



June 2024

... NYMTC NOTES

Welcome to NYMTC Notes

Inside this issue, you'll find a recap of the efforts and accomplishments of NYMTC and its members to keep our transportation system optimally funded and functioning.

About NYMTC

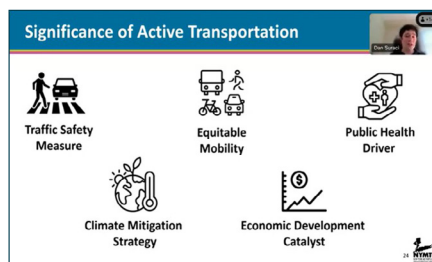
NYMTC is the federally mandated council of governments that directs the use of billions of dollars in federal transportation funds for New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley.

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.

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

NYMTC Hosts Topical Forums to Gather Public Input for *Moving Forward 2055*

This spring, NYMTC hosted a series of online Topical Forums to collect public input towards the development of the next Regional Transportation Plan, *Moving Forward 2055*. The Forums, held on April 9, April 16, and April 30, were led by subject matter experts in freight movement and active transportation, and discussed trends and insights across NYMTC's planning region.



Presentation from *Moving Forward 2055* Topical Forum

The first Topical Forum - *Moving Freight* - focused on regional trends in manufacturing, cargo delivery, and consumer behavior. *Moving Actively* - the second forum in the series - featured the region's active transportation patterns and major projects in the region that improve active transportation in communities. The final forum in April, *Moving Accessibly*, explored the region's

transportation mobility needs for human services, people with disabilities, and seniors.

The following month, NYMTC implemented a second series of Topical Forums:

- May 21: *Moving Together Safely* - Participants explored issues and opportunities in micro-mobility, including electric bikes, scooters, and how different modes can share the roadway safely.
- June 4: *Moving with Alternative Energy* - Participants learned about ideas addressing alternative energy sources, including vehicle technologies.
- June 11: *Moving Efficiently* - Participants provided their feedback on the region's shared curb space and efficient parking for different types of transportation services.

Join NYMTC on June 25 for the *Moving to the Future* Topical Forum to learn about transportation technologies for personal and freight movement via www.movingforward2055.org/outreach.

NYMTC Highlights Trailblazing Transportation Initiatives in Spring 2024 Brown Bag Series

NYMTC's Brown Bag Presentation Series provides the public with the opportunity to learn about transformative transportation topics affecting communities in its planning region. These Brown Bag sessions, led by industry leaders and local government representatives, provide a look into projects and programs addressing transportation electrification, community planning, freight movement, and more.

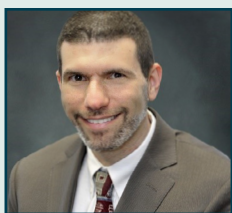
NYMTC's April Brown Bag Presentation Features Programs to Meet New York's Growing Electrification Needs

On April 4th, industry leaders from New York State agencies and power utility providers led NYMTC's Brown Bag webinar, "Grid Readiness and Infrastructure Resiliency," and discussed preparation of the State's electric grid infrastructure for growing electric vehicle (EV) demand and a greener future.



Adam Ruder

Adam Ruder, Director of Clean Energy from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), began the session with a presentation about the growing demand for EVs and initiatives the State has launched to meet the needs of this growing sector.



John Markowitz

John Markowitz, Senior Director, Head of eMobility for the New York Power Authority (NYPA), summarized NYPA's EvolveNY Program, which includes a wide range of actions to increase the installation of fast EV charging ports across the state.



Bryan Grimaldi

Bryan Grimaldi, Vice President of Corporate Affairs for National Grid, described the company's clean energy vision. To achieve 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040, National Grid is electrifying New York's highway network and creating nearly 50 new electric substations.



Jen Hensley

Jen Hensley, Senior Vice President of Corporate Affairs for Consolidated Edison, closed the presentation by providing an overview of the utility's energy investments to match the anticipated further growth of EV adoption.

"This was among NYMTC's most informative Brown Bag webinars – a session that attracted attendance from the industry as well as academia, regional governments, and the public," said Adam S. Levine, executive director of NYMTC. "We look forward to providing a follow-up on the progression of the EV industry in the near future."

Watch this Brown Bag Presentation on NYMTC's YouTube channel at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=63OM3A2uhb8>

Updates to Hoboken's Vision Zero Action Plan are Featured During NYMTC's May Brown Bag Presentation

On May 16, Gregory Francese, Transportation Planner for the City of Hoboken, shared updates to the city's Vision Zero Action Plan and its overall approach to traffic safety. Initially completed in 2021, Hoboken's Vision Zero aims to reduce traffic-related deaths and injuries through roadway system changes and community involvement.

Francese discussed new and past projects that have helped Hoboken reach zero traffic-related deaths in seven years. *Curbs Reimagined*, Hoboken's first curbside management and parking planning project, is examining how the city can plan for the growing curbside use demands, including protected bike lanes and loading zones.

Francese also described Hoboken's Crash Analysis, which identified high-risk intersections where crashes are most likely. The findings prompted numerous action items, including crosswalk signaling. He concluded the presentation by discussing Hoboken's TAP (Transportation Alternative Program) grant, which allocates nearly \$1.5 million for multi-modal safety improvements to one of the city's high crash corridors.

The Brown Bag presentation is available to watch now on NYMTC's YouTube channel: <http://youtu.be/qEAo6rwpFCg>.



Citywide 20 MPH Speed Limit



Speed radar feedback signs installed at 8 gateway locations



Educational ads displayed on 20 screens at 10 EV charging stations citywide



Project received ITE Met Section's 2023 Vision Zero Award

Hoboken Vision Zero Action Plan Presentation

NYMTC's June Brown Bag Explores Revisioning Freight Development and Mobility in Eastern Pennsylvania



Becky Bradley

Becky Bradley, AICP, Executive Director of the Lehigh Valley Planning Commission (LVPC), led NYMTC's Brown Bag Presentation on June 12 to discuss how the Lehigh Valley is working to address the region's evolving mobility and freight trends.

As one of the fastest growing industrial markets in the country, the LVPC has collaborated with regional

agencies and development authorities to meet the needs of expanding freight infrastructure.

Bradley led a discussion on the Lehigh Valley's industrial growth and how the LVPC is navigating changes in freight movement, growth, and infrastructure development in the megaregion.

Watch this Brown Bag Presentation at https://youtu.be/Heub_gHidfM?si=Tuumj-OmuRR5z8PG.

Celebrating 25 Years at NYMTC with Larisa Morozovskaya

In August 2024, Larisa Morozovskaya, Associate Transportation Analyst for NYMTC, will celebrate her 25th work anniversary at NYMTC. Rossana Weitekamp, NYMTC's Public Information Officer, spoke briefly with Larisa about the highlights of her career and some of her favorite things.



Larisa Morozovskaya

Q: When did you join NYMTC?

A: August 19, 1999. I came in as a transportation analyst doing socioeconomic and demographic forecasting. That is how I started.

Q: What is your role at the nation's second largest MPO?

A: Currently, I'm managing the existing Long Range Plan (*Moving Forward 2050*) and developing the next Plan (*Moving Forward 2055*), which anticipates transportation needs 25 years on the horizon. Through it, we will be improving transportation connectivity in our region. I've been working in this capacity for almost two years now, having been promoted in August 2022.

Q: What would you say is one of the top highlights of your career at NYMTC?

A: Meeting people from all over the world and learning about different cultures. One person that stands out to me – she was more influential to me than anyone – was Sangeeta Bhowmick. We worked together for many, many years, and I remember her always – [she is] someone I always have on my mind. Sangeeta passed away on March 21 of this year.

Also – and I don't know if it's a highlight of my career per se – but a month after 9/11 happened (our office was in the World Trade Center), we all met in the consultant's offices because we didn't have any place to go. To see my colleagues and hear their stories – it was something I'll always remember. On a personal and human level, it was just wonderful.

Q: How has public service shaped you?

A: Public service has helped me understand how we can affect people in our regions. It is also amazing to see how our work – the projects we have built – has brought real results, and the knowing the pride you feel by having been involved in a part of it.

Q: Do any projects stand out for you? Why?

A: The former Tappan Zee Bridge. The New York Best Practices Model was used to run 16 different scenarios for the new bridge, the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. We did a lot of work to make it happen.

Q: Do you have a favorite drive?

A: I enjoy the drive to see my kids. I also like the rides down to the Jersey Shore. We do it every year, and that drive is nice.

Q: When you're not busy working on the Long Range Plan, what do you do for fun?

A: I'm blessed to have a wonderful life with my wonderful family and my grandchildren. I spend quite a lot of time with them almost every week.

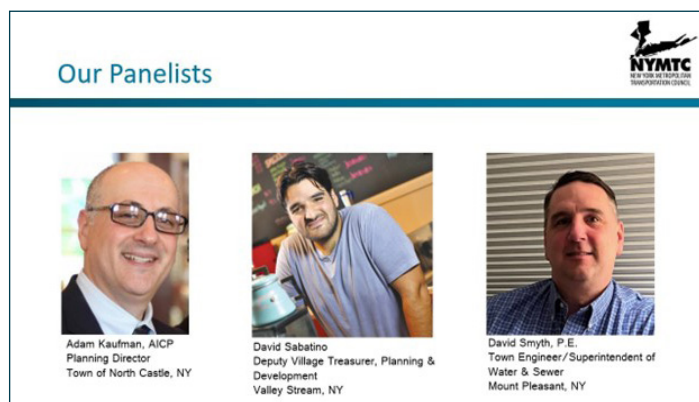
NYMTC's Thriving Communities Network Offers Transportation Resources and Solutions to Traditionally Underrepresented Communities

In January and March 2024, NYMTC's Thriving Communities Network (TCN) convened community organizations across New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley for two informational and interactive meetings that discussed resources they can use to participate in the federal transportation funding process.

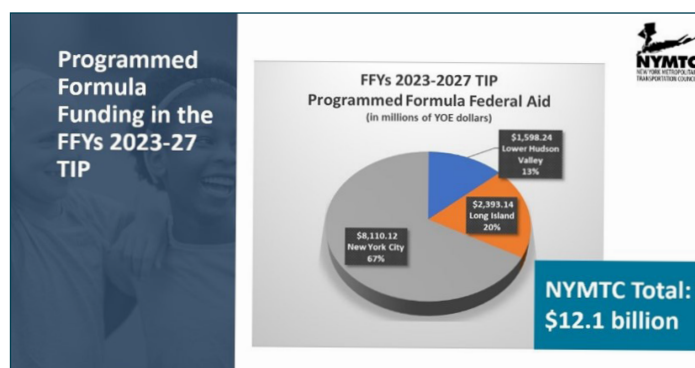
In January, TCN led a presentation on NYMTC's Community Planning Workshop Program (CPWP). The CPWP provides local communities with technical assistance that identifies potential solutions to unique transportation challenges. Participants heard from a panel of municipal leaders representing North White Plains, Valley Stream, and Mount Pleasant – all participants in the CPWP. Each of these guests discussed how the CPWP identified ways to incorporate complete streets strategies and improve shared roadway safety through in-person workshops and public forums.

TCN reconvened for a second meeting in March that focused on the federal transportation funding process. NYMTC staff provided an overview on how to navigate Notices for Funding Opportunities, highlighted important transportation funding streams, and answered questions raised by meeting participants in a live Q&A. Following the presentation, guest speakers Sam Kraus, Grants Applications Coordinator of the NYC Department of Transportation and Danny Gold, Project Manager of the Long Island Greenway of the Trust for Public Land provided tips, best practices, and important insights that TCN organizations can use to create a competitive transportation grant application.

NYMTC launched the Thriving Communities Network in 2023 to serve as a resource for traditionally underrepresented communities working in NYMTC's planning area. TCN regularly convenes community organizations to support their participation in regional and local transportation funding.



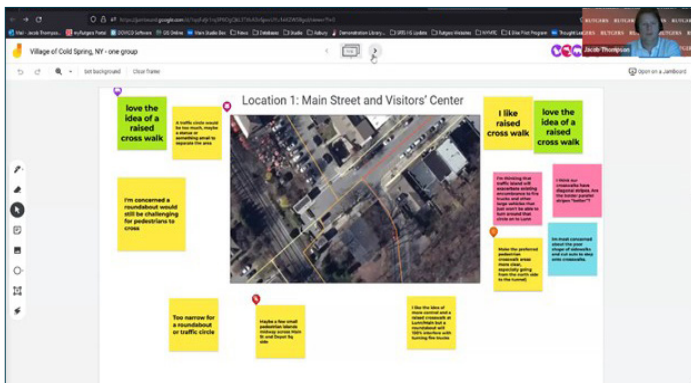
Panelists from January 2024 TCN Meeting



Presentation from the March 2024 TCN Meeting

The Village of Cold Spring Explores Shared Roadway Safety Solutions through NYMTC's Community Planning Workshop

On April 29, NYMTC joined community members from the Village of Cold Spring to explore potential solutions to transportation challenges within the village through NYMTC's Community Planning Workshop Program. Hosted virtually, community residents discussed topics like pedestrian safety, traffic congestion, and improving quality of life while sharing potential strategies to mitigate issues and increase shared roadway safety in the Village's downtown corridor. The solutions raised in the workshop will be used by the Village to pursue funding opportunities.



Cold Spring Community Planning Workshop

NYMTC's Community Workshop Program is operated in collaboration with the Public Outreach Engagement Team (POET) at Rutgers University to explore strategies communities can implement to address their transportation-related problems. Since 2001, NYMTC has held more than 100 workshops across its planning area, supporting communities through technical assistance and community activities.

"Our popular workshops help local governments and their residents analyze current conditions and identify needed potential improvements," said Adam S. Levine, executive director of NYMTC. "At the same time, they also generate an increased awareness about pedestrian safety, walkability, and bicycle access. We're excited to work with the Village of Cold Spring on this effort."

NYMTC Continues Collaboration with Agencies and Municipalities in NY and NJ on the Palisades Shared Use Path Feasibility Study

In recent months, NYMTC has made progress with the Palisades Shared Use Path Feasibility Study, which considers a 20-mile shared use path through the lower Palisades connecting the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey, to the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge in South Nyack, New York. NYMTC has worked in collaboration with public agencies and municipalities from New York and New Jersey since 2023 to gather public input and conduct a feasibility study to assess the path's potential environmental and community impacts.

Moving into Summer 2024, in-person meetings during July will invite community members to provide feedback on the planned shared use path. These public meetings follow three Community Visioning Workshops held in March 2024.

More information on the upcoming workshops, and about the previous Visioning Workshops, is available at www.palisadespathstudy.com.

Graduate Students Sought for NYMTC's September 11th Memorial Program

Applications for NYMTC's September 11th Memorial Program are now open! The program, created to educate and motivate innovation in transportation and technology, asks students to commit 12 months of time outside the classroom to conduct advanced transportation research and planning projects. Throughout the program, students will lead research under the guidance of a mentor from NYMTC or a NYMTC member agency.

For this involvement, a graduate student will receive financial support up to \$35,000 over 12 months.

The September 11th Memorial Program for Regional Transportation Planning honors the memory of Ignatius Adanga, Charles Lesperance, and See Wong Shum, the three NYMTC employees who lost their lives during the attack on the World Trade Center.

For eligibility, research topics, and more, visit <https://cait.rutgers.edu/nymtc-september-11th-memorial-program/> or scan the QR code below. The application deadline is July 22, 2024.



NYMTC September 11th Memorial Program website



NYMTC September 11th Memorial Program logo

Stay Connected

Stay connected to your region! There are a number of ways you can continue to learn more about transportation events and investments in the NYMTC region:



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



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Please be safe and be well.

