



September 11th Memorial Program Presentation

Internship at NYMTC
on Regional Decision Making/Conference Planning

D. David Zhang
NYMTC, Oct 18th 2006

Presentation Agenda

- About Myself
- About the Internship Project
- Good to Go Conference
- Conclusion

About Myself

Background

- **Beijing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics**
Bachelor of Engineering, Mechanical
- **Columbia University**
Master of Science in Urban Planning

Transportation Related Experience

- **Tappan Zee Bridge Studio**



- **Mass Transit Railway Corporation Limited, Hong Kong SAR, China**



Internship Project

Regional Decision Making

The Internship project in short:

- Work with NYMTC Executive Director directly in the development, arrangement, and implementation of **regional conferences** on emerging transportation issues.

What Does a Conference Mean to NYMTC?

- It fulfills NYMTC's role of serving as the **regional collaborative forum**.
- Strengthen NYMTC's **leadership role** in metropolitan planning process.
- Make the **coordination efforts** of NYMTC more efficient.

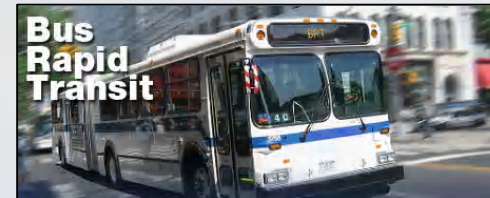
What Have I Been Doing?

- Research critical transportation issues** in the NYTMC region. Worked with NYMTC staff in developing proposals for regional policy conferences on specific issues;
- Worked with the planning committee** for the “Good to Go” Conference;
- Assisted in the development of a RFP** for development of a new land use model for the Technical Group;
- Professional exposure:** meeting and conference at all level of the public sector.

Regional Transportation Issues

Bus Rapid Transit

- Cost-effective solution
- Improve overall bus transit image



Transportation for older adults

- Critical demographic change
- Recognized issue nation-wide (WHCoA)



Safe Routes to School

- Safe, health and environment issue
- Federal Government's dedication to it.



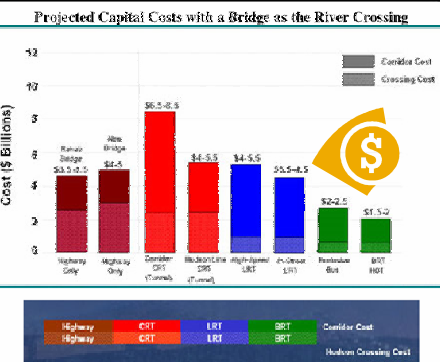
Transit Oriented Development

- Tremendous transit advantage
- Immediate development needs



Regional Transportation Issues

Bus Rapid Transit



- Introduce a new, high performance transit option.
- Improve the speed, reliability and appeal of the bus system.
- Provide measurable benefits to current customers as well as attracting new riders and supporting growth and redevelopment.

Regional Transportation Issues

BRT – What Has Been Done?

NYCBRT
study



New York State Department of Transportation



New York City Transit



New York City Department of Transportation



THE PORT AUTHORITY OF NY & NJ

NYU Wagner
rudin
center
for transportation policy & management



Tappan Zee Bridge BRT Study



TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE/287
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW



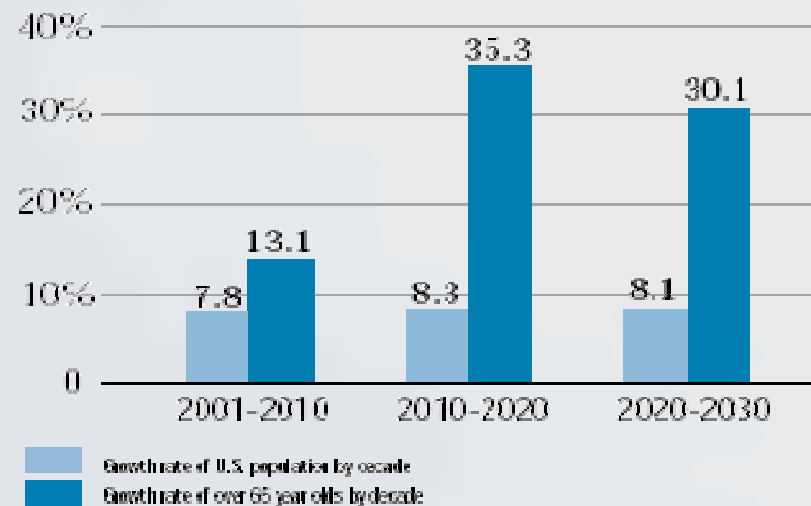
IN MEMORY OF
GENARDO ROMANA
FOR HIS LEADERSHIP
SEE WORLD CHINA



Regional Transportation Issues

Transportation Planning for Older Adults

- By 2030, 20% of the total population will be 65 years old or older (double)
- NYMTC region: 10 of the region's counties rank top 35 with largest population with older adults
- Travel pattern has changed
- Older Adults' transportation issues needed to be resolved: affordability, easiness-to-use, flexibility



Regional Transportation Issues

Transportation Planning for Older Adults – What Has Been Done?

- **Westchester County:** assistance in transportation services and information to senior citizens through the Older Driver Assistance Program; dedicated transportation for older adults.
- **Rockland County:** ongoing outreach programs that include education for elderly persons on using the transit system.
- Long Island: **Nassau** and **Suffolk** County set up dedicated transit for older adults; provide discount pricing.
- **The New York City Department of Transportation:** programs to improve pedestrian safety.
- **MTA:** developing transit system that is fully accessible, and continuing the reduced-fare program for the elderly and disabled.
- **Other agencies:** **AARP** has set up an educational program for senior drivers to improve their driving safety.
- **Conferences:** Westchester, White House Conference



Regional Transportation Issues

Safe Routes to School

- A Federal-Aid program of the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration (**FHWA**). Section 1404 of **SAFETEA-LU**.
- The SRTS Program is funded at **\$612 million** over FY 2005-2009
- Administered by State DOTs.



Why Safe Routes to School?

- Safety issue
- Health issue
- Environment issue

Regional Transportation Issues

Safe Routes to School – What Has Been Done?

- SAFETEA-LU: provides funds to States to support both infrastructure and non-infrastructure efforts to improve the ability of primary and middle school students to walk and bicycle to school safely.
- In the NYMTC region, a formal Safe Routes to School program was first established by **New York City DOT** and **Transportation Alternatives** in the Bronx.
- **NYC DOT** has launched a city-wide planning initiative.
- In suburban counties including **Westchester** and **Suffolk**, county departments of transportation have also held workshops on Safe Routes to School programs in order to develop further plans to improve bicycle and pedestrian safety for students.
- **NYMTC** also started a pilot program for SR2S, with workshops, community meetings and other public involvement.

Regional Transportation Issues

Transit Oriented Development

- Why talk about TOD in a **regional scale**?

The region have a significant transit advantage and increasing housing and office need.

- **Benefits of TOD:**

- Create mixed-use environment, preserving open space, decrease pollution and the use of automobile.
- Economic benefits as it diverse housing types, create value that can be captured for innovative financing...



Regional Transportation Issues

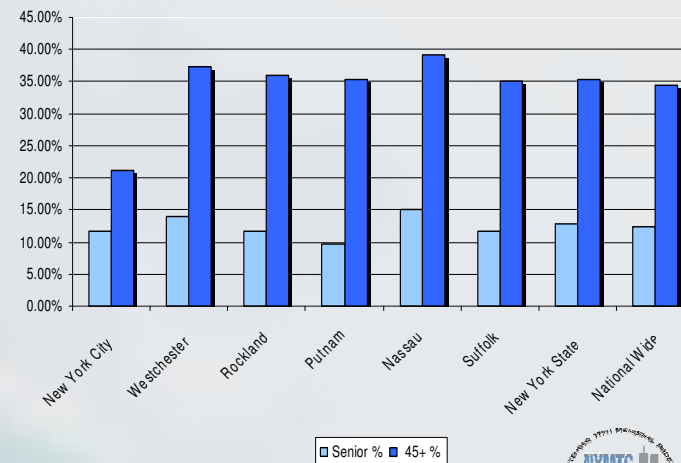
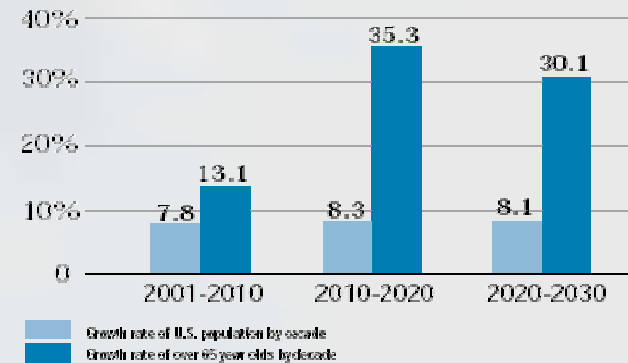
TOD – What Has Been Done?

- **SAFETEA-LU**: Section 1117, Transportation, Community, and System Preservation (TCSP) Program
- **MTA** has been undertaking innovative finance programs, such as utilizing real estate value capture above train station to finance rehabilitation at Atlantic Terminal and Jamaica Terminal.
- **NYC DCP** embraces the idea of TOD in Hudson Yards, as well as rezoning City-wide in supporting TOD.
- **Long Island** - Nassau Hub is a TOD development in essence; biggest development in Nassau county ever.
- **Lower Hudson Valley** - Tappan Zee Bridge/cross corridor transit development also provided opportunities for TOD.
- **Conferences** by UTRC, Rudin Center.

Topic Identified

Critical Issues: Transit Options for Older Adults

- By 2030, 20% of the total population will be older adults (**double**)
NYMTC region: 10 of the region's counties rank top 35 with largest population with older adults
- Seniors are too dependent **single mode** (80% driving v. 5% on public transit)
- Older Adults' transportation issues: **affordability, easiness-to-use, flexibility**
- **White House Conference on Aging:**
Ranked transportation issues for senior citizens top 3 resolutions



Topic Identified

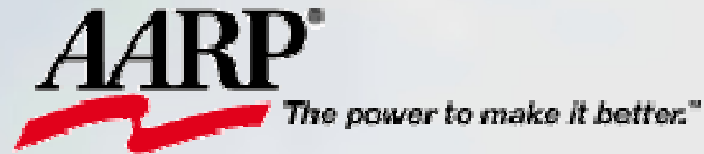
Critical Issues: Transit Options for Older Adults

Why Focusing on *Transit*?

- New York metropolitan region has the **transit advantage** (of course!)
- **Less able to drive:** According to APTA, more than one in 5 older Americans doesn't drive.
- **Life quality is seriously undermined** by not being able to drive: more than 50% older non-drivers stay home on *any* given day; 15% fewer trips to the doctors, 59% fewer trips to shops and restaurants, and 65% fewer trips for social and family events.
- **Never Retire:** Americans tend to work when they get to retirement age nowadays; how to address older commuter's needs.

Planning the Conference

Partner with Experts in the Field



- **Half Day Conference:** Keynote speech by high-level official, 2 panel sections by experts and key persons in the field
- **Targeted Audience:** policy makers, elective officials, local agency representatives, experts in the field

Good to Go Conference

Results of the Conference

AARP Transit Survey  "The power to make it easier."

- **Transportation mode:** driving is predominant mode of transportation:
60% drives, while 58% of non-drive share rides; yet 40% of **non-drivers use public transit.**
- **Quality of life:** non-driver's life quality is effected by transportation. 35% of them only get out once or twice—if at all.

Good to Go Conference

Results of the Conference

AARP Transit Survey  (continued)

- **Transit exists, but not for seniors:** 81% said public transit is available in their community.
*However, from top concerns (1, Goes where they want to go (69%), 2, affordability (67%), and 3, convenience (61%)) suggests that *transit system needs to be specific for older customers.**
- **Transit and Community:** More than half (55%) indicated it will be *difficult* for them to stay in the community if they can no longer drive;
And even more (58%) suggested they will choose *a new community with better transit.*

Good to Go Conference

Results of the Conference

*“The largest conference in
NYMTC’s 24-year history”*

- Joel Ettinger

D. David Zhang, Oct 18th 2006, NYMTC Presentation



Good to Go Conference

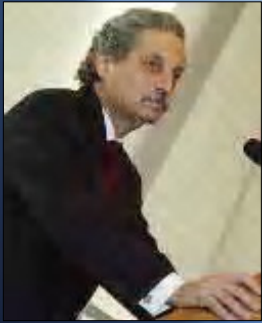
- **Opening remarks**
Rudin Center, NYMTC, and AARP
- **Keynote**
FTA Administrator James Simpson
- **Panel I: Current Approaches**
What is currently being done?
Types of services, worked or not?
What can be used here in our region.
- **Panel II: Challenges and Next Steps**
Policy, economic/resource, and institutional challenges and how to overcome;
Types of coordination/outreach is need;
what's next.



Good to Go Conference

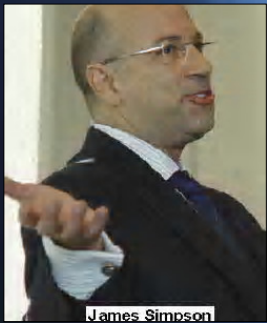
Results of the Conference

Opening Speaks – Allison de Cerreno, Joel Ettinger, Thomas Nelson



- **Issue Framed:** A message to highlight this critical aging issue was broadcasted; the importance of transit for older adults is underscored.

Keynote Speaker – James Simpson, Administrator, FTA



- **Key policy-makers** should get involved in the discussion.
- **Called for all levels of participation:** coordinators, partnerships and stakeholders, planners, communities
- **Cost and Benefits:** Transit authorities should also look at the benefits to be created when they look at cost.

Good to Go Conference

Results of the Conference (continued...)

Panel I – Moderated by Robert Hodder



William Millar, APTA

- Public transit usage is increasing while auto usage is decreasing
- Presented examples across the country: PA, OR, FL
- Called for efforts on the local level



William Wheeler, MTA Special Project Development and Planning

- Pointed out the different needs of different age groups – “one size does not fit all”.
- Aging of the workforce will require even more efforts to be paid.
- Convenience of customers is critical

Good to Go Conference

Results of the Conference (continued...)

Panel I – Moderated by Robert Hodder (continued...)



Larry Salley, Westchester DOT

- Presented what Westchester has been doing to address senior transportation issues.
Off peak;
Reduce fare;
Taxi Vouchers;
Bee-Line studies.
- Noted the importance of *connecting land use with transit* to the seniors to use transit: develop around transit

Good to Go Conference

Results of the Conference (continued...)

Panel II – Moderated by Robert Yaro

Marcus Harazin, New York State Office of Aging

- Talked about State agencies' effort on the issue.
- Noted minority senior population is growing faster, and their needs should be addressed in a different way.

Neil Yellin, MTA Long Island Bus

- Talked about the critical connection between land use and bus service for older population with picture examples;
- Co-operation between developers and transit operators and government.

Good to Go Conference

Results of the Conference (continued...)

Panel II – Moderated by Robert Yaro (continued...)

Chris Zeilinger, CTAA

- Presented what **federal agencies** has been doing, and where the resources are
- But **local and regional level coordination** is also significant; suggested that coordinated planning process needs to have more resources attached to it to make it effective.
- **Customer and Community involvement:** Needs to find out what people want

Good to Go Conference

What Are the Next Steps

- ▶ • **Get involve key people:** elective officials, board member of transit operators;
- **NYMTC will partnership with AARP on future discussion on sub-regional level:** County, Borough level. As a result of this we could define sub-regional level specific follow-up efforts.
- This conference could serve as **a model** for other metropolitan regions.
- **NYMTC, with partner with Rudin Center, will plan a series of other regional conference** in future, to address the region's critical transportation needs.

Conclusion

Personal Benefits

- Opportunities to work with various agencies, and experts;
- Better understanding of the metropolitan planning practice, tools and data used in the process.
- Gained a real picture of working in public sector and the decision making process.

Acknowledgement

Thank you!

Thank you!



IN MEMORY OF
IGNATIUS ADANGA
CHARLES LESPERANCE
SEE WONG SHUM

