Transportation Planning in the Real World

by

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Abstract
Transportation planning in the real world is quite different from that described in textbooks. Based on my experiences at both the Federal Transit Administration and at the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council, I will discuss the real world process for distributing Federal funds at the national level for transportation investments and the regional process for distributing funds for transportation investments in the New York area.

Bio:
Joel P. Ettinger, appointed Executive Director of the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council in March 2005, is a career transportation professional. Prior to joining NYMTC, which is the transportation planning organization for the New York metropolitan area, he was Regional Administrator for the Federal Transit Administration in Chicago. His responsibilities included the states of Illinois, Indiana, Minnesota, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin. In 1992, he participated in a Senior Executive Services Candidate Development Program for the U.S. Department of Transportation, and during the program he had a three-month development assignment as special assistant to the Executive Director of NYMTC.

Between 1976 and 1981, he served as the Chief of the Analysis Division in the Headquarters Office of the Urban Mass Transportation Administration (UMTA) where he was responsible for managing the Alternatives Analysis Program for major urban mass transit investments.

Joel joined the Federal government in 1968 as a highway engineer trainee in the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). He completed an 18-month training program that included assignments at FHWA regional and division offices and at the Puget Sound Governmental Conference, the metropolitan planning organization in Seattle, Washington. He joined UMTA in 1971 as a transportation planner in the Headquarters Office and helped administer UMTA’s planning program for urban areas and states.

Joel is a native New Yorker. He received his Bachelor of Civil Engineering degree from the City College of New York and a Master of Science in Transportation Planning from Northwestern University.