



# TOWN+GOWN:NYC

## October 2024 Newsletter

Dear Members of Town+Gown:NYC,

Just a quick update on Town+Gown!

*UNESCO/MAWAC-ENAR 5-Megacity September 2024 London Workshop* was a success—it happened for one, and much work was accomplished during the three-day workshop, with continuing work to do in advance of the next workshop to be scheduled. Jennifer Cherrier/CUNY-Brooklyn, Franco Montalto/Drexel, David Erdman/Pratt, Hannah Eisler Burnett/Cornell and Veroneque Ignace/CUNY-SPH received NSF travel grants to attend--they presented at various theme sessions and participated in the two full-bore morning “snowball” sessions each morning to digest the two theme sessions from the day before and participated in a synthesis session on the afternoon of Day 3. Town+Gown presented on the T+G model with Jennifer Cherrier/CUNY-Brooklyn who presented on the Sister City model as two models for academic/practitioner collaboration for this UNESCO-IHP flagship initiative; Alan Cohn/DEP and John Brock/DEP presented on DEP’s stormwater management initiatives; Teddy Geberemariam/DEP presented on DEP’s median GI program; Thu-Loan Dinh/DDC presented on NYC DDC Coastal Resiliency Projects; and Hayley Elszasz/MOCEJ presented on Rainproof NYC. Many other NYC agency people attended the 4 theme sessions remotely.



Inaugural R/EX Event with DEP and DOT also a success. This inaugural research exchange (R/EX) event on September 24th at Fordham's Lincoln Center campus was for academic researchers to present what they are working on and for agency researchers to present what they are working on, all using the 2 minute/slide "Pitchfest" model, to exchange knowledge and research ideas, with the goal of finding commonalities for them to consider collaborative approaches. Fordham Provost Dennis Jacobs opened this R/EX event, and NYC DOT Commissioner Ydanis Rodriguez followed with brief remarks. There were 60 presentations split between DEP and DOT sessions, and there were close to 100 participants. The academic researchers spanned 10 institutions--CUNY/CCNY, CUNY/John Jay, Columbia, Cornell, Drexel, Fordham, NYU, Pratt, SUNY/Buffalo and SUNY/Stony Brook. Conversations among researchers in the last session will continue going forward. Town+Gown plans to conduct similar R/EX Events with other city agencies in the future.



Symposium Events Invitations will go out to all who are in the T+G email list as they become "live".

*Vision Zero Research on the Road.7* is scheduled to take place on 11/13/24.

*Other Event Ideas in Development* are listed below

- Principles of universal public right of way design
- Water In Water Out—comparative municipal stormwater fee structures, emerging PFAS issues under CWA, and impacts of rising sea levels under CWA
- Operation and maintenance issues in design of green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions
- Urban Resource Recovery Working Group—what we have learned since 10/21/21  
Closing Loops City Program Initiative for the local CDW circular economy
- BIM-enabled pre-fabricated modular design and construction
- Developing the next T+G Research Agenda

*Presentation on Town+Gown.* Town+Gown will be presenting to all agency ACCOs and CFOs at the October MOCS meeting about our master contracts as an easy way to procure faculty-directed research services.

*Master Academic Consortium Contract RFP/Task Order Update.* NYC DOC's Logistics Optimization Project Task Order, awarded to Columbia, was recently registered. NYC DEP's Regional Scale Nutrient Assessment Project is at the Task Order development stage, and its Croton Filtration Plant: Analysis of Biologically Activated Carbons Study RFP was recently released to the Academic Consortium schools.

*Event of Interest to Town+Gown Community.* Columbia University School of Professional Studies will host an Information and Knowledge Strategy program seminar on October 22, 2024, 6-8 pm, on *What gets measured gets managed... but who manages what gets measured on climate?* For more information, please see [IKNS Seminar: What gets measured gets managed... but who manages what gets measured on climate? | Columbia University School of Professional Studies.](#)

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Link to **Town+Gown: NYC** webpage:

<http://www1.nyc.gov/site/ddc/about/town-gown.page>