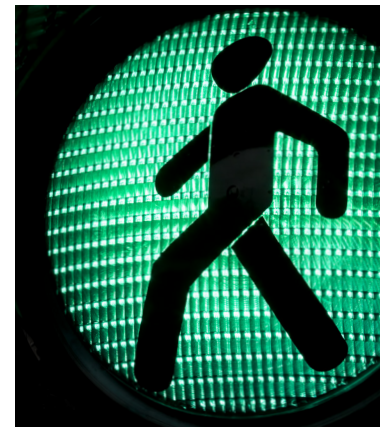
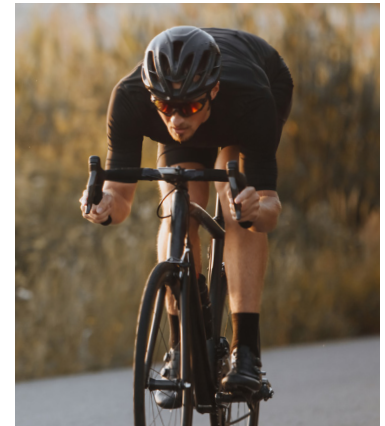




Department of  
Transportation



# New York State Transportation Master Plan 2050 Public Participation Plan

January 2023

# Contents

- 3 | Purpose of the Public Participation Plan
- 5 | About Us
- 8 | Having Your Say
- 13 | Getting it Right
- 14 | Public Participation Information
- 16 | Acronyms



On the cover: (Top left) Arch Bridge at Letchworth State Park, Shutterstock; (lower left) Adirondacks region, iStock by Getty Images; (center, top right and lower right) Shutterstock

This page, clockwise from top left: Group work, NYSDOT; Hudson River, Highland, Alamy; Oneonta, Shutterstock

## Purpose of the Public Participation Plan

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is developing a new Statewide Long-Range Transportation Master Plan for the State of New York. This Plan will create a framework for mobility planning in New York State with a horizon of 2050. It will describe the existing transportation system and its performance, and identify key goals and priorities for moving forward. Developing the Plan requires input from the public. NYSDOT needs your input on how the transportation system serves your needs and those of your community. Your perspectives on priorities are critical to ensuring that this plan reflects the diverse communities of New York State.



*At left: Capitol/Hawk CDTA bus station, Albany, Shutterstock*

---

**This Public Participation Plan (PPP) highlights opportunities for you to become a part of the planning process.** It describes activities that will be used to engage the public and stakeholders in the transportation system.

The PPP primarily focuses on opportunities for public participation. Participation may occur through specific stakeholder groups which might include elected officials, advocacy groups, regional and local agencies, tribal nation representatives, industry groups, bicycle and pedestrian groups, non-profit organizations, or persons with disabilities, among others. We will also be working with our transportation planning partners at the local, regional, and federal levels, using the PPP to gather many perspectives over the coming months.

**We invite you to provide input on existing needs and your vision for the future of transportation.** The PPP identifies opportunities for public participation at each step of plan development to make sure we are transparent and collaborative. We will examine and explore all public input, using it to help inform the strategies, policies, and initiatives that are advanced to the final Transportation Master Plan.

**We will use a diverse range of activities and resources to facilitate widespread public participation.** This outreach, engagement, and communication will be described in the following sections.

New York State transportation planning and decision-making are supported by a national regulatory framework that governs planning for states receiving federal transportation funds. There is also a State component—[Section 15 of the Transportation Law](#) requires a Master Plan that is ultimately approved by the governor. Details on the laws and regulations governing transportation decision-making are given in [Public Participation Information](#).

*At left: iStock by Getty Images*



**NYSDOT's mission is to ensure those who live, work, and travel in New York State have a safe, efficient, balanced, and environmentally sound transportation system.**

**TO FIND OUT MORE:**  
[dot.ny.gov/about-nysdot/mission](https://dot.ny.gov/about-nysdot/mission)



## About Us

NYSDOT is the State agency responsible for collaborating with the public and stakeholders to develop a long-range statewide transportation plan that reflects the vision for our transportation system to support the people who live, work, travel in, and visit New York State. NYSDOT Regional Offices are located throughout the State.

## Our Planning Partners

There are 14 metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs) that collaborate with NYSDOT for transportation planning in areas with populations of 50,000 or greater. Local officials work directly with NYSDOT on transportation planning in rural areas and communities with smaller populations. For more information, see [\*\*\*Procedures for Consultation with Public Officials in Rural Areas.\*\*\*](#) NYSDOT also consults with the eight federally recognized Native Nations that have jurisdiction of lands within the state.

*At left: Metro Rail on Main Street at Church Street Station in Buffalo, Shutterstock*

---

## Others to Involve

During the public participation process, we plan to involve many groups and agencies that have a specific role in transportation planning. Some examples include:

**Federal agencies**—Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and Federal Transit Administration (FTA);

**Other New York State agencies**—New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC), and Empire State Development;

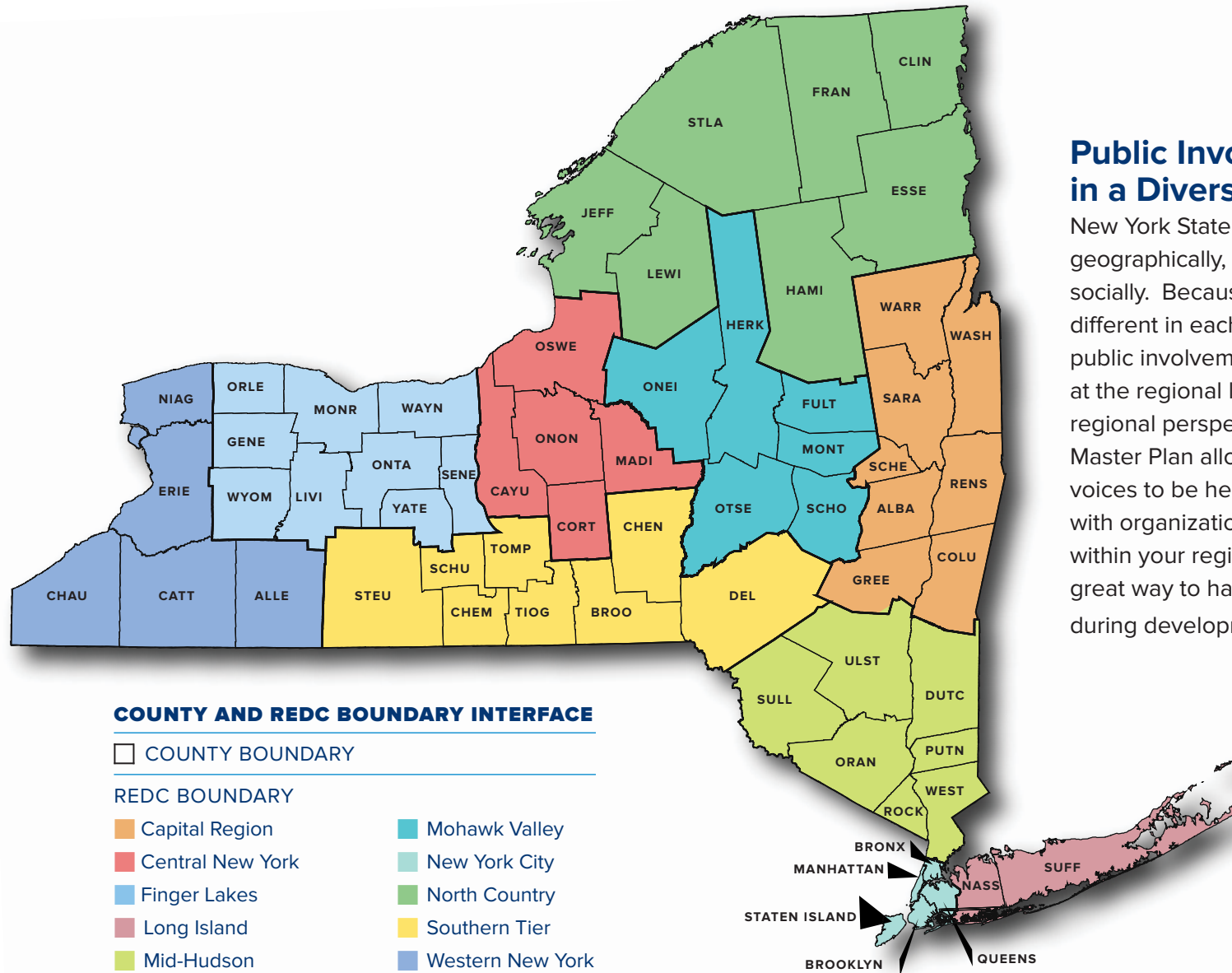
**Regional and local agencies and organizations**—transit agencies, port authorities, planning departments, and Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs); and

**Non-governmental organizations and associations with transportation-related concerns**—freight providers; passenger rail and aviation carriers; and advocacy and environmental groups.



*At left: Taconic State Parkway, Shutterstock*

# Regional Economic Development Councils (REDCs)



## Public Involvement in a Diverse State

New York State is diverse—geographically, economically, and socially. Because mobility looks different in each of these regions, public involvement will occur at the regional level. Providing a regional perspective within the Master Plan allows many different voices to be heard. Connecting with organizations and agencies within your region is another great way to have your voice heard during development of the plan.

### COUNTY AND REDC BOUNDARY INTERFACE

□ COUNTY BOUNDARY

#### REDC BOUNDARY

- Capital Region
- Central New York
- Finger Lakes
- Long Island
- Mid-Hudson
- Mohawk Valley
- New York City
- North Country
- Southern Tier
- Western New York



---

## Having Your Say

Public participation is essential to the Master Plan update process. Planning activities for public outreach will adhere to NYSDOT guidance and policies. For more information on public participation in the NYSDOT planning process, see [Public Involvement for Transportation Planning](#). We will design and implement these activities in ways that ensure inclusive and equitable participation opportunities for all.

Public notice will be given about public involvement activities and timeframes for public review and comment. Input opportunities will be provided through a mix of online and in-person events. See the website for more information on public engagement opportunities: [nystransportationmasterplan.com](https://nystransportationmasterplan.com)

---

## Ways to Engage

- **Website comment submissions:**  
[nystransportationmasterplan.com](https://nystransportationmasterplan.com)
  - **Virtual meetings through online tools**
  - **Polls and surveys**
  - **Events**
- 

*At left: iStock by Getty Images*



## Access for All

NYSDOT is committed to ensuring equitable public participation in developing the Transportation Master Plan with outreach opportunities that meet your needs.

Equity is a priority for NYSDOT, and we are committed to ensuring that everyone can participate in the planning process.

Here are some ways we will ensure equitable participation throughout this process:

- Reach out to historically underserved communities
- Accommodate the needs of persons of all ages and abilities
- Endeavor to make information accessible to all, including non-English speaking populations
- Coordinate with partners in all regions of the state and communities in rural, suburban, and urban areas to engage people in the process



*At left: Shutterstock*

# Public Participation Opportunities: Share Your Input Across Planning Phases

New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) is developing a new Statewide Transportation Master Plan. Your input during its development is essential to ensure the plan captures the current and future needs, priorities, and ideas of all New Yorkers.

## Winter– Spring 2023

### Understanding Current Conditions

Tell us how the transportation system is working for you.



## Spring 2023

### Developing a Vision

Share your ideas and priorities for the future of the transportation system.



## Summer 2023

### Weighing Options

Consider potential solutions and opportunities for achieving the Vision.



## Fall 2023– Winter 2024

### Creating the Plan

Comment on proposed policies, priorities, and approaches.



## Spring 2024

### Approving the Plan

Stay involved. Watch for final updates and support implementation.



Left to right: Shutterstock; Staten Island Ferry, iStock by Getty Images; all other photos Shutterstock

---

# Ways to Engage

**We are committed to engaging you throughout development of the Master Plan.**

Our approach to ensure you play a role in informing the future of the State transportation system:

**PROVIDE** and regularly update the schedule of public participation activities on the New York State Transportation Master Plan 2050 website;



**APPLY** approaches/regional activities that ensure equitable participation for the broadest possible population; and



**PROMOTE** opportunities to share input, meeting announcements, and activities at specific points during development.



*Left to right: Montauk Point Lighthouse, Shutterstock; Aerial view of Binghamton at the confluence of the Susquehanna and Chenango Rivers, Shutterstock; iStock by Getty Images*

# Ways to Engage in Public Input for the Development of the Master Plan

WAYS TO ENGAGE	DESCRIPTION
<b>New York State Transportation Master Plan 2050 Website:</b> <a href="http://nystransportationmasterplan.com">nystransportationmasterplan.com</a>	The main source of communications to stay informed in real time during Plan development. Information posted, available in translated languages, will include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>■ Announcements of upcoming public participation opportunities;</li> <li>■ Archived public participation recordings, and meeting records;</li> <li>■ Mailing list signup to receive announcements, including newsletters; and</li> <li>■ Links to participate in surveys, polls, and public comment forums.</li> </ul>
Public Meetings	In-person or held through virtual engagement platforms.
Public Events	NYSDOT will have a presence at local events, such as the New York State Fair, to allow for more opportunities to engage with the public.
Polls and Surveys	Surveys and polls will be used throughout the planning process to gather feedback. Surveys will be offered in multiple languages.
Webinars	May be used to share educational information about transportation and the public’s role in transportation decision-making. Webinars will be archived on the website.

**NYSDOT will use various ways to promote public engagement opportunities, such as social media, press releases, outreach through other state and local partners, and emails to those who sign up to receive announcements.**

## Where to See Your Input

A comment log will be used to record, combine, and organize input received during the Master Plan development, and an email confirmation of each comment received will be sent. NYSDOT will continuously use comments and other information to identify areas and topics requiring further explanation and detail, or that would benefit from the addition of a frequently asked question.

---

## Getting it Right

Evaluation is essential for continually improving public participation. We will evaluate throughout the Master Plan development to measure the level of participation, equitable engagement of diverse stakeholders, and specific information collected. Methods will be adjusted as informed by this assessment and feedback collected on topics that prove to be of most interest to the public.

### Evaluation Data Sources

Several resources will provide data and analysis including:

- Website visits
- Downloads of documents posted on the website
- Social media analytics
- Meeting/event attendance
- Survey/poll/focus group participation
- Comments from website, comment cards, social media posts, etc.
- Media coverage



*Top: Peace Bridge in Buffalo, Shutterstock;*

*Bottom: Zagster Bike Share Dock in Downtown Utica, iStock by Getty Images*

---

# Public Participation Information

The Master Plan process and the approach to public participation are guided by several areas of policy and compliance with federal and State regulations. These include:

**NYSDOT Guide to Public Involvement:** Outreach activities described in this PPP supporting the Statewide Transportation Master Plan process have been developed in alignment with NYSDOT's [\*Public Involvement for Transportation Planning\*](#), a guidebook published by the NYSDOT Office of Policy, Planning, and Performance.

**Federal Planning Standards and Requirements:** Federal regulations require development, implementation, and documentation of public engagement programs to ensure a broad range of interested parties are involved in the transportation planning process. This plan adheres to all required regulatory guidance. The federal regulations related to participation in transportation decision-making can be found in [\*23 CFR 450.210\*](#).

**New York State Consolidated Laws:** The comprehensive statewide master plan for transportation is required to be revised as necessary to ensure balanced development and coordination of services and facilities in order to provide safe and efficient travel at a reasonable public cost. The statewide master plan becomes effective when approved by the governor following at least one public hearing. More detailed information can be found in [\*Transportation—Article 2, Section 15\*](#).

Development of the Master Plan will encourage linkages with other planning activities, including plans focusing on freight, active transportation (bicycling and walking), safety, infrastructure asset management, and other issues.



*At left: Shutterstock*



Engagement of communities traditionally underserved, including Environmental Justice (i.e., minority or low-income) communities, Limited English Proficiency (LEP) populations, and other communities of concern, will be emphasized to ensure inclusive planning. Further, the development of communications, materials, and activities will be executed in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to enable participation by all persons, regardless of physical ability.

The Master Plan is being developed in compliance with the following requirements governing public participation in transportation planning:

- **Title VI under the Civil Rights Act of 1964** states that no person in the United States shall, on the ground of race, color, or national origin, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination under any program or activity receiving federal financial assistance.
- Environmental Justice **Executive Order #12898** of 1994 directs federal agencies to develop strategies to address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects of their programs on minority and low-income populations. The needs of those “traditionally underserved” by existing transportation systems, such as low-income and/or minority households, should be sought out and considered. **23 CFR 450.210(a)(1)(viii)**.
- **Limited English Proficiency Executive Order 13166 of 2000** requires federal agencies to examine the services they provide, identify any need for services to those with LEP, and develop and implement a system to provide those services so LEP persons can have meaningful access to them. The Executive Order also requires that the federal agencies work to ensure recipients of federal financial

*At left: Commuter Train in Peekskill, Shutterstock*

assistance provide meaningful access to their LEP applicants and beneficiaries. The LEP requirement applies to NYSDOT as a designated recipient of federal transit funds.

- ***Americans with Disabilities Act*** of 1990 specifies that programs and activities funded with federal dollars are prohibited from discrimination based on disability. ADA encourages the involvement of people with disabilities in the development and improvement of transportation and paratransit plans and services. ***Section 508 of the Rehabilitation Act*** of 1998 also requires that information published on websites be available in an accessible electronic format.



## Acronyms

ADA	Americans with Disabilities Act
FHWA	Federal Highway Administration
FTA	Federal Transit Administration
LEP	Limited English Proficiency
MPO	Metropolitan Planning Organization
NYSDEC	New York State Department of Environmental Conservation
NYSDOT	New York State Department of Transportation
NYSERDA	New York State Energy Research and Development Authority
PPP	Public Participation Plan
REDC	Regional Economic Development Council

*At left: Shutterstock*