

## MEETING SYNOPSIS

## AUGUST 21, 2025 PROGRAM, FINANCE, AND ADMINISTRATION COMMITTEE MEETING

## A. CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's (NYMTC's) Program, Finance, and Administration Committee (PFAC) meeting was called to order by Adam Levine, NYMTC Executive Director. He noted that the meeting was being held virtually and in person at the NYMTC offices located at 25 Beaver Street in lower Manhattan. After completing the roll call of the PFAC members, he declared that there was a quorum as per NYMTC's Operating Procedures.

## B. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT

**Adam Levine, NYMTC's Executive Director provided the following report:**

Levine noted an exceptionally busy summer at NYMTC and proceeded to highlight the extraordinary work NYMTC has underway, which will include presentations on several of federally required efforts that he hoped would be recommended today for adoption at next month's council meeting.

Those efforts include NYMTC's regional transportation plan Moving Forward 2055 and the accompanying Congestion Management Process Status Report and the Transportation Conformity Determination for the Plan.

Levine thanked the members and NYMTC staff for completing this work in near record time and added that the New York Best Practice Model (NYBPM) NYMTC's activity-based travel model covering the 28-county metropolitan area, will have an upgraded truck model rolled out soon. This version will also include previously completed enhancements. Levine also reported that a meeting with the full Survey Community of Practice will be held on September 25. The Community of Practice brings members together to share best practices and harmonize approaches to travel surveys. The meeting will include a presentation by NYSDOT and Oak Bridge National Laboratory on the national household travel survey. There will also be a presentation on solutions for aligning the coding of modes across surveys.

Levine reported that NYMTC recently released all four quarters of the 2024 Travel Patterns Report. This report summarizes both annually and by quarter, the average weekday ridership on buses, rail, subways, and ferries along with the vehicular traffic crossing waterway bridges in the NYMTC planning area. The 2024 reports are now available on NYMTC.org.

NYMTC's Brown Bag series of transportation seminars will resume September 10 with presentations from this year's class of September 11 fellowship recipients. Webinar attendees will hear from all six graduate level students from universities across New York and New Jersey on the research they have completed as part of their one-year academic fellowships and transportation planning. NYMTC established the program to honor the memory of Ignatius Adanga, Charles Lesperance, and See Wong Shum - the three employees NYMTC lost during the World Trade Center attacks in 2001. As this year's class finishes up, Levine said NYMTC looks forward to announcing the upcoming recipients of the fellowships in the coming weeks.

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Levine wished a fond farewell to Andrea Miles Cole, who concluded her 38 years of service to the people of New York last Wednesday, August 13. Her service to NYMTC began in 2001, and she was the driving force behind making these meetings happen, coordinating among all of the member agencies, agency leaders, and representatives, confirming staffing changes, ensuring public access and participation in person and via the web, and so many small steps that taken together have improved the safety, mobility, and quality of life of many millions of people. Levine wished her well and thanked her for her devoted efforts and positive energy.

Levine thanked the staff at NYMTC for all their hard work, adding that their dedication and service to the people of New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley is as always, very much appreciated.

**C: PRESENTATIONS**

- A. Larisa Morozovskaya together with Leslie Fordjour presented the Regional Transportation Plan, Moving Forward 2055. This is NYMTC's next regional transportation plan, which provides future objectives over a minimum 20-year time frame. The plan must be updated every four years.
- B. John Simpson presented the Congestion Management Process Status Report, which systematically forecasts traffic congestion in the planning area. It must produce specific performance measurements to identify levels of congestion and prepare a program to reduce that congestion.
- C. German Hernandez then presented NYMTC's draft Transportation Conformity Determination - a process by which transportation planning connects to air quality planning. Conformity comes from the requirements of the Clean Air Act amendments of 1990, which included national ambient air quality standards.

**D: PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There were two speakers:

Mary Arnold from Civic United Railroad Environmental Solutions (CURES) commented that Action #4 in Appendix D, which includes the expansion of trash incinerators, must be removed from the regional transportation plan. \* See Attachment 1.

Danielle Dookie commented that the Manhattan and Bronx Solid Waste Advisory Boards strongly advise the removal of recommended Action #4 for so-called wasted energy from Appendix D of the draft Regional Transportation Plan. She added that promoting incineration is outside the scope of transportation policy and action.

**E: ACTION ITEMS**

**a. ACCEPT: AUGUST 21, 2025, MEETING SYNOPSIS**

A motion to accept the August 21, 2025, Meeting Synopsis was made by Barbara Barosa, representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee, and seconded by Paul Ochoa, representing the New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee. There was no discussion. The meeting synopsis was unanimously accepted.

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- b. **ADOPT: Resolution #600 – Recommendation of the Draft Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2055 Regional Transportation Plan and Draft 2025 Congestion Management Process Status Report for Council Adoption**  
Resolution #600 was read by Larisa Morozovskaya and a motion to adopt its recommendation of the Draft Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2055 Regional Transportation Plan and Draft 2025 Congestion Management Process Status Report for Council Adoption was made by Conor Clarke representing the New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee and seconded by Pat Gerdin, representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee. Elisa Picca of Suffolk County noted during the discussion that the 2055 Plan is an important document and that Suffolk County is pleased to see transformational projects in its vision element, including electrification, a modern extensions and modernization of the three rail lines that traverse the county. She also noted that inclusion of projects like the Oakdale Merge and the Sagtikos State Parkway improvements are critical. The resolution was unanimously accepted.
- c. **ADOPT: Resolution #601 – Amendments to the State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program**  
Resolution #601 was read by Seitu Allen and a motion to adopt its Amendments to the State Fiscal Year 2024-2025 Unified Planning Work Program was made by Craig Lader of the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee and seconded by Paul Ochoa of the New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was unanimously accepted.
- d. **ADOPT: Resolution #602 – Transportation Conformity Determination for the Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program and FFYs 2026-2055 Regional Transportation Plan**  
Resolution #602 was ready by German Hernandez and a motion to adopt the Transportation Conformity Determination for the Federal Fiscal Years 2026-2030 Transportation Improvement Program and FFYs 2026-2055 Regional Transportation Plan was made by Barbara Barosa representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee and seconded by Conor Clark representing the New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was unanimously accepted.
- e. **Debra Nelson noted that Resolution #603 was being deferred to the September 5 Council Meeting for Council adoption.**
- f. **ADOPT: Resolution #604 – Recognition of Service by Andr a Miles-Cole, NYMTC’s Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordinator**  
Resolution #604 was read by Adam Levine and a motion to adopt its Recognition of Service by Andr a Miles-Cole, NYMTC’s Metropolitan Planning Organization Coordinator was made by Pat Gerdin, representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee and was seconded by Paul Ochoa, representing the New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee. There was no discussion. The resolution was unanimously accepted with additional congratulations from NYMTC members and those in the audience.
- g. **REPORT: Resolution #605 - Distribution of Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025 Federal Transit Funding.**  
Adam Levine read this report, which stated that on August 13, 2025, this resolution enabled transit operators within the NYMTC planning area to receive certain FTA program funds. NYMTC’s operating procedures allow for action by mail ballot and require that the action is reported during the next scheduled meeting.

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**F. CONFIRMATION OF NEXT COUNCIL MEETING AND PFAC MEETING**

Debra Nelson announced that NYMTC's next Council Meeting is scheduled for Friday, Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> at 11:15 a.m., and NYMTC's next PFAC Meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at 11:30 a.m.

**G. ADJOURN**

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Barbara Barosa, representing the Mid-Hudson South Transportation Coordinating Committee and seconded by Paul Ochoa, representing the New York City Transportation Coordinating Committee. The motion passed and the meeting was adjourned.

**ATTENDANCE**

**Voting Members/Alternatives**

Barbara Barosa, Putnam County Department of Planning, Development & Public Transportation  
Elisa Picca, Suffolk County  
Patrick Gerdin, Rockland County Department of Planning & Public Transportation  
Craig Lader, Westchester County Department of Planning  
Debra Nelson, New York State Department of Transportation  
Paul Ochoa, New York City Department of Transportation  
Conor Clarke, New York City Department of City Planning  
Vallon Parsons, Metropolitan Transportation Authority  
Joe Cuomo, Nassau County

**Advisory (Non-Voting) Members**

Gautam Mani, Federal Highway Administration  
Ted Ritter, North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority  
Jay Shuffield, Port Authority of New York and New Jersey  
Lily Black, United States Environmental Protection Agency  
Dan Moser, Federal Transit Administration

**NYMTC Staff and (Contractors\*)**

|                       |                     |                     |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Adam Levine           | Jack Ma *           | Maura Fitzpatrick   |
| Ali Afshar *          | John Simpson        | Merrill Frank       |
| Ali Mohseni           | Joomee Lee          | Mike Chiume         |
| Amaury Medina-Milford | Joy Britton         | Munnesh Patel       |
| Babatunde Tugbobo     | Kathy Lander        | Olayinka Alamu *    |
| Carl King             | Kwei Pinger         | Rossana Weitekamp   |
| Chester Gross         | Larisa Morozovskaya | Sandeep Puppala *   |
| David Drits           | Leo Alexandropoulos | Sandra Reyes-Guerra |
| Debra Nelson          | Leslie Fordjour     | Seitu Allen         |
| Emily McGhee          | Lynne Thisse        | Sherry Southe       |
| Fidel Garcia *        | Maniza Pritila      | Stephanie Brooks *  |
| German Hernandez      | Mark Maglienti      |                     |
| Husong Han            | Mary Byrne          |                     |

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**OTHERS**

Andrea Miles-Cole  
Balaji Ramesh – Cornell University  
Bob Danielson - NYSDOT  
Brandon Budelmann - NYC DOT  
Brandon Greco – NYSDOT  
Brianna Ryan – SOCOTEC  
Cathy Sweeney – Village of Southampton  
Cheryl Rose - NYSDOT  
Christopher Chatterton - Suffolk County  
Christopher D'Antonio – Suffolk County  
Danielle Dookie – TRUE  
Eric VanDeWall – Rockland County  
Herb Mones  
Hiep Tran - USEPA  
Ilana Wagner – Westchester County  
Ira Quiat – AECOM  
Jeffrey Otto - NYC DOT  
Joseph Raguzin – Rockland County

Joshua Katz – NYSDOT  
Kendra Armstead – Suffolk County  
Kyle Strober – ABLI  
Lisa Cataldo – NYSDOT  
Marc Albrecht – MTA  
Mary Arnold - CURES  
Olga Chernat - MTA  
Oliver Ernhof – WSP  
Olu Folarin - MTA  
Peter Gill - Newsday  
Randi Marshall - Newsday  
Renee Peters-Smith - NYCDOT  
Sean Bennett – Putnam County  
Sean Moore – NYSDOT  
Seth Berman – NYC DOT  
Steve Scaduto - NYSDOT  
Sunil Dhuri – ICF  
Uchenna Madu – NYSDOT

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Rossana Weitekamp*  
Public Information Officer  
NYMTC



August 21, 2025

Recommended Action #4 in Appendix D that includes expansion of trash incinerators must be removed from the Regional Transportation Plan. It's not a transportation project and it's unsupported by the Regional Waste Movement Study's crude projections – which are due to lack of available data. One type of missing data the Study identified is solid waste management planning. For example, the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation's – DEC's – website shows the status of Local Solid Waste Management Plans (LSWMPs). It shows the Town of Brookhaven has no approved LSWMP and there's no further activity noted after DEC's June 2024 comments. There is no indication of activity by the North Hempstead Solid Waste Management Authority after DEC's July 2018 comments, or by the Town of Babylon and Town of Hempstead after DEC's March 2018 comments. Other Towns in both Suffolk and Nassau Counties also do not have approved LSWMPs. In addition, Putnam County's LSWMP expired in 2020, with no further activity noted. <https://dec.ny.gov/environmental-protection/waste-management/solid-waste-management-planning/status-of-local-plans#:~:text=No%20LSWMP:%20The%20LPU%20has%20never%20had,planning%20units%20that%20are%20in%20various%20stages>

So, while advocating for expanded incinerators as renewable energy with Governor Hochul, and preparing to vote on a transportation plan that slips in expansion of incinerators, some voting Members of NYMTC also are leaders of jurisdictions that have failed to even complete required New York State LSWMPs. LSWMPs require local governments to plan – first and foremost – to reduce waste. Other jurisdictions have rejected the false choice between rail or truck to landfill or incinerator. They really are moving forward, with plans to reduce pollution and export to disposal -- including New York City's curbside organics collection and local composting. Replacing trucks with ash-by-rail-to-landfill is an insignificant emissions mitigation in this incineration scheme. And residents by freight rail operations fear toxics from ash-by-rail based on our experience with C&D-by-rail.

Finally, NYMTC's response to CURES' comment about ongoing use of Tier 0 freight locomotives is insulting. LIRR has had a so-called "active procurement" since 2018. And yet my 12 and 17 year old grandsons are still breathing LIRR's pollution even though PANY-NJ bought Tier 4 locomotives in 2015. Thank you.