

**NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (on behalf of the)  
NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL**

**Socioeconomic and Demographic Methodologies and Forecasting Solutions  
Request for Information  
RFI #NYMTC-01-2021**

**A. Schedule**

| <b>RFI Schedule</b>             | <b>Date and Time</b>                        |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------------|
| RFI Release Date                | July 6, 2021                                |
| Webinar to review RFI           | July 14, 2021 at 2:30pm (Eastern Time)      |
| Expressions of Interest Due     | July 30, 2021                               |
| Question Submittal Deadline     | August 6, 2021                              |
| Responses to Questions Released | August 20, 2021                             |
| RFI Responses Due               | September 10, 2021 at 2:00pm (Eastern Time) |

**B. Purpose**

The purpose of this Request for Information (RFI) is to gather information about how best to approach replacement or update of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council's (NYMTC) existing 2050 Socioeconomic and Demographic (SED) forecasting model(s) for the 31-county New York Metropolitan Region.

NYMTC, via its administrative host the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), hereby requests written information, advice, comments, and recommendations regarding the feasibility and means of creating solutions that would enable NYMTC's staff to independently develop future SED forecasts and zonal allocations using an easy-to use and efficient solution that satisfies the requirements identified below.

NYMTC will review all responses and use the information received from this RFI to review the available options and solutions in making decisions for future contracting strategies.

This RFI is strictly a mechanism for gathering information and will not constitute a procurement process. No contract award(s) will be made because of this request.

This document outlines the broad areas of functionality. It is not intended to be a detailed description of every function needed, but rather to act as an overview of the main functions required.

**Please Note: This is not a Request for Proposals (RFP).** This RFI is strictly a mechanism for gathering information and will not constitute a procurement process. No contract award(s) will be made because of this request. If you have any questions, please contact, preferably by email, the Designated NYMTC/NYS DOT Contacts shown below. Please include ‘RFI #NYMTC-01-2021’ in the subject line of your email.

**Designated Contacts**

**NYMTC Contact**

Seitu Allen, Senior Transportation Analyst

NYMTC

212-383-1885

[seitu.allen@dot.ny.gov](mailto:seitu.allen@dot.ny.gov)

**NYS DOT Contact**

Al Hasenkopf, Program Research Specialist III (Transportation)

NYS DOT

518-457-1560

[alfred.hasenkopf@dot.ny.gov](mailto:alfred.hasenkopf@dot.ny.gov)

**C. Expression of Interest**

Interested Parties are requested to submit their “Expression of Interest” (i.e. a company’s intent to respond to this RFI) via email no later than July 30, 2021 to the Designated Contacts.

**D. RFI Questions**

Questions shall be submitted via email to the Designated Contacts no later than August 6, 2021 and responses to those comments will be posted no later than August 20, 2021 on the respective NYMTC and NYSDOT websites.

**E. Contemplated Future Contract Structure**

As a result of this RFI, NYMTC/NYS DOT may formally issue an RFP to accomplish the objectives listed below. NYMTC/NYS DOT is considering the following structure:

1. Contract Term: Maximum length of 5 years.
2. Award: ONE (1) responsive and responsible consultant.

## **F. Webinar Information**

To assist interested parties in preparing responses to this RFI, NYMTC/NYS DOT will host a 1-hour webinar on Wednesday, July 14, 2021 at 2:30pm. This recorded webinar will feature an overview of the RFI and provide an opportunity for oral questions and answers. Questions may be submitted in advanced to the Designated Contacts.

### **Meeting Link:**

<https://meetny.webex.com/meetny/j.php?MTID=m35d23b345f5d043177fb716393e3e311>

**Meeting Number:** 161 268 3325

**Meeting Password:** NYMTC123

### **Join by Phone:**

**Phone Number:** 518-549-0500

**Access Code:** 161 268 3325

## **G. Submission Requirements**

Interested parties are encouraged to submit an electronic written response to this RFI on company letterhead, characterizing their interest, background, and relevant experience. NYMTC/NYS DOT may subsequently invite respondents to participate in further discussions. Please submit RFI responses to the Designated Contacts and include ‘RFI #NYMTC-01-2021’ in the subject line of your email.:

1. [seitu.allen@dot.ny.gov](mailto:seitu.allen@dot.ny.gov)
2. [alfred.hasenkopf@dot.ny.gov](mailto:alfred.hasenkopf@dot.ny.gov)

## **H. Current SED Forecast Model Description**

Reasonable and defensible forecasts are a critical part of NYMTC’s regional transportation planning process. NYMTC has developed an Excel based socioeconomic and demographic (SED) forecasting and zonal allocation system which was used to produce the population and employment forecasts that were adopted in 2015. These forecasts informed NYMTC’s 2017-2045 Regional Transportation Plan and associated zonal allocation has been used in travel demand modeling efforts.

This SED forecasting and zonal allocation system was also used to develop updated forecasts and allocations through the year 2055 that were adopted in October 2020. The current system’s forecast horizon is not easily extendable to later horizon years. Therefore, NYMTC used this system to produce county-level forecasts through 2050 and then used linear extrapolation to produce forecasts for 2055. These forecasts and associated zonal allocations will be used in NYMTC’s next Regional Transportation Plan – [\*Moving Forward\*](#) – which has a horizon year of 2050.

Information on the current SED forecast methodology and ZAP can be found at:

[2055 SED Forecasts \(nymtc.org\)](#) and

<https://www.nymtc.org/DATA-AND-MODELING/SED-Forecasts/2050-Forecasts>

## **I. Objectives**

The objective of this project is to develop a solution (i.e., a methodology and process) that NYMTC's staff will be able to maintain, update, revise, and use to develop future forecasts and zonal allocations with horizon years beyond 2060.

The solution will:

1. Incorporate historical SED data and report historical and forecasted SED data beginning with 2000.
2. Develop county-level SED forecasts, able to be reported at one-year intervals, through 2060 and beyond.
3. Allocate county-level forecasts to the TAZ-level for transportation modeling purposes.

## **J. Functional Requirements**

The solution should enable NYMTC's staff to maintain, update, revise, and use to develop future forecasts and zonal allocations with horizon years initially through 2060, and extensible to later years. The solution should:

1. Automate collection of historical input data to the extent possible
2. Enable users to easily update input data
3. Revise policy assumptions
4. Revise known development assumptions
5. Make "out-of-model" adjustments
6. Trace how a change in an input variable affects final output
7. Extend forecast horizon beyond 2060
8. Develop zonal allocations for the base year and each forecast year
9. View and edit underlying code
10. Check for errors
11. Ensure consistency between the county-level forecasts and TAZ-level allocation
12. Forecast TAZ-level variables that are not directly forecasted at the county-level
13. Develop and save forecast scenarios
14. Produce replicable results: the same input parameters shall produce the same final output in repeated process runs
15. Aggregate zonal allocation forecasts to municipalities and custom geographies
16. Incorporate updated TAZ structures, as needed

## **K. Technical Requirements**

1. Provide a user-friendly SED forecast model for NYMTC
2. Be easily accessible on a windows computer
3. Provide traceability
4. Present well written documentation and code
5. Provide tools enabling output to be exported into multiple systems including Excel, Access, and ArcGIS, as appropriate

**L. Information Being Requested**

Respondents are asked to address the following topics. Please consider the objectives of this RFI when responding so your time is spent on issues that will be helpful to reviewers. In addition, NYMTC is requesting a description of trends that it should be aware of as it continues the technology adoption process. Please describe:

1. How the methodology will generate forecasts that consider the influence of the current economic environment on future conditions and structural changes in the economy that may be underway, and ensure that regional land use trends and the plans and policies of NYMTC's members are reflected in the population, employment, households, and labor force forecasts.
2. How proposed methodologies will ensure the stability of results from one forecast update to the next forecast update.
3. Describe how the proposed methodologies may be updated and maintained over time, and how future forecasts will be linked to [NYMTC's New York Best Practice Model](#) (NYBPM).
4. How the forecasts will consider land use development restrictions and planned land use development patterns including major known planned developments.
5. How input from the region's elected officials and planners and other Metropolitan Planning Organizations will be incorporated into the forecasts throughout the development process.
6. How the recommended methodology compares to NYMTC's current and past forecasting methods.
7. Whether the purchase of proprietary software is recommended along with justification for reliance on such data.

NYMTC and NYSDOT thank all who participate in this information gathering process.