



STATE OF NEW YORK
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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NEW YORK STATE TO HOLD RAIL SUMMIT

Summit will focus on revitalizing New York's economy through high speed and intercity passenger rail

In partnership with Governor David A. Paterson and Senate President Malcolm A. Smith, the New York State Department of Transportation and Empire State Development announced today that New York State will host a "New York State Summit on Rail Transportation" to be held on June 14th from 9:30 am to 4:30 pm at the College of Nanoscale Science & Engineering in Albany for those involved with the rail industry. The purpose of the summit is bring together experts in high speed rail with industry representatives in an effort to grow our rail and related businesses, offer collaboration between public and private agencies in order to better compete for available resources and funding, and to identify the challenges and opportunities associated with expanding the rail industry in New York State.

"New York has already received \$151 million in grants from the Federal Rail Administration as the result of our aggressive initiative to establish high speed passenger rail service across our state," said Governor David A. Paterson. "Expanding our railways will have a profound effect on our economy, creating jobs and acting as a catalyst to spur growth even well beyond the industry. There are significant federal resources available for the implementation of high speed passenger rail and we must ensure our rail suppliers, manufacturers and related businesses obtain their share of funding. This summit is a fundamental step toward enhancing high speed passenger rail in our state, and we encourage New Yorkers who have a stake in advancing high speed rail to attend."

The program will include presentations by various industry specialists and business leaders as well as economic development experts, legislative representatives, and state and federal rail officials. The summit will focus on three key areas: winning more high-speed and intercity passenger rail funding, learning how New York State agencies will help rail related businesses compete for these funds, and promoting the high speed rail movement with strategies to fund it in New York.

"I am honored to co-chair New York's Rail Summit with ESD to highlight our state's efforts to expand high speed intercity passenger rail service across the Empire State," said New York State Department of Transportation Acting Commissioner Stanley Gee. "High speed intercity passenger rail is already making a difference along the route between New York City and Albany, and as we expand westward linking Albany to Buffalo and Niagara Falls, it will bring jobs, increase tourism and enhance the economy. The Summit will help highlight these and other tremendous opportunities of high speed rail in our state."

"Establishing high speed rail across New York State is essential to the economic development and prosperity of our state," said Empire State Development Chairman and CEO Dennis M. Mullen. "Governor Paterson, Senate President Smith, Empire State Development and the New York State

Department of Transportation are committed to working together with our partners in both the public and private sectors to make the expansion of high speed passenger rail service a reality, allowing the state to better compete and grow jobs. We are pleased to announce the New York State Summit on Rail Transportation that will benefit our rail manufacturers, vendors, suppliers and rail-related businesses, as well as move our rail initiative forward.”

The summit is open to those who are involved with the rail industry, including but not limited to: industry manufacturers, vendors, suppliers, consultants, contractors and engineering firms, municipal transit authorities, government agencies, legislative representatives, and economic development officials. Please visit the ESD website at www.esd.ny.gov for more information and to RSVP as seating is limited.

Empire State Development is New York's chief economic development agency, committed to being recognized on a global scale as the economic development engine driving job growth, strategic investment and prosperity in New York State. ESD is intent on paving the way for New York State to become the leader of the innovation economy and one of the most business friendly, productive and competitive economic development climates in the world. ESD also oversees the marketing of "I LOVE NY," the State's iconic tourism brand.

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) was formed in 1967 to direct the state's complex multimodal transportation system. NYSDOT is responsible for the coordination, funding and development of New York's comprehensive transportation policy; managing the State's more than 113,000-mile state and local highway system; inspecting more than 17,400 bridges; supporting an extensive 4,600-mile rail network; as well as providing oversight for the state's public and private aviation facilities, ports, waterways, and mass transit system. Consistent with its mission, “to ensure our customers - those who live, work and travel in New York State -- have a safe, efficient, balanced, and environmentally sound transportation system,” NYSDOT serves the system's billions of annual users based on its values of excellence, integrity, partnership, respect and customer service that instill trust and confidence in New York's infrastructure.

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