



ADVANCING INFRASTRUCTURE ACROSS POLITICAL BOUNDARIES

The Northeast Megaregion is choking on congestion, with gridlocked interstate highways, congested inter-city passenger rail and urban rail networks, airports and goods movement systems. The Megaregion's continued economic success will hinge on its ability to expand capacity and better utilize existing capacity on all of these systems. In addition, the advent of autonomous vehicles and the even-greater potential of increased ride-sharing and vehicle-sharing innovations can open the door to new solutions, particularly about "the last mile challenge."

In response to these challenges, proposals are being advanced to create expanded and modernized regional and urban rail systems and airports, and to reconstruct urban interstate highway links. These investments could also have a profound effect on social and economic equity across the Northeast, by providing improved transit accessibility to low and moderate income urban and inner-suburban communities. They could also reduce the damaging impacts that these systems have on disadvantaged urban communities, including increased air pollution, noise and other impacts that lead to increased rates of lung disease and other health effects.

The goal of our work over the decades has been, and remains, to advance transformational infrastructure projects that can be implemented across political boundaries to achieve greater equity, economic competitiveness, and respond to climate change. This project will examine the role that MPOs, state DOT's and metropolitan transportation authorities should play in planning for and prioritizing investments in these systems. Finally, it will explore strategies to improve project finance, permitting, procurement and project delivery for these projects, with the goal of expediting and reducing the cost of these investments.

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Advancing Transformational Infrastructure Projects across Political Boundaries in the Northeast (#CM2-34)

Dr. Marilyn Taylor, Dr. Bob Yaro
University of Pennsylvania

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