



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 #6 – Focus on Land Use***

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

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March 6, 2008

Meeting Title: Stakeholders' Advisory Working Groups (SAWGs)  
Environmental SAWG Meeting #6 – Focus on Land Use

Meeting Purpose: Exchange of Information

Location Date: Holiday Inn, Suffern, New York  
March 6, 2008

Agenda: Item 1. Introduction (Page 2)  
Item 2. Technical Presentation (Page 2)  
Item 3. Questions and Comments (Page 3)

Attendees:

**Name**

*Environmental SAWG Members:*

Golden, Melanie  
Jacob, Klaus  
May, Richard  
Robbins, Marysue  
Ross, Irene  
Shaw, Marion  
Schroeder, Joan  
Madronero, Dorice

*Members from other SAWGS in Attendance:*

*Study Team:*

Representatives of the agencies and members of the consultant staff

*Minutes Recorder:*

Ron Slangen (Earth Tech, Inc.)

*Agenda Item 1*

*Introduction*

Mr. Bob Laravie of the New York State Department of Transportation introduced the meeting by welcoming group members and provided a recap of the last SAWG meeting. He noted that all the materials related to the most recent Scoping meeting are available on the project's website (<http://www.tzbsite.com/>). The facilitator, Paul Stimson of Work Systems Affiliates International, Inc., then introduced the presenter of the evening, Dr. Andrew Parker (Earth Tech, environmental consultant).

The presentation provided SAWG members with an overview of land use issues in the TZ study corridor with an emphasis on the connection between land use and transportation planning.

*Agenda Item 2: Andrew Parker – Introduction to Land Use and Its Connection to Transportation*

*Technical Presentation*

Dr. Parker presented a slide show on the connection between land use and transportation. His slides are presented in annotated form below.

*Agenda Item 3: A. Parker - Introduction to Land Use and Its Connection to Transportation  
Questions and Comments*

- Question: In response to Dr. Parker's overview of commercial land use in Rockland, a SAWG member asked how the project would impact future retail development in the area.
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that these impacts would be discussed further in the socioeconomic section of the DEIS.
- Comment A SAWG member noted that she counted up to 14 trains a day on the Piermont Line near Airmont Road and that there was a concern over noise (see Parking Lot list below).
- Question: A member asked how Transit Oriented Development (TOD) would impact Nyack. A follow up question asked if TOD would make conditions worse.
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that local governments control land use. He added that there are opportunities for TOD and redevelopment through infill, pedestrian enhancements, and more coherent planning.
- A DOT representative added that TOD planning takes time. A SAWG member also noted that TOD is very attractive because it prevents sprawl.
- Question: A member asked if cemeteries would be impacted by the project.
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that the project is very sensitive to cemeteries and that none are proposed to be impacted.
- Comment: A SAWG member noted that encouraging out of town, non-residential parking permits in Tarrytown has created traffic problems. A proposed CRT station in Tarrytown would take away retail for parking. She expressed concern over where locals would go for shopping? The member added that getting in and out of the Quays is very difficult already and that a proposed CRT station would only make matters worse.
- Response: Another SAWG member noted that a station with transit service could reduce traffic flow. Dr. Parker added that the station would be underground and could be configured into a very desirable area with increase amenities. Ideally with TOD, the community could be more walkable. Dr. Parker added that all the options proposed to date are still open, including a proposed bus loop in Tarrytown. A DOT representative noted that the Tier II EIS on Transit will discuss these plans in more detail.
- Question: Is the project considering the existing 10-mile radius evacuation plan for the Indian Point Nuclear Plant? (see Parking Lot list below)
- Response: Dr. Parker noted this was a point he hadn't addressed and that it will be added to the Parking Lot list of issues to be addressed subsequently.
- Question: Is the project considering sustainable fuel sources (electric vs. diesel, etc.)?

- Response: A DOT representative noted that the team is looking at all types of fuel options. (see Parking Lot list below).
- Question: A SAWG member asked what the impacts of terminals will be on land use.
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that in Hillburn, a proposed CRT terminal would potentially displace an industrial facility but that all transit related items would be examined in depth in the Tier II Transit EIS.
- Comment: A SAWG member noted that further design charrettes would need to be conducted for other transit modes other than CRT.
- Response: A DOT representative noted that the Governor’s TOD initiative will offer training to localities beginning in the fall.
- Question: Will the project compensate property owners for impacts?
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that the project will provide compensation to property owners for acquired properties and mitigate other impacts (e.g., noise walls) accordingly.
- Question: A SAWG member raised concern about air and noise. Do baseline measurements exist?
- Response: Dr. Parker suggested that the Environmental SAWG is likely to host a senior Air and Noise expert (Fang Yang, Earth Tech) to provide more information on the topic. A DOT representative noted that mitigations are required by federal law. (see Parking Lot list below).
- Comment: A DOT representative encouraged SAWG members to comment on the methodologies outlined in the Scoping materials.
- Comment: A SAWG member noted that a mega-mall is proposed to be developed in Mahwah, NJ at the old Ford Plant and is intended to compete with the Palisades Center Mall in Rockland, County. There would be potential traffic impacts on the study corridor. (see Parking Lot list below).
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that it would be considered and that traffic models will incorporate the local network.
- Question: A SAWG member asked how the project was addressing trucks on the highway. What is the truck policy for highway lanes and tolls?
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that an extended climbing lane in Rockland is proposed to accommodate trucks and that variable truck tolls are already in effect on the TZB. (see Parking Lot list below).
- Comment: The project will need to look at how carbon is priced in the future. Also TOD is important in future growth planning.
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that the project can address these issues by accommodating future shifts in travel behavior as gas and oil prices go up. He also added that pricing of highways and tolls will be important to consider as this has worked in other cities.
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- Comment: A SAWG member noted that water supply shortages and the risk of drought will need to be considered in terms of future land use planning.
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that conservation and sustainability will be key. United Water is considering future water supplies from the Hudson River which would require the construction of an expensive desalinization plant.
- Question: Are there any new interchanges planned for the project?
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that there is no proposed interchange in Monsey but one has been considered, and it is an option that is still being explored.
- Question: A SAWG member asked if proposed stations will accommodate existing and future bus lines that could feed into the stations. Another SAWG member noted that the project should accommodate bicycle racks at stations
- Response: Dr. Parker noted that the proposed stations will accommodate future local buses and that the project is interested in enhancing local transit systems. It was suggested that the Environmental SAWG should host a project transportation specialist.

### **Parking Lot List: Questions and Issues to be Addressed**

- Is the project considering the existing 10-mile radius evacuation plan for the Indian Point Nuclear Plant?
- Is the project considering sustainable fuel sources (electric vs. diesel, etc.)?
- Air and noise issues are a concern. Do baseline measurements exist?
- Comment: There is a proposed mega-mall in Mahwah, NJ at the old Ford Plant location.
- Comment: Increased trains noticed on the Piermont Line near Airmont Road. It was noted that there are now up to 14 trains/day that pass. Concern over noise.
- How is the project addressing trucks on the highway? What is the truck policy for highway lanes and tolls?