

# Origin-Destination Survey Results Summary

March 2004

An origin-destination survey was conducted for the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Environmental Review. Survey respondents were asked to provide a variety of information about their most recent trip across the Hudson River including the geographical locations of where the trip began and ended and the mode (car, bus, etc..) by which the trip was made.

Surveys were distributed in April 2003 to eastbound auto and transit travelers across five Hudson River crossings (the Newburgh-Beacon, Bear Mountain, Tappan Zee and George Washington Bridges and the Lincoln Tunnel) and customers on select public transit systems operating in the I-287 Corridor (Tappan Zee Express bus, CT Transit's I-Bus, Coach USA's Red & Tan and ShortLine buses, Metro-North's Port Jervis and Pascack Valley line trains, and New York Waterway's Weehawken and Haverstraw-Ossining ferries). Commercial vehicles were not included in this survey. The survey targeted three main categories of travelers: Tappan Zee Bridge cash customers; E-ZPass customers on all five crossings; and public transit customers.

The survey questionnaire was distributed to about 90,000 travelers and yielded 11,496 completed surveys (considerably more than the target sample size of 4,000 required for statistical accuracy). The survey responses were converted to replicate the whole traveling population on the five Hudson River crossings and the select transit services using a weighting process to expand the sample to the size of the population.

The following is a snapshot of current eastbound weekday travel across the Hudson River as indicated by the results of the origin-destination survey. Figure 1 illustrates the origins and destinations of people traveling eastbound across the Tappan Zee Bridge on a typical weekday (over a 24-hour period). Figure 2 illustrates how trips beginning in either Rockland or Orange Counties and ending in New York City are distributed among the Hudson River Crossings, also on a typical weekday. People traveling to Hoboken via Port Jervis or Pascack Valley commuter rail and crossing the Hudson River by ferry or PATH service to Manhattan are also indicated on Figure 2.

## **Tappan Zee Bridge Person Trips – Eastbound (see Figure 1)**

On an average weekday, 80,457 people cross the Tappan Zee Bridge in the eastbound direction. Of these:

- 79,107 (98 percent) cross in automobiles (415 of whom travel to the Tarrytown Station for service to Manhattan); and

- 1,350 (two percent) cross in Tappan Zee Express buses (663 of whom travel to the Tarrytown Station for service to Manhattan).

The majority of the person trips (65 percent) originate in Rockland and Orange counties, with 42 percent coming from southern Rockland County alone. The remaining person trips either begin in New Jersey (24 percent) or locations external to the study region (11 percent).

In terms of where trips end, slightly more than half (51 percent) of all the eastbound person trips over the Tappan Zee Bridge terminate in Westchester County. The trips that end in New York City consist of 16 percent in the Bronx, seven percent in Manhattan, and five percent in other areas of the City (which includes those person trips commuting on the Hudson Line from the Tarrytown Station). The remaining person trips terminate in Connecticut (10 percent), Long Island (three percent), Putnam and Dutchess counties (one percent), and in locations external to the New York metropolitan area<sup>1</sup> (seven percent).

### **Cross-Hudson Trips (including Tappan Zee Bridge) – Eastbound**

On an average weekday, 378,600 people cross the Hudson River traveling eastbound on the facilities surveyed. Nearly one-third (or 119,622) of the weekday travelers begin the trip in either Rockland or Orange Counties and, of these, about 45 percent (or 54,273) are traveling to New York City (see Figure 2).

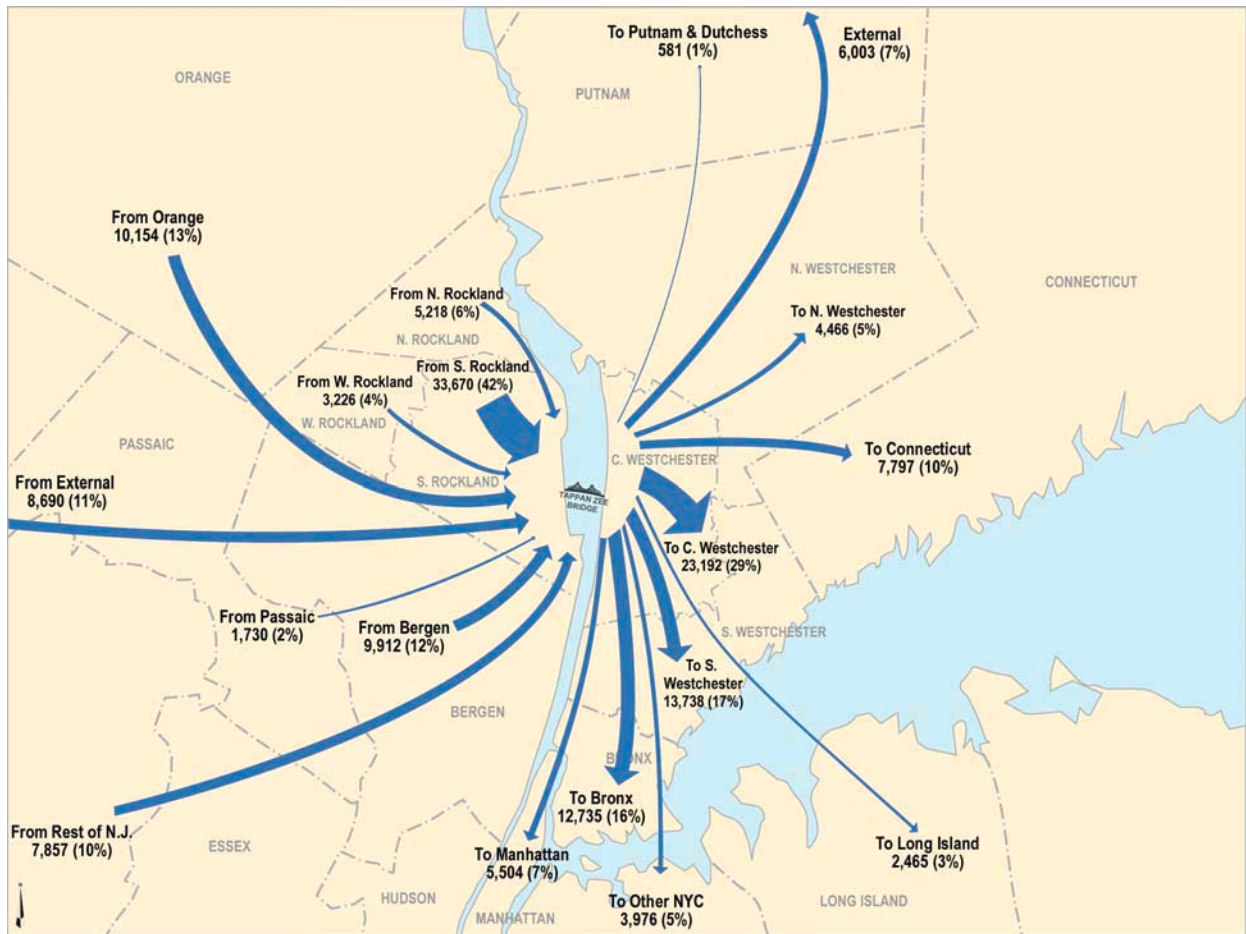
The George Washington and Tappan Zee Bridges are the facilities used most by the Rockland and Orange Counties to New York City travel market at 36 percent and 35 percent, respectively. Less than one-quarter (22 percent) of these weekday travelers use the Lincoln Tunnel. The remaining trips are distributed over the Newburgh-Beacon Bridge (two percent), the Bear Mountain Bridge (one percent), the Haverstraw-Ossining Ferry (0.5 percent), or crossing by PATH or ferry at Hoboken (3.5 percent).

For additional information on the progress of the Study, please visit [www.tzbsite.com](http://www.tzbsite.com) or visit the community outreach centers now open in Tarrytown (Tel: 914-524-0273) and Nyack (Tel: 845-348-7714).

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<sup>1</sup> New York City, Long Island, Westchester, Rockland, Orange, Putnam, Dutchess, the northern half of New Jersey, and Fairfield and New Haven counties in Connecticut.

**Figure 1**  
**Tappan Zee Bridge Eastbound Average Weekday Person Trips**  
**(Vehicular and Transit)**



**Figure 2**

**Average Weekday Eastbound Person Trips (Vehicular and Transit)  
from Rockland & Orange Counties to New York City –  
All Hudson River Crossings**

