



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)  
Joint Land Use/Traffic & Transit SAWG Meeting***

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

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March 11, 2009

Meeting Title:	Stakeholders’ Advisory Working Groups (SAWGs) Joint Land Use/Traffic & Transit SAWG
Meeting Purpose:	Exchange of information
Location Date:	Palisades Mall Meeting Room in the Palisades Center 1000 Palisades Center Drive, West Nyack, NY March 11, 2009
Agenda:	Item 1. Introduction (Page 3) Item 2. DEIS Alternatives (Page 3) Item 3: Transit Alignment Options Work Plan (Page 3) Item 4: Rockland County BRT and CRT Options (Page 3) Item 5: Westchester County BRT and CRT Options Item 6: Discussion and Questions (Page 3)
Attendees:	Phil Bosco (Environmental SAWG member) Patrick Bulla Michelle Bulla Len Cardillo Joan Connors James Creighton Ed Dempsey Bob Dillon (Environmental SAWG member) Jay Fallik Jody Fox Patrick Gerdin Orrin Getz Hon. Alexander J. Gromack (represented by Aimee J. Vargas, Director of Finance, Town of Clarkstown) Richard Harrington James Hartwick Michael Hogan Hon. Ellen Jaffee (represented by Darcy Casteleiro, Chief of Staff) Jane Keller Hon. Thom Kleiner Barton Lee Julius Levine Jack P. McLaughlin Maureen Morgan Tom Mulhern David Ordas Alexander Saunders

Mary Jane Shimsky  
Eric Strober  
John Tangredi  
Vic Weinstein  
Arthur Winoker  
Janet Zagoria

**Additional Members of the Public**

Steve Winoker  
Peter Gray  
Arthur L. Streeter, Esq., General Counsel, Interstate Waste Services

**Project Team Members**

Rita Campon, Parsons  
Wai Cheung, New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA)  
Jim Coyle, Earth Tech  
Yvette Hinds, New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT)  
Robert Laravie, NYSDOT  
Angel Medina, NYSTA  
Andrew Parker, Earth Tech  
Joe Pasanello, MTA Metro-North Railroad (MNR/MTA)  
George Paschalis, HSH  
Paul Plotczyk, WSA  
Nikhil Puri, Earth Tech  
Mark Roche, Arup  
Craig Teepell, NYSDOT  
Leon Zelazny, Earth Tech

Agenda Item 1

*Introduction*

The meeting started at 6:10 PM. Mr. Paul Plotczyk provided an overview of the advisory working group session and encouraged active dialogue throughout.

Agenda Items 2, 3, 4 and 5

*Technical Presentation*

Mr. James Coyle provided a review of the DEIS Alternatives, the *Transit Alignment Options Work Plan*, Rockland County BRT and CRT Options, and the Westchester County BRT and CRT Options. Dr. Andrew Parker contributed with a brief review of demographic and employment data in the two counties and the significance of the I-287 Corridor as the focus for future growth. Additionally, he discussed the need for transit and the application of “smart growth” concepts in the corridor.

The annotated technical presentation is attached.

Agenda Item 4

Questions and Comments

Question: Is CRT not included for Westchester?

Response: Cross Westchester CRT is not included in the study at this time, but the present design does not preclude the provision of that service in the future. The current plan includes a CRT connection from the Tappan Zee Bridge by tunnel to the Hudson Line in Tarrytown.

Question: Will there be a station in Tarrytown?

Answer: Presently, no CRT station is planned for Tarrytown. There would be a BRT stop/station, with a possible dedicated busway, from the toll plaza area to the Tarrytown Station.

Question: A question was asked concerning the character of parking facilities to be provided at stations/stops.

Answer: Parking provisions have not been determined at this time but will be studied in further detail and will be specific to locations. Its character will vary depending upon projected needs and availability of appropriate land. Metro-North has expertise operating such facilities.

Question: Population and employment projections do not seem to have been considered?

Answer: Population and employment projections are provided by the New York Metropolitan Transportation Council (NYMTC), the regional metropolitan planning organization (MPO). The project is obligated

to use these numbers by the USDOT and these are the numbers that have been agreed to by the participating counties of the region. We have official forecasts for 2030 preliminary data out to 2035 and these are what drive the Best Practices Model (BPM) analyses that are the foundation of our traffic and transit projections for regional traffic flows as well as at the detailed transportation analysis zones (TAZ).

Question: Are we doing benchmark studies of topography in other countries as a guide to this project?

Answer: While we are looking at bridge and transit projects in the USA and other countries, topography is highly localized and the context of the 30-mile corridor is unique and has been the subject of detailed analysis for our own planning and design studies.

Question: Will we use parking structures? There should not be just park and ride facilities, Transit Oriented Development (TOD) should be for people to primarily walk to the station.

Answer: We will be examining opportunities for TOD in the corridor. The NYSDOT has recently initiated a training program to be implemented by a nationally-renowned TOD consultant to introduce local governments along the corridor to the opportunities and benefits of utilizing TOD principles.

Question: Can NYSDOT take property for this project?

Answer: The state has powers to appropriate property for transportation and other public purposes. For this project, we anticipate being able to accommodate the proposed improvements within the existing right-of-way (ROW) of I-287, with very few exceptions; these would be mostly where stations/stops require a footprint extending beyond the existing ROW.

Question: In response to data noting the number of Rockland and Westchester County residents or workers commuting and using the Tappan Zee Bridge: what are the totals of other through traffic on the bridge?

Answer: These data were not available immediately. (Subsequent review of these data indicates that a survey in 2003 showed that approximately 10 percent of trips were external to the 28-county NYMTC region).

Comment: Replacing the Tappan Zee Bridge is the first priority.

Answer: Comment noted.

Comment: The small supermarket at Route 119 and Broadway in Tarrytown is intending to relocate to a large vacant site on Route 119 near Benedict Avenue.

Answer: Comment noted.

## **Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.