

Spring 2025

... 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.

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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!

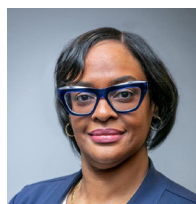
NYMTC'S April Brown Bag Highlighted Free and Reduced Fare Programs in the Region's Public Transportation Network

NYMTC's April 30 Brown Bag, "Navigating Free and Reduced Transit Fares in the New York Metro Area," featured presentations from two guest speakers from Westchester County and the New York City Department of Social Services (DSS):

- Craig Lader, Westchester County's Director of Transportation Planning, showcased Westchester County's Bee Line free summer bus fares program.
- Monica Ealey, Deputy Commissioner of the Fair Fares NYC, Home Energy Assistance, and IDNYC Programs at DSS, shared how DSS is advancing Fair Fares, a reduced fare transit program in New York City and the data they used to inform the program's development.



Craig Lader, Westchester County's Director of Transportation Planning



Monica Ealey, Deputy Commissioner at NYC DSS

The presentations explored lessons learned while advancing these free and reduced fare campaigns.

Watch the Brown Bag on NYMTC's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/@nymtc8522>.



April Brown Bag

NYMTC Announces Next Round of Public Meetings and Public Comment Periods for Multiple Products and Plans This Summer

This summer, NYMTC will host the next round of public meetings and open public review periods to gather feedback on key NYMTC products and plans that guide transportation and infrastructure investment in the region.

NYMTC's **Transportation Improvement Program (TIP)** outlines federally funded transportation projects over a five-year period, including transit, roads, bridges, and other transportation improvements. Read previous iterations of the TIP at <https://bit.ly/TIPF2327>.

The **Transportation Conformity Determination** ensures TIP compliance with air quality standards. To learn more about the Conformity Determination, click here: <https://www.nymtc.org/en-us/Required-Planning-Products/Transportation-Conformity>.

- Public Comment Period for the TIP and Conformity Determination: **June 2 – July 1**
- NYMTC will hold two public meetings about these products on **June 17**, with an afternoon session (3:00-4:30 p.m.) and evening session (7:00-8:30 p.m.) via WebEx. To attend the afternoon session, visit <https://bit.ly/tipcm1>; to attend the evening session, visit <https://bit.ly/3G3eUDu>.

Moving Forward 2055 is a collaborative, long-range transportation plan to improve access, safety, and efficiency across all modes of surface transportation in New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley. Learn more about *Moving Forward 2055* at <https://bit.ly/3YQwot5>.

NYMTC's **Congestion Management Plan (CMP)** forecasts regional traffic congestion and outlines strategies for congestion reduction, including demand management, system operation, multimodal investments, and more. Review the most recent CMP report at <https://bit.ly/42AXTjy>.

- Public Comment Period for *Moving Forward 2055* and the CMP: **June 30 – July 30**
- Join NYMTC's public meeting about these products on **July 15**, with an afternoon session (3:00-4:30 p.m.) and evening session (7:00-8:30 p.m.) via WebEx. To attend the afternoon session, visit <https://bit.ly/3RaPAh1>; to attend the evening session, visit <https://bit.ly/4lthOSg>.

This Earth Day, NYMTC and the Regional Plan Association Presented on Waste Movement

On April 22, NYMTC staff joined the Regional Plan Association (RPA) for an Earth Week virtual panel to share insights about the region's evolving needs in transporting and handling waste. During the meeting, NYMTC described its Regional Waste Movement Study and potential sustainability solutions to address the challenges of handling and transporting waste.

Watch the presentation at <https://rpa.org/events/earth-week-2025>. Learn more about NYMTC's Regional Waste Movement Study by visiting NYMTC's website: <https://www.nymtc.org/en-us/Regional-Planning-Activities/Freight-Planning/Regional-Waste-Movement-Study>.



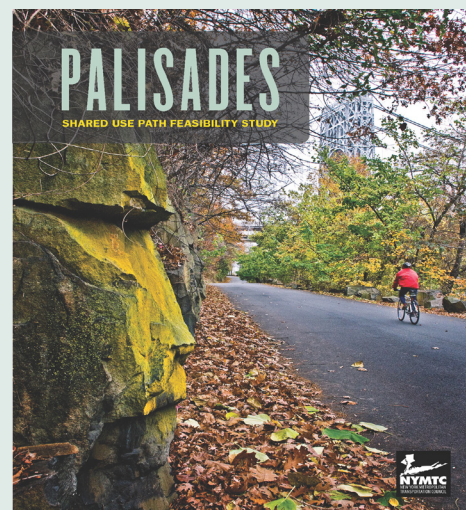
Waste Management Meeting

NYMTC Hosts Next Round of Community Outreach to Share Insights for the Palisades Shared Use Path

This April, NYMTC hosted three public meetings to discuss findings from its Palisades Shared Use Path Feasibility Study. The study explores the feasibility of creating a bicycle and pedestrian route between the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey and the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge in South Nyack, New York.

In collaboration with local agencies, NYMTC gathered community feedback through online sessions, in-person workshops, and surveys. Based on this input, the project team provided recommendations for various bicycle and walking connections along the 20-mile study area. The project team presented these findings during the three public meetings held on:

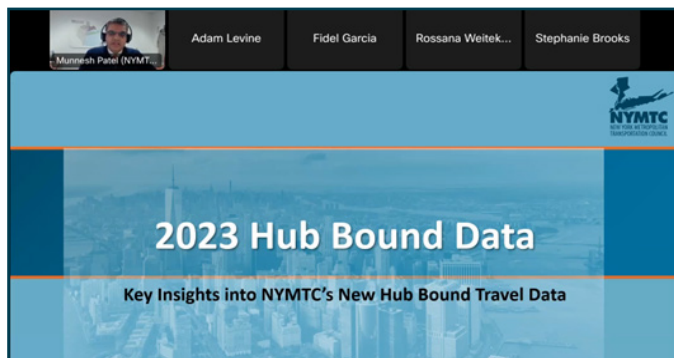
- April 14 at Palisades Center Mall in West Nyack, NY
- April 15 on WebEx
- April 16 at Fort Lee Historic Park in Fort Lee, NJ



Cover of the Palisades Shared Use Path Feasibility Study report

NYMTC's March Brown Bag Explores Trends in NYMTC's Most Recent Hub Bound Travel Report

On March 19, NYMTC hosted a Brown Bag presentation featuring the travel trends into and out of Manhattan's Central Business District (CBD) published in NYMTC's latest *Hub Bound Travel Data Report*. NYMTC's Munnesh Patel, Assistant Director, Technical Group Services, and Maniza Pritila, Transportation Analyst, provided a historical overview of CBD travel trends and presented the report's findings.



Hub Bound Travel Data Presentation

This year's release of *Hub Bound Travel Data Report* shows promising growth in travel compared to the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- Between 2020-2023, all modes of transportation into the CBD have gradually increased.
- In 2023, more than half of pandemic-related travel loss rebounded from 2019 levels.
- Yet, total travel has still not surpassed pre-pandemic levels.

NYMTC's *Hub Bound Travel Report* contains critical insights into how transportation and mobility are changing in the New York metropolitan region. Updated annually, the study serves as a continual resource that guides the development of policies to meet New York City's transportation needs.

Read NYMTC's *Hub Bound Travel Report* [here](https://nyc.gov/html/nymtc/html/about/html/hub-bound-travel-report/). Watch the presentation on NYMTC YouTube channel: <https://youtu.be/2WSRWqOSyvU?si=fhAaW0Yhefl2tulJ>.

NYMTC's January Brown Bag Highlights MTA's System Accessibility Upgrades in MTA's 2025-2029 Capital Plan

On January 9, NYMTC kicked off the 2025 Brown Bag series with a look at the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA)'s accessibility plans within its 2025-2029 Capital Plan. Quemuel "Q" Arroyo, MTA's Chief Accessibility Officer, highlighted critical accessibility and modernization improvements to MTA's transit system, including:

- A live American Sign Language interpretation service pilot at transit stations
- Zero-emission buses
- New, modernized rail cars
- Improved station design, including direct-to-platform elevators and more

Q described how, through the Capital Plan's customer service, accessibility, and infrastructure improvements,

MTA aims to ensure that at least half of all MTA stations will be fully accessible by 2029.

To watch the meeting presentation, visit NYMTC's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CTcdNmlrqNM>.



MTA presentation from January 2025 Brown Bag Webinar

Transportation Leaders Gather at NYMTC's Annual Council Meeting in Downtown Manhattan to Discuss Proactive Transportation Planning Activities

Transportation leaders throughout downstate New York and NYMTC Council members came together at NYMTC's Annual Council Meeting on February 27 to adopt transportation resolutions and provide commentary on transportation plans. Open to the public, NYMTC hosted its Annual Council Meeting at the Alexander Hamilton U.S. Custom House in downtown Manhattan, centered around the theme "Proactive Mobility: Planning for a Dynamic Future".

NYMTC Council members include representatives from the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), New York City Department of Transportation (NYC DOT), New York City Department of City Planning (NYC DCP), Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA), and counties of Nassau, Suffolk, Westchester, Putnam, and Rockland.

NYMTC Council members adopted NYMTC's Draft 2025-2026 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP), which defines NYMTC's transportation planning priorities and describes all federally funded transportation-related planning activities forecasted for the 2025-2026 calendar year.

The meeting also featured a keynote address from Ryan Russo, Executive Director of the National Association of City Transportation Officials (NACTO), who presented NACTO's Urban Bikeway Design Guide. A Councilmember roundtable about the role of human-powered and small-scale battery-operated vehicles in transportation throughout downstate New York was also held.

Watch the Annual Council Meeting on NYMTC's YouTube channel: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0mjh3coXsFU>.

Read NYMTC's 2025-2026 UPWP: <https://bit.ly/41ASfp6>.



Keynote speaker Ryan Russo, NACTO Executive Director, delivers a presentation on NACTO's Urban Bikeway Design Guide.



From left: Ydanis Rodriguez, NYC DOT Commissioner; Adam Levine, NYMTC Executive Director; and Marie Therese Dominguez, NYSDOT Commissioner.

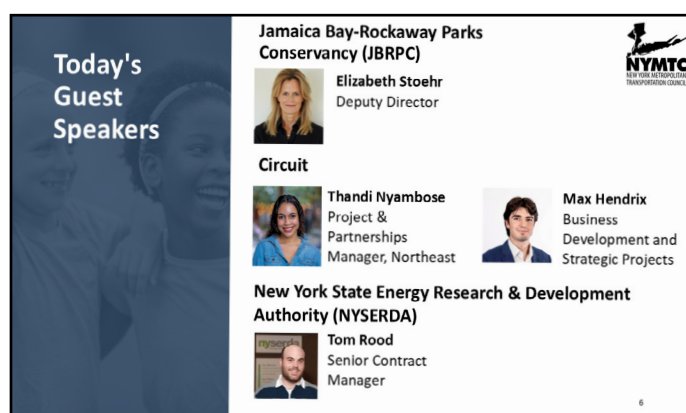
NYMTC's Thriving Communities Network Showcases How Communities Can Address Mobility Needs Through Local Case Study

In March 2025, NYMTC's Thriving Communities Network (TCN) brought together local organizations for a meeting focused on the Rockaway Rides electric shuttle program. Rockaway Rides, whose pilot was funded by a New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA) Clean Transportation Prize, is administered by Circuit (a private shuttle operator) with input from local community-based organizations.

During the meeting, Elizabeth Stoehr, Deputy Director of the Jamaica Bay-Rockaway Parks Conservancy, shared how community workshops and feedback sessions helped shape Rockaway Rides' service area and schedule. After her presentation, Thandi Nyambose and Max Hendrix of Circuit shared information about Rockaway Rides' current operations.

After interactive discussion with TCN attendees, Tom Rood, Senior Contract Manager at NYSERDA, shared a tutorial of how to navigate NYSERDA's funding portal to fund similar transportation projects.

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.



Guest speakers for the March 2025 Thriving Communities Network meeting

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:



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.

