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# PLANNING IN A DYNAMIC AGE:

The Impacts of Climate,  
Energy, Economic,  
and Policy Change  
on MPOs



The Association of New York State  
Metropolitan Planning Organizations  
**Annual Conference 2009**  
June 4-5 • Crowne Plaza Hotel • Albany, NY

# NYSMPO Annual Conference Program Schedule

## THURSDAY, JUNE 4

		Room
10:15-11:20	CDTC Policy Board Meeting - Conference Attendees Welcome	TBD
	<u>Walking Tour &amp; Update on the Albany Bike Plan: A Work in Progress</u> Tour will be led by Jason Purvis - CDTC and Doug Melnick - City of Albany	TBD
11:30-12:15	<u>Welcome &amp; Introductions:</u> John Poorman, Staff Director - Capital District Transportation Committee  <u>Opening Remarks:</u> Mayor Gerald Jennings - City of Albany Mayor John T. McDonald - City of Cohoes & CDTC Policy Board Chairman Raymond Melleady, Executive Director - Capital District Transportation Authority Mary Ivey, Regional Director - New York State Department of Transportation-Region 1	TBD
12:15-1:15	LUNCH	TBD
1:15-2:30	<u>Keynote Speaker:</u> Robert E. Lawler, PE - Director of Transportation Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission, Columbus, OH  <u>AMPO Update:</u> DeLania Hardy, Executive Director - AMPO	TBD
2:30-2:45	BREAK	TBD
2:45	NYSDOT RPPM Meeting ( <i>NYSDOT staff only</i> )	TBD
2:45-4:00	<u>Session 1</u> <u>Statewide Planning Efforts Shaping Transportation: Details of the State Energy Plan, Strategic Highway Safety Plan &amp; Smart Growth Initiatives</u>  Speaker: John Zamurs, Head of the Air Quality & Energy Section - New York State Department of Transportation Speaker: Paul Beyer, State Director of Smart Growth - New York State Department of State Speaker: Barbara O'Rourke, Coordinator of Safety Programs - New York State Department of Transportation Moderator: Robert Zerillo, Director - Office of Policy, Planning & Performance - New York State Department of Transportation	TBD
	<u>Addressing Uncertainty in Transportation Planning: From RPO's to Mega-Regions</u>  Speaker: Amy Kessler, Director of Community & Regional Planning - North Central Pennsylvania Regional Planning and Development Commission Speaker: Randy Blankenhorn, Executive Director - Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning Moderator: Steven Gayle, Executive Director - Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study	TBD
4:15-5:30	<u>Session 2</u> <u>Climate Change &amp; Energy: Impacts and Implications for MPOs and Local Governments</u>  Speaker: Mark Lowery, Climate Partnership Coordinator - New York State Department of Conservation Speaker: Scott Johnstone, Executive Director - Vermont Energy Investment Corporation Speaker: Steven Lawe, Director - Transportation & Land Use Forecasting - RSG, Inc. Moderator: Peter Plumeau, Director, Policy and Strategy Practice - RSG, Inc.	TBD
	<u>The Future of Federal Funding: Understanding the Federal Trust Fund</u>  Speaker: TBD Speaker: Jack Basso, Chief Operating Officer - American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials Moderator: Steven Gayle, Executive Director - Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study	TBD
	<u>Consequences for Mobility at the Local Level: Different Approaches to Tackling Mobility Issues &amp; Needs</u>  Speaker: Mary Ann Ferris-Young, Sustainable Transportation Programs - Ecology and Environment Speaker: Larry McAuliffe, Research & Education Unit - New York Metropolitan Transportation Council Speaker: Todd Westhuis, Special Assistant to the Operations Division Director - New York State Department of Transportation Moderator/Presenter: Hal Morse, Executive Director - Greater Buffalo-Niagara Regional Transportation Council	TBD
5:30-6:15	Reception (Dinner on your own)	TBD

## FRIDAY, JUNE 5

		Room
7:00-8:30	BREAKFAST	TBD
8:45 - 10:00	<u>Session 3</u> <u>Friday Morning Technical Session: 100 Miles of BRT Planned for the Capital District</u>  Speaker: Raymond Melleady, Executive Director - Capital District Transportation Authority Speaker: Kristina Younger, Director of Planning- Capital District Transportation Authority Speaker: Jeffery Pangburn, Senior Project Manager/Associate - Creighton Manning Engineering Moderator/Presenter: Chris O'Neill, Senior Transportation Planner II - Capital District Transportation Committee	TBD
	<u>Re-authorization and Policy Uncertainty: Part 1 &amp; Part 2</u>  Speaker: Craig Secrest, Partner - High Street Consulting Group Speaker: DeLania Hardy, Executive Director - AMPO Speaker: Nancy Ross, Federal Relations Officer - New York State Department of Transportation Speaker: Matt Chase, Executive Director - National Association of Development Organizations Moderator: Steven Gayle, Executive Director - Binghamton Metropolitan Transportation Study	TBD
10:10-11:25	<u>Session 4</u> <u>MPOs Adapting to Change: Innovative Techniques and Strategies Yielding Positive Regional Benefits</u>  Speaker: Gerry Bogacz, Director of Planning - New York Metropolitan Transportation Council Speaker: Rich Perrin, Executive Director - Genesee Transportation Council Speaker: Fernando de Aragon, Staff Director - Ithaca-Thompkins County Transportation Council Moderator: Sandy Misiewicz, Senior Transportation Planner - Capital District Transportation Committee	TBD
	<u>Walking Tour &amp; Discussion - Transit Supportive Development &amp; the Downtown Albany Demonstration Project</u> (NYSMPO Association Shared Cost Initiative Project)  Tour will be led by Larry McAuliffe - NYMTC, Kristina Younger - CDTA, and George Jacquemart - BFJ Planning	TBD

### Thursday & Friday Continuous Event

Consultant Display Tables & Information Booths

Main Floor Foyer



## CONFERENCE SESSION DESCRIPTIONS

### Thursday & Friday Continuous Event

#### **Consultant Display Tables & Information Booths**

Displays and information booths will be up from Thursday morning until Friday afternoon. Breaks and the Thursday evening reception will be held in this area. We encourage you to stop by the tables and displays, ask questions of the staff, and interact with the sponsors. Their sponsorship helps minimize conference registration fees.

### Thursday, June 4

#### **Morning "Optional" Events**

#### **CDTC Policy Board - Monthly Meeting**

Like the other twelve MPOs across New York State, CDTC not only serves as the forum for regional transportation decision-making, but also provides information on a broad range of topics important to the region's quality of life. The U.S. Department of Transportation relies on the MPO process to ensure that the transportation projects that use federal funds are products of a cooperative planning process that meet the priorities of the metropolitan area. Whether the topic is a dangerous intersection or a long-term policy issue, the future of the Capital District's transportation future is shaped by decisions made by CDTC.

The CDTC Policy Board meets four times a year. This is an official meeting of the Policy Board, and conference participants are invited to attend. The agenda includes a presentation by Ray Melleady, Executive Director of the Capital District Transportation Authority, on the findings of a joint CDTA/New York State Senate High Speed Rail Task Force study that identified transit opportunities that promote urban reinvestment and high quality suburban planning. The study addressed light rail, commuter rail, and bus rapid transit "Big Ticket Initiatives" in the Capital District and lower Adirondack regions.

#### **Walking Tour and Update on the Albany Bike Plan: A Work in Progress**

This session will include a brief introduction & description of the Albany Bicycle Master Plan, a project sponsored by the City of Albany and funded through the CDTC Community and Transportation Linkage Program. The presentation will be followed by a short walking tour of downtown Albany. The tour will highlight examples of both issues and opportunities associated with bicycle planning in an urban downtown environment. The tour will include a stop at a significant achievement in bicycle & pedestrian planning - the Hudson River Way bridge, which spans I-787 connecting downtown Albany to the Corning Preserve and the Hudson Riverfront.

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**CONFERENCE SESSIONS****Thursday June 4****Session #1****1) Statewide Planning Efforts Shaping Transportation: Details of the State Energy Plan, Strategic Highway Safety Plan & Smart Growth Initiatives**

New York State has recently undertaken several statewide initiatives and plan updates in partnership with the MPOs and in cooperation with regional entities, counties and municipalities within the state. From smart growth to energy and highway safety, the policies, goals, objectives and recommendations contained within these plans and initiatives provide important input to shaping current and future transportation planning activities. This session will detail statewide efforts underway on energy, highway safety and smart growth and discuss how they translate into action items for MPOs, regional entities, counties and municipalities in their planning and implementation activities.

**2) Addressing Uncertainty in Transportation Planning - From RPO's to Mega-Regions**

This session will discuss the "disconnect" between the historical role of MPOs as predominantly transportation organizations and their potential future role as multi-disciplinary regional planning entities. While MPOs in New York State have "unofficially" taken on land use and regional planning roles, MPOs in other states have officially undergone significant changes in their structure, role, expectations, and bylaws. We are privileged to have speakers from two out-of-state agencies that span the range from rural to metropolitan mega-region, and are structured to address the full range of planning tasks. Topics will include discussion of the "new" or revised role of their agency, how the agency adapted to a regional planning framework, and expectations for the future.

**Thursday, June 4****Session #2****1) Climate Change & Energy: Impacts and Implications for MPOs and Local Governments**

Global climate change (GCC) has emerged as the highest-profile environmental issue of the early 21st Century. Scientists and others predict that GCC will have widespread effects across the entire planet, ranging from sea-level rise in coastal areas to shifts in climate zones. GCC is having a significant impact on discussions and decisions in multiple policy areas, including transportation planning and management at the federal, state and regional levels. Recent legislative and regulatory actions in Washington strongly suggest that major action to closely link transportation planning and investment decision-making with greenhouse gas reduction strategies is looming, with significant implications for MPOs and their partner agencies. This session will provide an overview of current federal and state legislation, policies and initiatives, examples of climate change affecting planning and implementation practices of MPOs across the nation, and a technical discussion of how climate change is likely to affect MPOs and local governments in the form of potential new modeling needs and responsibilities.

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## CONFERENCE SESSIONS

### 2) The Future of Federal Funding - Understanding the Federal Trust Fund

We are currently in a period of transformation where the future of federal transportation funding may be determined through the pending transportation authorization bill. Federal Highway Trust Fund receipts are essentially flat, the federal motor fuel tax rate of 18.3 cents per gallon has not been increased since 1993, and inflation has continuously eroded its purchasing power. In addition, increased fuel efficiency and the advent of alternative-fuel vehicles will further reduce trust fund receipts. Funding already authorized in recently enacted highway and transit program legislation is expected to outstrip the growth in trust fund receipts. To provide the robust infrastructure development that many transportation advocates believe is required to meet the nation's mobility needs, a variety of alternative strategies for raising needed transportation revenues are being considered at the federal, state and local levels. The final reports of both the National Surface Transportation Policy and Revenue Study Commission and the National Surface Transportation Infrastructure Financing Commission examine this issue and recommend new approaches. This session will provide insights on the outlook for the Highway Trust Fund and cover topics such as the findings of the NSTI Financing Report, the future of transportation funding and likely directions for funding aspects of the new surface transportation bill.

### 3) Consequences for Mobility at the Local Level - Different Approaches to Tackling Mobility Issues & Needs

For many years, agencies across New York State have implemented a variety of mobility enhancements. While each approach is different, depending on the community and needs, the goal of enhancing mobility is the same. MPOs in New York have been actively working with local communities and private entities through community involvement, outreach and participation to enhance mobility. This session will include a brief discussion of efforts recently undertaken to improve mobility and public awareness, discuss why each approach was implemented, and detail the benefits to the region and traveling public gained by the new initiatives. Speakers will discuss Buffalo's "GreenRide" rideshare program, hosted by GBNRTC, the Transit Supportive Development planning project managed by NYMTC on behalf of the NYSMPO Association and the recently unveiled NYSDOT 511 System.

## Friday, June 5

### Session #3

#### 1) Friday Morning Technical Session: 100 Miles of BRT Planned for the Capital District

BRT is on its way to the Capital District. Beginning this year, the Capital District Transportation Authority (CDTA) is bringing the first phase of Bus Rapid Transit to the busy NY Route 5 corridor between Albany and Schenectady. Amenity-filled signature stations are now being developed to prepare for the arrival of BRT service. Modern bus and station technology will soon combine with high-tech traffic signals to provide high quality limited stop transit service along the corridor. Over the next few years, when all the system elements are added, BRT will be the most efficient way to travel along this busy road. In addition, CDTA is planning for the expansion of BRT service to other corridors in the region, connecting to three future transportation centers and seven transfer stations. The BRT expansion plan - termed *100 Miles of BRT for the Capital District* -- is identified in CDTC's *New Visions Plan* as a "Big Ticket Initiative". This session will highlight both of these on-going public transit initiatives.

#### 2) Re-authorization and Policy Uncertainty: *Part 1*

2009 is shaping up to be an interesting year for transportation planning from the policy perspective - ARRA is underway, SAFETEA-LU expires on September 30, and major funding rescissions are once again expected. In this dynamic age, metropolitan transportation planning is probably as difficult as it has ever been. This session is in two parts - Part 1 will include presentations from AMPO, NADO and NYSDOT staff on current policy and re-authorization, while Part 2 will open the conversation to all participants for discussion of the topics presented.

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**CONFERENCE SESSIONS****Friday, June 5****Session #4****1) Re-authorization & Policy Uncertainty: *Part 2***

Open-floor discussion of topics covered in Part 1. The facilitator will encourage the audience to ask questions of the panelists, present their thoughts on current and future policies, re-authorization and the future of transportation planning in these dynamic times.

**2) MPOs Adapting to Change - Innovative Techniques & Strategies Yielding Positive Regional Benefits at all Levels**

MPOs throughout New York State are facing various kinds of uncertainty that affect both the way in which they operate and the way they plan. Policy uncertainty, stemming from overarching issues in the larger world such as climate change, energy instability, technological development and economic restructuring, is forcing MPOs to adapt their planning processes to new demands, imperatives and changing conditions. This session will explore recently implemented techniques and strategies being implemented through large, medium and small New York State MPOs planning processes, including the recently initiated and very successful public-private partnership car-sharing program in Ithaca which is being emulated, or considered, by several other regions throughout the northeast; The Circulation, Accessibility and Parking (CAP) program administered by GTC, which is successfully working with local communities to integrate Land Use, Transportation and mobility planning in an effort to improve local understanding of land use impacts on the transportation system and create a sense of local stewardship for the system, and NYMTC's supplemental emissions reduction measures work which is likely to be utilized by other smaller MPOs in the future to combat pollution and climate change concerns.

**Friday, June 5****End-of-Conference "Optional" Event****1) Walking Tour & Discussion of the NYSMPO Association Shared Cost Initiative: Transit Supportive Development & the Downtown Albany Demonstration Project**

The NYSMPO Association undertook the development of a Transit Supportive Development (TSD) planning study in 2008. The central goal of this statewide project was to identify locations for transit supportive development that can serve as prototypes for other communities. The City of Albany, with a planned BRT line terminus at the proposed downtown convention center, became one of three TSD demonstration projects undertaken by a consultant team.

The demonstration project case studies include identification of transportation/land use potential, framework planning for the site, and an action plan for implementing the project. The plan specifically identifies actions required to create the most supportive land uses for transit supportive development, such as including identifying obstacles to integrated planning, helping to provide insight regarding the potential market, development size, and zoning and parking issues. This session will begin with a quick overview of the final document, followed by a walking tour to provide on-the-ground discussions of considerations, opportunities, constraints and the overall vision for TSD in Downtown Albany.