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PLANNERS NATIONWIDE ATTEND NYMTC'S BROWN BAG SERIES HIGHLIGHTING THE MTA'S FIRST-MILE/LAST-MILE TOOLKIT

NEW YORK, October 24, 2023 – On October 18, nearly 150 certified planners and transportation professionals attended the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's (NYMTC) Brown Bag webinar highlighting the MTA's [First Mile/Last Mile \(FMLM\) Toolkit](#), a NYMTC-funded planning tool that encourages improved, equitable, and environmentally-friendly access to Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) and Metro-North Railroad commuter rail stations.

Led by the MTA's Robyn Hollander, Emily Provonsha, and Kayla Myros, the webinar taught participants how to use the Toolkit to assess a station area, generate an access gap and propensity analysis summary, prepare a cost-benefit analysis, develop a pilot program, and review state and federal grant funding sources. The Toolkit is a complete, step-by-step guide for identifying and developing potential first-mile/last-mile strategies that can be implemented or tested as a pilot program.

"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, Director of Station Area Planning and TOD for the MTA. "We encourage stakeholders in the MTA suburban commuter rail territory to use the toolkit with the goal of improving access to LIRR and Metro-North by shifting customers' attraction from single occupant vehicles to other methods where conditions allow."

Adam S. Levine, executive director of NYMTC commented, "We received considerable interest in this webinar and rightfully so. Many commented how exceptional this tool is for their purposes and we look forward to offering many quality, CM accredited workshops in the future."

ABOUT NYMTC:

NYMTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley which 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.

NYMTC is comprised of nine voting members and seven advisory members who develop plans, goals, and a shared vision for the region's transportation network. Its planning area covers 2,440 square miles and a 2020 population of 13.17 million, approximately 65% of New York State's residents. Between fiscal years 2023-2027, over 1,000 transportation projects will be funded in the NYMTC region totaling \$36.9 billion.