

A blue ballpoint pen is positioned diagonally across the upper left portion of the image. The background is a document featuring a bar chart with several blue bars of varying heights. The entire image has a semi-transparent blue overlay.

# Superintendent's Report

December 2024

# PROPEL NY



*Update on Regional Electrical  
Infrastructure Initiative*

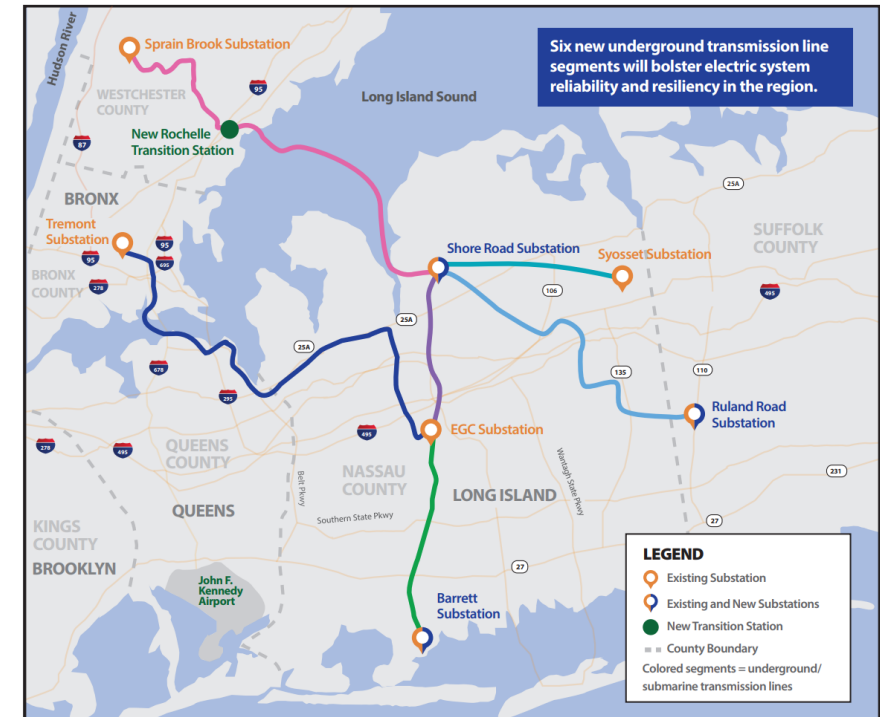
# New Electric Transmission Project

- “New York Power Authority (NYPA) and New York Transco were selected through a competitive process by the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) to bolster parts of the electric transmission network — the backbone of the electric grid — on Long Island, in New York City and across Westchester County.”

<https://www.propelnyenergy.com/overview>



## Propel NY Energy Line Map



### Key Project Components (Preliminary Plan)

#### New Stations:

- Barrett
- Shore Road
- Ruland Road
- New Rochelle

#### New 138kV underground transmission line:

- Syosset to Shore Road – Est. 11 miles

#### New 345kV underground transmission lines:

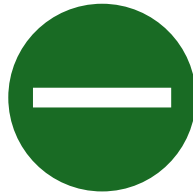
- Barrett to EGC – Est. 9 miles
- EGC to Tremont – Est. 23 miles
- EGC to Shore Road – Est. 10 miles
- Ruland Road to Shore Road – Est. 18 miles
- Shore Road to Sprain Brook – Est. 19.5 miles

# Propel NY in Syosset



## **Installs 2 buried electric transmission lines**

South Woods Rd. Substation to Shore Rd. Substation  
Ruland Rd. Substation to Shore Rd. Substation via  
Robbins Lane



## **Currently in the permitting process**



## **Construction would begin in 2026**

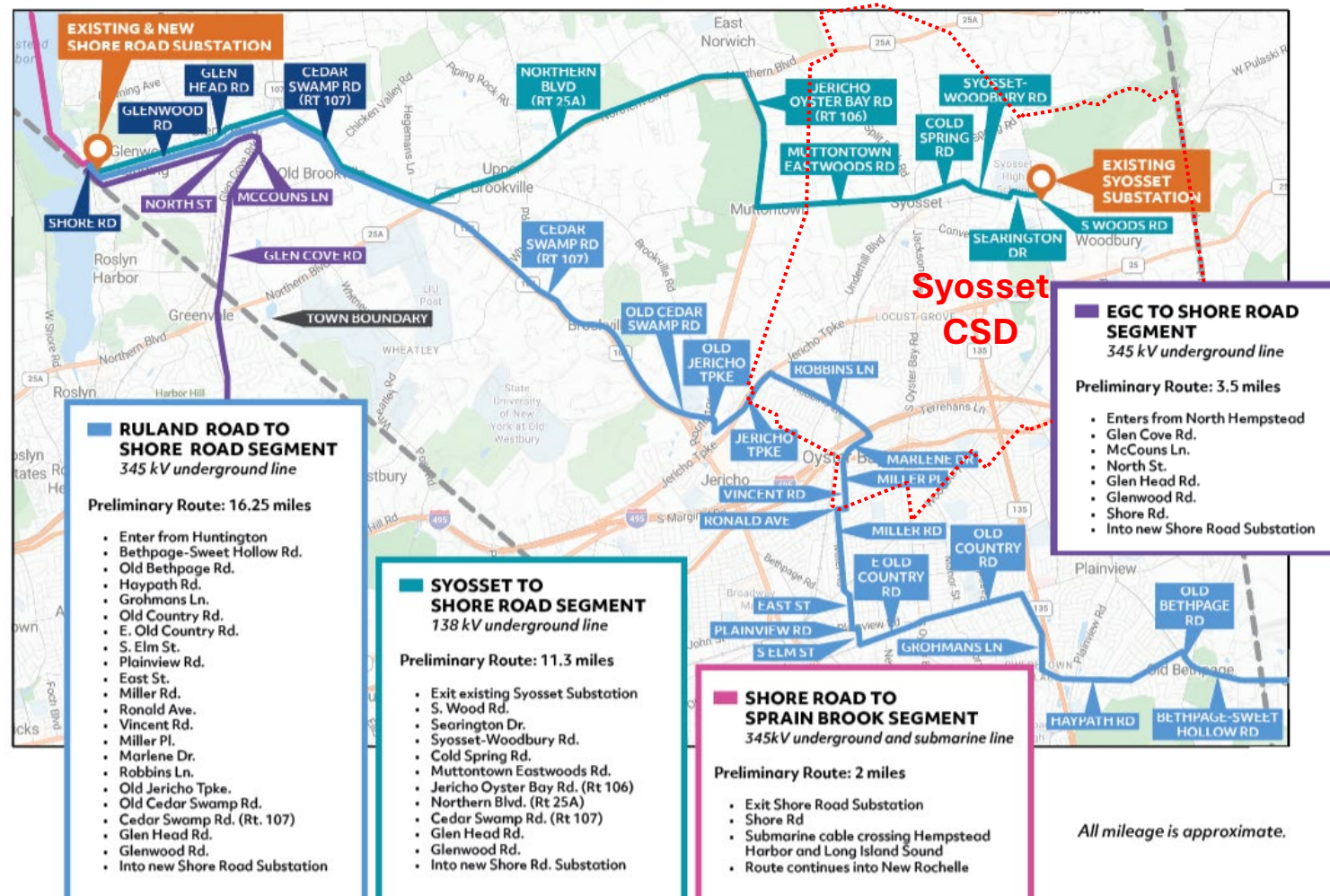
Estimated completion 2030

# Detailed Map of Routes Through Syosset



RULAND ROAD TO SHORE ROAD SEGMENT • SYOSSET TO SHORE ROAD SEGMENT  
SHORE ROAD TO SPRAIN BROOK SEGMENT • EGC TO SHORE ROAD SEGMENT

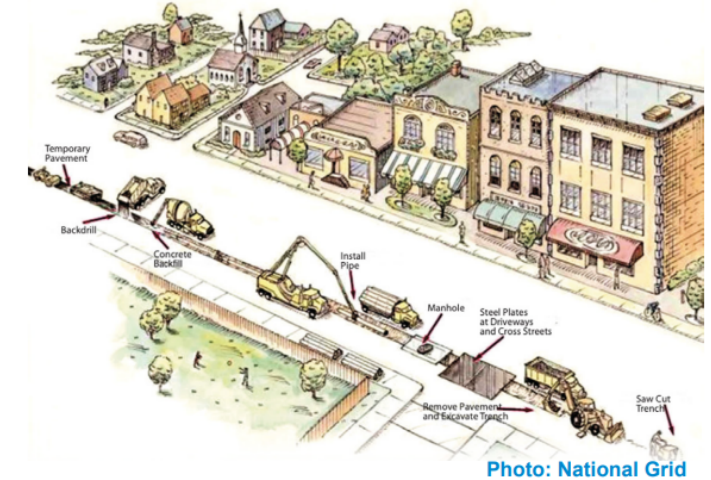
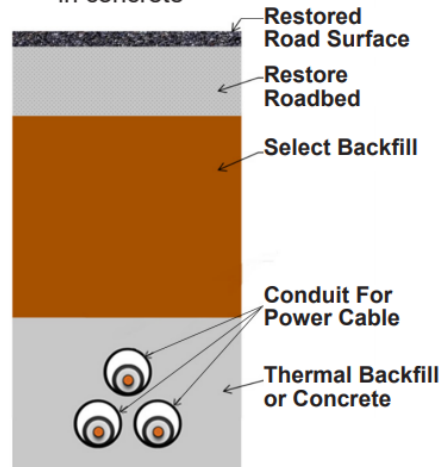
## Town of Oyster Bay



# Construction Process

## Underground Construction

- ▶ Primary method: Trenching will be the primary method for underground construction. Public roads are opened and underground cables installed in conduits placed in trenches between splice vaults (manholes). See general trenching construction process below
- ▶ Each cable is cross-linked polyethylene (XLPE), insulated with a sheathing approx. 5.5" in diameter. Both a 345kV circuit and a 138 kV circuit, which are used in Propel NY, are made of three cables installed
- ▶ Each cable is inside an 8" conduit made of Schedule 40 PVC or high-density polyethylene (HDPE) encased in concrete



## Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD)

- ▶ HDD will be used in identified sensitive areas to minimize impacts
- ▶ HDD has been identified for crossing the East River and Westchester Creek
- ▶ HDD has been identified for entry and exit points to avoid shoreline impacts for the submarine cable installation
- ▶ HDD is also frequently used for crossing roadways, railroads and other water bodies

Trenchless technology used since 1970 to install underground utilities



Avoids disruption to sensitive areas



Planned for use in various Propel NY routing areas



# Preliminary Concerns and Plan of Action

## Potential School District Concerns



Potential traffic/busing disruption during construction burying the line under roadways;



Potential utility interruptions (gas/electric/internet) during construction and testing;



Safety questions about buried high-power transmission lines

## Recommended Action Step

- Hire an environmental consultant to advise the District on the safety of the project and develop recommendations

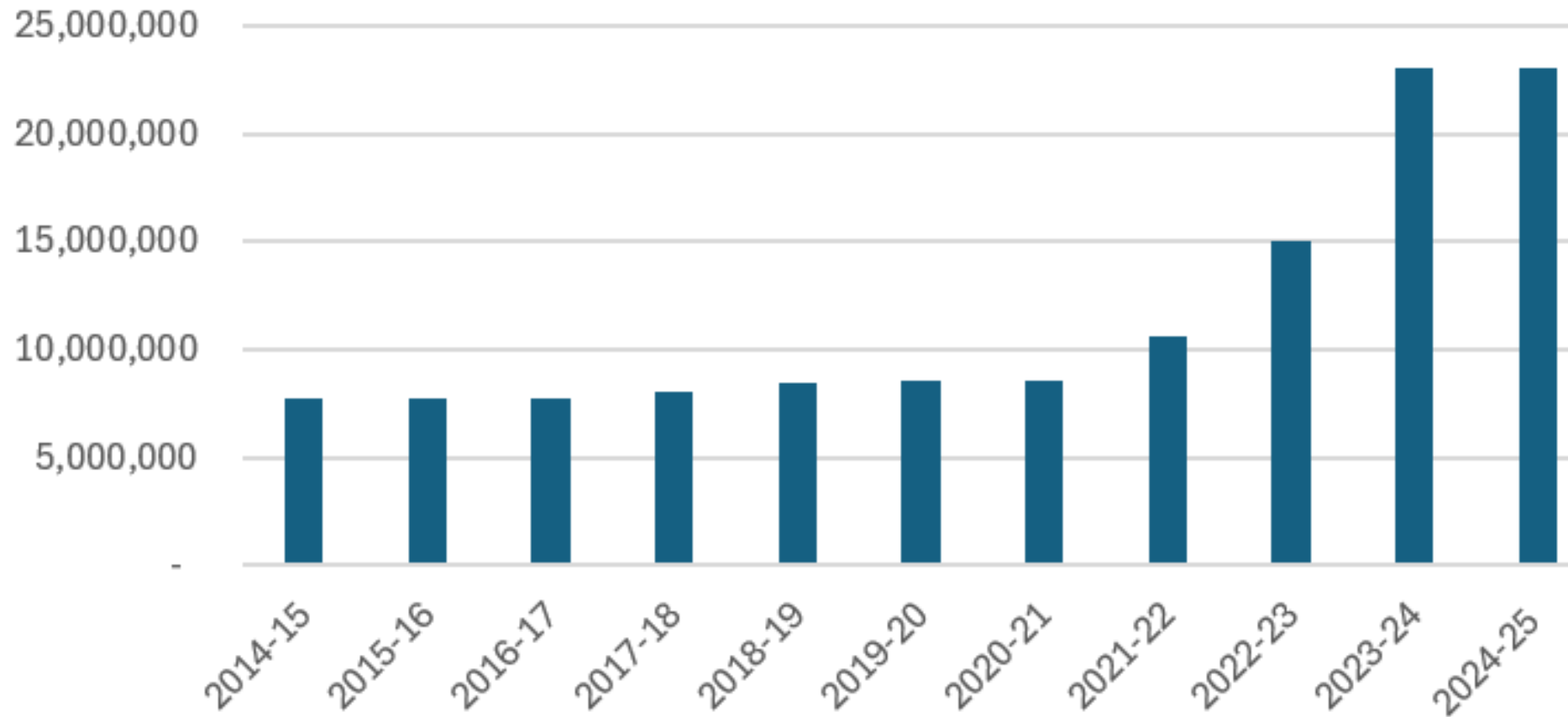
# Foundation Aid Report

Rockefeller Institute Report Released

# Foundation Aid Report

- **Rockefeller Institute Foundation Aid Report Released December 2, 2024**
- **Provides recommendations on foundation aid formula changes as well as other changes**
- **At this time, the impact on individual districts cannot be determined**
- **State education associations and policymakers to analyze recommendations provided in 300+ page report**

# Syosset Foundation Aid Over Time



**In 2024-25  
Foundation  
Aid  
accounted  
for 8% of  
total district  
revenue**

# Report Summary Recommendations

- **Foundation Aid needs to change – it uses outdated information, does not reflect current student population and uses outmoded modeling to measure student needs and the wealth of school districts**
- **The Report Recommends changes to:**
  - **Base Foundation Aid - calculate base aid by averaging the spending of the top 50% of districts based on performance on math and ELA exams.**
  - **The formulas and/or weighting related to special education, poverty and English Language Learners (ELL)**
  - **The calculation for the expected local minimum contribution for school districts, which is based on wealth factors**
  - **Regional Cost Index to make it more “locally-specific”**
- **Recommendations also include:**
  - **The phase out flat grants and the save harmless provision**
  - **Eliminate set-asides (provisions that tell Districts how they must spend some funds)**
  - **Increasing the fund balance limit to 10% from current 4%**

# Recommendations for Other Reforms

- **Mental Health** - Increase funding for Mental Health initiatives for students
- **Growth Aid** – Provide aid for districts experiencing increases in Special Ed and ELL population
- **STAR** – Cap STAR at current level and redirect 2% current allowable growth to school districts
- **Electric Buses** - Provide funding for the conversion to electric buses

# State Finances Appear Strong

Cuts in State Funding  
For Schools Would  
Not Appear Justified



Local [Sales Tax Collections Up 1.4%](#) in Third Quarter  
October 30, 2024



NYS OSC: “Wall Street’s \$23.2 billion in pretax profits for the first half of 2024 were a dramatic 79.3% increase over the same period last year.”

“This year has been very strong so far and profits may continue their upward trajectory, to exceed 2023 levels and boost State and City tax revenues.” [Comptroller DiNapoli said.](#)



NYS Division of the Budget released its [mid-year update to the state financial plan](#). State revenues have been performing more strongly than anticipated. DOB projects the deficit for fiscal year 2025-26 dropped from \$2.3 billion to \$1 billion (0.7%). For context, the same number was \$4.3 billion for 2024-25.



NYS has reserves of over \$33 billion.

# One Positive Development

- The Governor appears to have reconsidered her position on “empty seats” in schools with enrollment losses.
- Hopefully, the Governor will increase funding for schools with enrollment growth and greater needs, like Syosset.
  - Enrollment is up 10.2% since 2016;
  - Student poverty is up from 6% to 16%;
  - The numbers of English Language Learners, (who are entitled to extra support) has grown by 80%
  - Our “wealth factor” has dropped by 16%

**"AS WE CRAFT THE UPCOMING EXECUTIVE BUDGET, THE GOVERNOR BELIEVES WE SHOULD AVOID PROPOSALS THAT WOULD NEGATIVELY IMPACT SCHOOL BUDGETS, SUCH AS ELIMINATING THE HOLD-HARMLESS PROVISION OF THE FOUNDATION AID FORMULA."**

**■ GOVERNOR HOCHUL'S OFFICE**

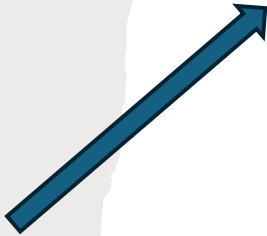
**ELIMINATING THE HOLD-HARMLESS**

# Regionalization Concerns

Developments and Next Steps

# Regionalization Concerns

- Residents have written and expressed concerns that Regionalization could:
  - Create a county-wide school district
  - Empower the BOCES Superintendent to make decisions for Syosset
  - Force mergers between school districts
  - Force a district to accept non-resident students
  - Require school districts to pool or share resources
- The State Education Department has repeatedly said that none of these concerns is actually in the regulation.



What if my school district does not have an activity listed in the final plan? Will we be forced to implement other activities in our region and/or educate out-of-district students?

The regional plans will only include activities that individual school districts consent or agree to pursue and implement in their local context. A district cannot be identified against their will as a participant in any particular activities listed in the regional plan. No individual school district is required to commit their local resources without their agreement or consent.

Local public school districts are only required to educate students who have established residency or are homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. The regional plan may not force a school district to educate out-of-district students without their consent or permission.

If my school district opts out of the regionalization planning process, can it still be required to take action in a regionalization plan?

No. If a school district opts out of the planning process, it will not, and cannot, be required to take any action as part of a regionalization plan.

<https://www.nysed.gov/regionalization/frequently-asked-questions>

# Syosset Has Steadfastly Opposed...

## ...Any initiative that would erode local control

- Forced tuition of non-resident students
- Forced mergers
- Expanded authority for the BOCES Superintendent

## ...Any initiative that would redirect local resources

- Forced participation in cooperative initiatives
- Forced sharing of fiscal resources
- Forced sharing of programmatic resources

- 
- These 2 “red line” principles address every single concern raised by the public so far.
  - These principles are larger than Regionalization.
    - Because Regionalization has been vague, opposing Regionalization has meant different things to different people. The “red line” principles instead are specific, measurable, and actionable;
    - These principles are not time-limited to the present concern about Regionalization. If some future regulation surfaces that violates these principles, we would oppose it as well.

# Today's Regents Meeting in Albany – Action Item

- The Regents adopted amendments to the Regulation:  
<https://www.regents.nysed.gov/sites/regents/files/1224p12a1.pdf>
  - Created a new section 124-2.8:
    - “A school district may elect not to participate in the development of a regionalization plan.”
  - Removes language in 124-2.5(d):
    - Neither the BOCES Superintendent, nor NYSED can “compel” school districts to achieve outcomes in the plan.
- Districts electing not to participate in the regionalization plan must send a letter to NYSED by January 15, 2025.
  - NYSED has indicated that sending this letter will enable a district to opt-out of both the planning process and the plan implementation itself (see following slides).

# From the Regents item Amending the Regulation

## **Cover Memo**

- *The proposed amendment does not mandate reorganization, such as mergers or consolidations, nor does it require districts to engage in specific activities under a regionalization plan (Memo; p.4)*
- *In the final regionalization plan, participating school districts are only required to implement activities that they have agreed or consented to for their local context. (Memo; p.4)*
- *...the regionalization process is voluntary. Thus, the Department has added a provision allowing school districts who do not wish to participate in such efforts to indicate such, in writing, to the Department. (Memo; p.4)*

# From the Regents item Amending the Regulation, continued...

## **NYSED Formal Responses to Comments**

- To the extent commenters complain of mandatory or unwilling participation in such plans, the Department has confirmed the optional nature of the rule by adding a new subpart to the rule allowing a district to indicate its intention not to participate. (Comment 3 p.14)
- *No school district can be identified against their will as a participant in any activities identified in the regionalization plan*; relatedly, no district can be forced to reallocate its resources. Local school districts are only required to educate students who have established residency or are homeless under the McKinney-Vento Act. *The regionalization plan may not force a school district to educate out-of-district students without their consent or permission.* (Comment 4 p.14)
- To assuage concerns that school districts will be forced to share, the Department has replaced the word “compel” with “request” in section 124-2.5(d) and added a new subpart to the rule allowing a district to indicate its intention not to participate. (Comment 4 p. 15)
- ...the Department has added a new subpart to the rule allowing a district to indicate its intention not to participate in a regional plan. (Comment 5 p.15)
- ...the Department has added a new subpart allowing a district to indicate its intention not to participate in regionalization plans. (Comment 6 p.16)
- the regionalization plans will only include activities that individual school districts agree to pursue and implement. No district can be identified against their will as a participant in any particular activities listed in the regionalization plan; (Comment 7 p.17)
- *Since school districts are not required to participate in regionalization plans, there can be no effect on their districts.* (Comment 11 p.19)

# Today's Regents Meeting in Albany – Discussion

- Deputy Commissioner Dr. Jeff Matteson – “We won’t approve any plan that doesn't include the sign off from every district listed in the plan.”
- Regent Roger Tilles asked for clarification:
  - Regent Tilles – “Some people back home will ask ‘if they opt out of the planning process, is there any way they can (involuntarily) be made part of the plan itself’?”
  - NYSED Counsel (chief attorney) Daniel Morton Bentley answered – “No.” He then elaborated by saying that courts have held agencies accountable to statements they have made in public, not just the language in their regulations.