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## Moving The World Around: Transportation & The 2012 Olympics

### Session Notes

*Moderator:*

Jonathan Bowles, Center for an Urban Future

*Panelists:*

Nicholaas Peterson, Facilities Manager, NYC2012

Donald Schneck, Senior Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton

David Wyss, Chief Economist, Standard and Poors

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Not just about the Olympics but a plan for vastly improving infrastructure and transit.

### **Nick Peterson, Facilities Manager, NYC2012**

Goals of IOC in selecting a host city:

- Protection of the brand (rings)

- legacy

- security

- Optimum conditions for competition (transportation must get participants

  - to venues on time safely and securely)

- Environment (positive impact)

- The Olympic Story –NYC is truly an international city

- Transportation

Challenges to movement=moving everyone (see list below) & locating venues w/legacy potential

- spectators

- workers/volunteers

- media

- athletes/coaches/support staff

- judges

- Olympic family

### SOLUTIONS:

- Olympic X Plan = average distance from Olympic Village is 6 miles and the X describes the physical layout of the plan w/the Olympic Village in the middle of the X.

- Rail = horizontally (east-west)

- Ferry (water) = vertically (north-south)

All venues are served by these modes except for 3 events.

The system is reliable, safe, environmentally friendly, and accessible by subway for spectators.

*How can we avoid making the rush hours worse?*

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- dedicate rail (through East Side Access)
- PB is working on the plan for the evening rush
- working on alternative solutions to ferries for athletes w/sea sickness.

Ramifications:

- faster timetable developed of the west side/east side access
- Impact on operations of transit agencies
- pledges from unions not to strike (infrastructure must be built on time)
- renewed investment on ferries & waterborne transportation
- worldwide perception of NYC as the safest big city in the country (PR boost).

**David Wyss, Chief Economist, Standard and Poors**

*Why does NYC want to host the Olympics?*

- builds on city as a brand
- creates an infrastructure
- builds in community spirit

*Why not do the Olympics?*

- cost is very high
- requires discipline (everything MUST get done on time)
- creates problems w/in the community from opposing points of view.

*How does the city afford the Olympic games?*

- Types of cost involved:
  - investments for future roadways, infrastructure, etc.
  - one-time shots

-The trick is to finance things that can be used well into the future & return money. Stadiums etc... must be reusable after the Olympics are over.

-The most successful Olympic Villages are modeled after college dorms—small, functional rooms and large cafeterias.

*What are the advantages of NYC?*

- does not need more hotels
- can handle the influx of tourists
- everything is easily connected—ferry is important here because it can be implemented in a temporary fashion if additional service is needed.

**Donald Schneck, Senior Associate, Booz Allen Hamilton**

Critical Issues:

- venue selection
- allocation of organizational responsibilities
- funding levels
- transportation resources and flexibility
- modal integration

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- regional accessibility
- service levels sufficiency
- passenger information
- communications
- pedestrian access

*What's the difference about NYC from the previous venues that presents challenges & opportunities?*

- NYC has transit infrastructure available
- NYC has ability to handle lots of people
- problem = NYC is already congested
- problem = dealing w/the press (they don't want to be lumped in w/the spectators)
- need better signal control & street service.

-Handicap access is very important to the transportation needs for the Olympics. It will be beneficial for the long term for the city to implement this kind of infrastructure, which is desperately needed.

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