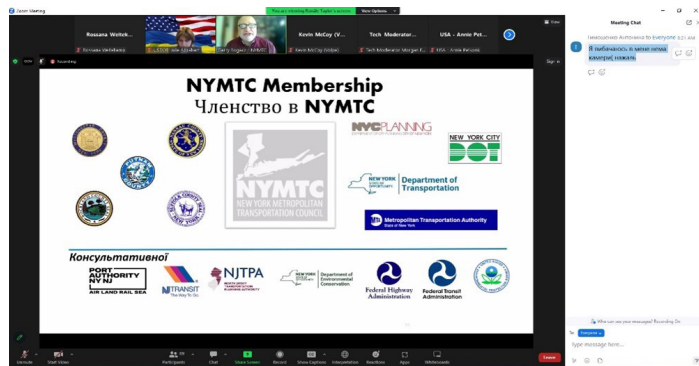
PFAC meets on a regular, bi-monthly basis; the next PFAC meeting was held on November 16 at 11:30 AM. Documents from the September 19 PFAC meeting will be available on the NYMTC website in late November.

NYMTC Joins National and State Governments to Support Ukrainian Transportation Officials in Infrastructure Prioritization

On September 25, 2023, NYMTC's Executive Director Adam S. Levine, Assistant Director Gerry Bogacz, and executives from multiple branches of U.S. federal and state governments took part in the first of a series of virtual meetings to assist

transportation officials in prioritizing infrastructure redevelopment in Ukraine after hostilities cease. This initial meeting focused on long-term planning, project ranking, and infrastructure finance.

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Assistant Secretary Carol A. Petsonk of the U.S. Department of Transportation for Aviation and International Affairs opened the meeting, which was followed by insights from Julie Abraham, director of the Department's Office of International Transportation and Trade.

At the meeting, NYMTC discussed how it effectively allocated a \$36.9 billion budget for over a thousand projects, offering a potential framework for Ukraine's anticipated infrastructure challenges.

Executive Director Levine emphasized the importance of the initiative: "We are honored to be part of this dialogue with Ukraine, and we look forward to assisting them in any and every way we can as they move forward on these vitally important issues."

Assistant Director Bogacz outlined the significance of local decision-making in the planning process, stating, "This is one of the more powerful aspects of the model: The federal government doesn't dictate how the money should be used. It's local governments coming together based on a consensus and reaching an agreement on projects. It's very powerful and the hallmark of this planning process."

The dialogue also included valuable suggestions on how Ukraine may take a strategic approach to post-war redevelopment from representatives of agencies including the Federal Highway Administration and the North Carolina Department of Transportation.

NYMTC-Funded First Mile/Last Mile Toolkit Draws Nearly 150 Transportation Professionals to October Webinar

Nearly 150 certified planners and transportation professionals attended NYMTC's Brown Bag webinar on October 18, which highlighted the Metropolitan Transportation Authority's (MTA) [First Mile/Last Mile](#) (FMLM) Toolkit. The Toolkit is a NYMTC-funded resource that local communities and other interested parties can use to identify improved, equitable, and environmentally friendly access to Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and Metro-North Railroad (MNR) commuter rail stations.



Members of the MTA Station Area Planning and Transportation Oriented Development team including Robyn Hollander, director, Emily Provonsha, senior manager, and Kayla Myros, planner, showed participants how to use the Toolkit as a step-by-step guide to identify potential FMLM strategies for their local station.

These steps include assessing a station's area, generating an access gap and propensity analysis summary, preparing

a cost-benefit analysis, developing a pilot program, and reviewing grant funding sources.

"Through the Toolkit, we're giving stakeholders the knowledge and resources they need to prepare a First Mile/Last Mile plan and seek funding for implementation," said Hollander. "We encourage stakeholders in the MTA suburban commuter rail territory to use the Toolkit with the goal of improving access to LIRR and MNR by shifting customers' attraction from single occupant vehicles to other methods where conditions allow."

"We received considerable interest in this webinar and rightfully so," said NYMTC Executive Director Adam S. Levine. "Many commented how exceptional this tool is for their purposes and we look forward to offering many Certification Maintenance (CM) accredited workshops in the future."

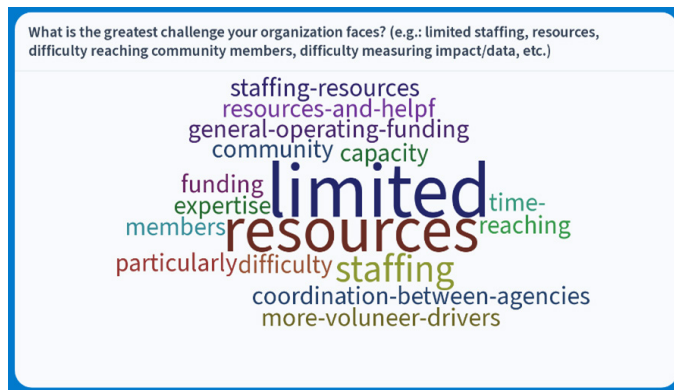
NYMTC is committed to offering educational resources, including Brown Bag webinars, about transportation topics on issues that impact the region. This particular Brown Bag enabled American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) attendees to earn one Certificate Maintenance credit for attending the presentation.

NYMTC Launches Thriving Communities Network to Enhance Transportation in Traditionally Underrepresented Communities

Under-resourced communities interested in receiving technical assistance and planning support to pursue funding for important transportation projects in New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley communities attended NYMTC's first Thriving Communities Network (TCN) meeting on Thursday, October 26th. The TCN is being launched in conjunction with the [U.S. Department of Transportation's Thriving Communities Program](#).



The kick-off provided an opportunity to connect, share valuable insights, and discuss how TCN can positively impact their communities. Some of the top themes identified by attendees included the need for capacity building, assistance in identifying funding opportunities, and the importance of transportation planning to their members.



"This is all about empowering communities that are disproportionately affected by environmental, climate, and human health policies," said Adam S. Levine, executive director of NYMTC. "Through TCN, we're creating a more equitable, greener regional transportation network that helps everyone travel to their destinations while receiving the services they need to get there."

Upcoming TCN meetings will guide organizations towards the resources they need to become competitive applicants for federal, state, and local transportation funds.

NYMTC's next TCN meeting will be announced shortly.

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.



Visit our website:

[NYMTC.org](https://nymtc.org)



Reach out to us:

NYMTC-Web@dot.ny.gov



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Please be safe and be well.

