



TAPPAN ZEE BRIDGE/I-287
ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Environmental Review Land Use SAWG Meeting

June 5, 2007 6:00 PM

Meeting Notes

On Tuesday, June 5, 2007 New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT), MTA Metro-North Railroad (MNR), and the Thruway Authority, together with members of the TZB/I-287 Environmental Review project team, met with the Land Use Stakeholder Advisory Working Group (SAWG) at the Comfort Inn & Suites in Nanuet, Rockland County, New York.

Michael P. Anderson, NYSDOT, gave a brief welcome to the group. He thanked the group for their attendance and commitment to the project. Mr. Anderson introduced the project team and stated that during this process, meeting minutes will be taken and outcomes will be documented and disseminated to the group. He then introduced **Paul Plotczyk**, Work Systems Affiliates International (WSA), who is the facilitator for the SAWG meetings.

Mr. Plotczyk informed the group that the SAWG is a forum intended for the participants to be comfortable, with an informal setting so that a conversation develops in which everyone participates. He emphasized the importance of having critical issues and concern brought up in this and future discussions. Mr. Plotczyk also explained that the format of the meetings may change as time goes on and as information becomes more technical. He then asked each member of the group and the project team to introduce him- or herself and include the following information:

- Name
- Any group affiliation
- Background (why they are a part of this process)

Land Use SAWG members present were: Vincent Altieri, Irene Sanford, John Kirpatrick, Jeff Anzevino, Gil Mercurio, Sal Fazzi, Vic Weinstein, Joseph Meyers, Jeff Zupan, Steve Silverberg, Suzanne Berkeley, Mark Stellato, Thom Kleiner

The attending agency personnel were Marty Huss (MNR), Joe Pasanello (MNR), Elisa Van Der Linde (MNR). Consultants who introduced themselves were Jim Coyle, Leon Zelazny, Andrew Parker, Mark Roche, Sara Hearn, and David Rubin.

Paul Plotczyk then showed his slides, asking for comment on the paragraph describing the purpose of the SAWGs. Mr. Fazzi expressed concern that their feedback would be given consideration – that they were not making decisions but advising the decision makers. Paul explained that they should be concerned as to how they influence the project team.

Jeff Zupan asked to what extent this committee would be informed of the activities of other working groups. Paul put that issue in the Parking Lot. Mike Anderson assured the committee that they would have access to other committee minutes and will look into the possibility of doing so via a secure web site.

Jim Coyle (Earth Tech) gave a brief introduction to the agenda for the meeting.

Andrew Parker (Earth Tech) began his presentation on Land Use, describing what we know, how we are using it, what we're trying to learn, and what's next for SAWG meetings.

Gil Mercurio asked where the forecasts of population and employment came from, and their basis in NYMTC's forecasting process was explained. Jim Coyle explained the need for 2015, the build year, and 2035, 20 years after the build year, as mandated by regulatory agencies.

Jeff Zupan pointed out that much of the available land for development was in Orange County.

Joe Meyers asked how NYMTC considers the peculiar demographics of Ramapo Township and the villages within it, where religious Jews live in large families with often only one worker – often dependent on charter transit services. Jeff Zupan agreed. It was explained that Rockland County worked with NYMTC on these forecasts.

When Andrew showed the graphics illustrating percentage growth by zone, Jeff Zupan asked that other displays show growth per square mile instead – so those areas with major absolute growth would be more apparent.

Gil Mercurio asked the logic of the zone system, and it was explained, to the extent possible.

Thom Kleiner, Orange County supervisor, arrived and replaced Suzanne Berkeley.

Vince Altieri explained that Rockland County was beginning a new county planning process shortly to replace *River to Ridge: A Plan for the 21st Century*.

Westchester County has a process underway at this time to update the *Patterns for Westchester* plan.

Vic Weinstein asked about parking at the proposed stations. Jeff Anzevino asked that the stations be considered transit villages with limited parking and land uses in walking distance from the station. Marty Huss explained that MNR has a program to develop land around the station, and gave the example of working with a developer to develop the land around the White Plains station. Jeff Zupan suggested that the changes in White Plains be documented to show how TOD can work.

Mark Stellato noted that the proposed Hillside Avenue Station in Greenburgh was on a town-owned wetland. He offered to send the report concerning the site.

Steve Silverberg suggested contacting Scott Schetler of the Suffern Parking Authority about parking in Suffern. He is also the Ramapo Town Assessor.

Two upcoming conferences were noted:

1. A conference on bus rapid transit (BRT) at the Westchester County Center on Friday (6/8/07), sponsored by Tri-State Transportation Campaign.
2. A conference with a session on TOD at the Thayer Hotel in West Point, sponsored by the New York State Association of MPOs.

Vic Weinstein asked that Westchester County get something closer to equal time in the analysis.

Irene Sanford pointed out that the population in Westchester is aging, which will affect travel. Telecommuting will also have an impact.

The presentation, questions, and comments were completed by 8:50PM. Paul Plotczyk provided a summary, noted the next Land Use SAWG meeting date of July 27th, and reviewed the Parking Lot items:

- Transportation forecasting – exchange of information between SAWG groups
- Population and employment growth by sq. mile
- Transit villages with MNR guest speaker
- Downtown White Plains development
- Conferences
- Consequences of an aging population for journey-to-work
- Results of RPA's TOD charrette
- Relationship of trip generation to land use.