Adam S. Levine, P.E., AICP Executive Director

CONTACT: Rossana Weitekamp Public Information Officer

rossana.weitekamp@dot.ny.gov 212-383-2409

NYMTC And Key NY/NJ Partners Kick Off Palisades Shared Use Path Study

Proposed path would extend from the George Washington to the Mario M. Cuomo Bridges

NEW YORK, Dec. 5, 2023 – The New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (<u>NYMTC</u>) together with public agencies and municipalities from New York and New Jersey has commenced a feasibility study to consider a 20-mile shared use path through the lower Palisades, extending from the George Washington Bridge in Fort Lee, New Jersey to the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge in Nyack, New York. The study is funded by NYMTC.

The study's key goals will be to assess the physical and social features of proposed paths, considering factors such as environmental impact, proximity to parks, businesses and other destinations, and the path's connectivity to other paths and key destinations nearby. A shared use path would be separated from motorized traffic so that cyclists, pedestrians, skaters, joggers, and other users may travel more safely.

An outreach effort to gather input, build support for the study, and address concerns from residents, businesses owners, government agencies, and advocacy groups will begin shortly and continue through summer 2024. Additional information, upcoming meetings and more will be documented on the project's website, www.palisadespathstudy.com.

A final study report is expected in early 2025 and will include recommended path alignment, opportunities for amenities, gathering spaces and aesthetic elements, design-planning requirements, and cost estimates.

"The potential benefits of a Palisades shared use path would be extensive," said Adam S. Levine, executive director of NYMTC. "Better access to the outdoors, recreation, and active transportation is just the start. There are opportunities for businesses and local governments to enhance the region's culture and history. We look forward to working with all of the many stakeholders with an interest in the possibilities such a path could create."

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ABOUT NYMTC:

NYMTC is the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for New York City, Long Island and the lower Hudson Valley which provides a collaborative planning forum to address transportation-related issues, develop regional plans and make decisions on the use of federal transportation funds for its planning area.

NYMTC is comprised of nine voting members and seven advisory members who develop plans, goals, and a shared vision for the region's transportation network. Its planning area covers 2,440 square miles and a 2020 population of 13.17 million, approximately 65% of New York State's residents. Between fiscal years 2023-2027, over 1,000 transportation projects will be funded in the NYMTC region totaling \$36.9 billion.