

New York in the New World Economy

Principal Investigators: Catherine Lawson, SUNY Albany, Robert E. Paaswell, Ross Weiner, City College of New York

This study examined two major transportation corridors in New York State, noting the importance of connectivity among the state's regions, with other states, across its international borders, and throughout the globe. NYSDOT asked UTRC to explore these themes as part of its larger effort to restructure its organization to better address these issues.

The first part of the study examined Interstate 87, known as the New York State Thruway from New York to Albany and the Northway from Albany to the New York Canadian Border. This north-south corridor links New York City to Canada and serves as a critical route for commerce, commuting and tourism.

The report describes this prominent corridor in detail, highlighting the roles of urbanization and economic activity, the impacts of landform, and the role of transportation. It examines issues and opportunities in three distinct regions: New York City, I-84 to the Capital District, and the Capital District to the Canadian Border. Its findings are based in part on interviews with transportation professionals regarding moving goods and people in and through the corridor. Its conclusions discuss opportunities that can enhance economic activity within this corridor.

The second phase examined the east-west I-90 Corridor in upstate New York. The corridor has experienced a significant decline in its economic base, manufacturing, over the past three decades. Establishing better links between Upstate New York and global flows of goods and services can play an important role in helping return the region to economic competitiveness.

The study identified a number of issues and opportunities for improvement along the I-90 corridor:

- A need for more efficient simultaneous movement of freight and commuters.
- Improvements needed at border crossings, including: security, congestion, and additional road and rail capacity.
- Efficient connections needed between highways, rail, and local roads.
- Enhanced use of intermodal freight



The project was a pivotal project for New York State DOT. The Office of the Commissioner and Executive Staff used this project and related work by UTRC to focus the DOT on the global impacts of their work. Shifting some focus from mainly regional concerns within the State to integrating multi modal issues, NYSDOT wanted to address how both State support of transportation investments and the work of DOT can assist the State in developing capabilities for growth in the new global economy.

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