



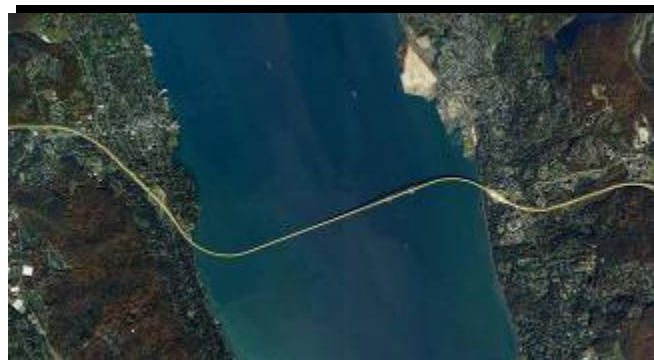
TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE/I-287
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

**New York State Department of Transportation
Metropolitan Transportation Authority Metro-North Railroad
New York State Thruway Authority**

Meeting Minutes

***Stakeholders' Advisory Working Groups (SAWGs)
Environmental SAWG Meeting #9***

***Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor
Environmental Review***



February 24, 2009

Meeting Title: Stakeholders’ Advisory Working Groups (SAWGs)
Environmental SAWG Meeting #9 – Surface Water Resources

Meeting Purpose: Exchange of information

Location Date: Palisades Mall Meeting Room in the Palisades Center
1000 Palisades Center Drive, West Nyack, NY
February 24, 2009

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Item 3: Presentation by RAFT (Page 2)
Item 4: Questions and Comments (Page 3)

Attendees: **SAWG Members**
Rick Beckerman
Phil Bosco (RAFT)
Bob Dillon (RAFT)
Melanie Golden
Hon. Bruce Levine
Gregory Price
Lee Prisament
Joan Schroeder

Additional Attendees
Dane Brecher (RAFT)
Pat Ferracane (NYSDEC)

Project Team Members
Rita Campon, Parsons
Claudine Ellyin, Earth Tech
Rob Forstner, Earth Tech
Kevin Koning, Earth Tech
Robert Laravie, NYSDOT
George Paschalis, HSH
Paul Plotczyk, WSA
Mark Roche, Arup
John Szeligowski, Earth Tech

Agenda Item 1

Introduction

The meeting started at 6:15 PM. Mr. Paul Plotczyk of WSA provided a brief introduction to the SAWG and encouraged active dialogue throughout.

Agenda Item 2

Technical Presentation

Mr. John Szeligowski of Earth Tech started with a general presentation on the reasons we need to analyze corridor water resources in the project’s EIS. Mr. Szeligowski also provided background and introductory information related to regulatory requirements and emphasized the interrelationship between topics to be presented.

Mr. Robert Forstner of Earth Tech provided details on the current condition of the water resources in the vicinity of the I-287 corridor, and Mr. Kevin Koning of Earth Tech followed with specifics on floodplain management and pollutant loadings. Mr. Forstner completed the presentation by providing a summary of stormwater management regulations and a review of typical stormwater quality and quantity control options.

The presentation is attached.

Agenda Item 3

Presentation by Rockland Residents Against Flooding Tomorrow

Mr. Bob Dillon of Rockland Residents Against Flooding Tomorrow (Rockland R.A.F.T.) followed the Water Resources presentation with a review of the history of flooding in the Hackensack River basin of Rockland County. The presentation included emphasis on the following potential solutions:

- Controlled release of excess water
- Better comprehensive planning
- Channel and wetland restoration
- Diversion

Details of the presentation can be found at <http://rocklandraft.com>.

Agenda Item 4

Questions and Comments

Comment: SAWG member expressed concern about the condition of a pond that is part of a wetland mitigation requirement at the Retreat at Airmont. The pond and wetland, which are adjacent to the right-of-way (ROW) of the Piermont freight rail line, attract numerous bird species and there is a concern that the proposed transit system may impact this facility.

Answer: At this time it is not known if the pond and wetland would be impacted by the project.

Comment: SAWG member noted that since the Rockland County Drainage Agency has updated the stream location and classification data, new watershed maps have recently become available.

Answer: The comment is noted.

Question: Do the FEMA Flood Insurance Studies take into account global warming and/or climate change? Are more recent storm events being included in the project's upcoming analysis of flooding along the corridor streams?

Answer: FEMA does not consider climate change as part of its floodplain analyses. We will use updated stream gauge data for the flooding analysis that will be presented in the project's EIS.

Question: What might be done if there are flooding problems along the corridor that are not the result of runoff from I-287? Could the project assist with addressing such problems?

Answer: This issue will be considered as part of the project's cumulative impact analyses in the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). If additional impervious surface is proposed as part of the project, NYSTA and NYSDOT will need to manage the increase in discharged stormwater in accordance with NYSDEC regulations. If there should be common solutions to managing stormwater, the project would be interested in getting information concerning such possibilities. It is expected that there will be further discussions with the communities along the corridor on this issue.

Comment: A SAWG member expressed concern about the Hackensack 4th order exemption.

Answer: Mr. Pat Ferracane of NYSDEC suggested that the Hackensack River in the project may not be a 4th order stream due to the presence of the dam at Lake Deforest. He indicated that there is no clear guidance as to how impoundments affect stream ordering, but that he would consult with NYSDEC's central office in Albany on the specifics of how the Lake Deforest dam might affect the river's ordering.

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM.