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REGION II UNIVERSITY TRANSPORTATION RESEARCH CENTER

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Trouble Ahead for Transportation, Advisory Panel Warns

(New York, 12/15/2004) The State's transportation system is heading for trouble, according to the New York State Advisory Panel on Transportation Policy for 2025. The Panel's report, *Transportation – Trouble Ahead*, calls for strong leadership and tens of billions of dollars in just the next five years, according to Robert Paaswell, Director of the University Transportation Research Center, located at The City College of New York, which provided staff support to the panel.

"A modern, effective and efficient transportation system is required to maintain jobs and protect our quality of life," Dr. Paaswell said. "Improvements were made to the transportation system during the 1990's," he continued, "but funding programs on both the State and Federal levels are coming to an end. At the same time changes in the global economy, skyrocketing truck traffic and an aging population have placed additional stress on the transportation system."

The panel was convened by New York State Department of Transportation Commissioner Joseph H. Boardman in June 2004 to help the state prepare a State Transportation Master Plan covering all modes of transportation, both publicly and privately owned. The panel's finding and recommendations were based on testimony given at nine public hearings across the State during the summer. Hearings were held in Syracuse (6/24/04), Watertown (6/30/04) Rochester (7/1/04), Commack (7/21/04), New York City (7/22/04), Goshen (7/27/04), Buffalo (8/3/04), Albany (8/5/04) and Binghamton (8/12/04). Over 300 people testified, according to Paaswell.

The panel's report is being provided to transportation decision makers and stakeholders in order to begin a meaningful discussion of the State's transportation needs and funding requirements.

The full report is available at www.utrc2.org.

The members of the NYS Advisory Panel on Public Transportation Policy are:

- Dennis Fitzgerald, former Executive Director of the Capital District Transportation Authority
- Richard Garman, President of R&P Oak Hill, LLC
- Patricia Gilchrest, Executive Director of the Orange County Citizens Foundation
- James McGowan, President of AAA New York State, Inc.
- James Melius, MD. Dr. P.H., Administrator of the New York State Laborer's Employers Cooperative Education Trust Fund, the Health and Safety Trust Fund, Labor Management Fund, and Political Action Committee

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- James Newman, President of NOCO Energy Corporation
- Mitchell Pally, Vice President for Legislative and Economic Affairs of the Long Island Association
- Arthur Roth, former Commissioner, NYS Department of Taxation and Finance
- Janette Sadik-Khan, Senior Vice President at Parsons Brinkerhoff and previous Deputy Administrator at the U.S. Department of Transportation
- Elliot Sander, Senior Vice President at DMJM Harris and Director of the Rudin Center for Transportation Policy and Management
- G. Thomas Tranter, Jr., President of Corning Enterprises and Director of Government Affairs for Corning Inc. Prior to joining Corning he served as Chemung County Executive
- James T.B. Tripp, General Counsel of Environmental Defense

For more information, contact Dr. Paaswell at 212-650-8050, or Mary Lou Edmondson, Vice President for Communications at The City College of New York, at 212-650-7808/