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Transportation Advisory Panel - Wednesday, October 21, 2020

The Transportation Panel meeting convened it's third meeting on Wednesday, October 21, 2020. Chair Commissioner Dominguez (NYSDOT) informed the Panel that could move ahead with its work plan having received no additional comments from the Climate Action Council. NYSERDA's Adam Ruder gave a presentation on a pending study led by the Cadmus Group on a Clean Transportation Roadmap for NYS, analyses that will feed into Panel's recommendations. Panel members suggested that these analyses should factor in the role of federal policies, COVID-19 realities, and an assessment of the current electric vehicle (EV) industry. The Panel then received an outline of the 4 subject areas from which sector recommendations will be developed.

For the first topic: Electrification and Fuels, members brought up considerations of the potential of a low carbon fuel standard and the Transportation and Climate Initiative, reevaluating fossil fuel incentives, utilizing renewable fuels, and addressing waste, ratedesign, co-pollutants in disadvantaged communities and the misalignment of incentives/ regulation for dealerships needed scale the transition to electrification and low-carbon transportation fuels. Regarding subject area 2: Market-based programs, funding and financing, Panel members suggested utilizing incentives for lowering upfront costs of EVs and ensuring market programs generate revenues to invest back into infrastructure and signal to manufacturers to scale production. They also reiterated the role of ports and public electric fleets in signaling the electrification transition to private markets and moving away from a gas to vehicle miles travelled (VMT) tax to pay for road maintenance. For Public transportation, the third subject area, Panel members identified the need to consider first mile – last mile connectivity, transit deserts, public education, expanding transportation infrastructure, service quality, frequency and efficiency, expanding micro-transit, and mobile ticket and scheduling. Lastly, for subject area 4: Smart Growth/System Optimization, Panel members stressed the importance of addressing truck parking and bottlenecks in the metro area.

Working groups will be designated for each subject area and will be engaging external experts. There will also be cross Panel collaboration with the Land Use and Local Government and Agriculture and Forestry Panels and the Just Transition and Climate Justice Working Groups occurring in October/mid-November and February 2021. The Panel will meet again on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The Panel will reconvene on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. Presentations and notes from past Advisory Panels and Working Groups meetings can be found here.