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NYMTC Announces New Scholars for its 2025-26 9-11 Memorial Fellowship Program

NEW YORK, October 21, 2025 – The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC) – the transportation planning organization for New York City, Long Island, and the Lower Hudson Valley - announced that six graduate students from schools across New York and New Jersey have been selected as recipients of its prestigious 9-11 Memorial Fellowship Program for the 2025-26 period. Through the Program, the students will commit 12 months of time outside the classroom to conduct advanced transportation research and planning projects under the guidance of a mentor from NYMTC or a NYMTC member agency. The program challenges students to develop creative solutions to difficult transportation problems.

This year marks the 20th anniversary of NYMTC's 9-11 Memorial Fellowship Program, which was established to honor the memory of three NYMTC employees who lost their lives during the September 11, 2001, attacks on the World Trade Center: Ignatius Adanga, Charles Lesperance, and See Wong Shum.

For their involvement, each graduate student will receive financial support of up to \$35,000 over 12 months.

The students are:

Natalie Aramendia

Columbia University

RESEARCH TOPIC: Elevated Infrastructure & Public Waterfront Access with the New York City Department of City Planning.

Abigail Alvarez

Rutgers University

RESEARCH TOPIC: Public Realm Programming Health & Inclusivity with the New York City Department of Transportation.

Boshra Khalili

Columbia University

RESEARCH TOPIC: Computer Vision Mobility Counting Prototype with the New York City Department of Transportation.

Megh Bahadur KC

University of Buffalo, SUNY

RESEARCH TOPIC: Designing a Freight Policy Tool: Driving Data-Informed Planning for the Future of Freight with the New York City Department of Transportation.

Sabah Usmani

Columbia University

RESEARCH TOPIC: Investigating the Relationship Between Street Projects and Health Outcomes with the New York City Department of Transportation.

Snigdha Sri Sai Anantharaju

New York University

RESEARCH TOPIC: Vision Zero Street Improvement Projects with the New York City Department of Transportation.

“These fellows represent the next generation of leaders who will shape the future of transportation,” said Adam S. Levine, executive director of NYMTC. “The past 20 years of our fellows’ accomplishments demonstrate NYMTC’s steadfast commitment to building a community of forward-thinking professionals dedicated to making transportation more connected, resilient and accessible for everyone.”

Explore 20 years of transportation research conducted by NYMTC fellowship scholars in NYMTC’s Memorial Archive [here](#).

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. NYMTC has nine voting members and seven advisory members representing 2,440 square miles and serving a population of 13 million – approximately 65% of New York State’s residents. Between fiscal years 2026-2030, nearly 1,000 transportation projects will be funded in the NYMTC region totaling almost \$40 billion.

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