



TZB-198E

Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention (CDC)
Atlanta GA 30333

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March 28, 2008

Mr. Michael P. Anderson
NYSDOT
Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Project Director
660 White Plains Road
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Dear Mr. Anderson:

This is in response to your Advance Notification for the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor (the Corridor) that a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) will be prepared to examine proposed transportation improvements within the Corridor. We are responding on behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS), U.S. Public Health Service.

We understand that this Corridor extends 30 miles from the I-287/I-87 interchange in Suffern, New York to the I-287/I-95 Interchange in Port Chester, New York. The purpose of the proposed DEIS is to evaluate multimodal highway and transit alternatives to address the area's transportation and mobility needs. We are pleased that one of the primary goals of this project is to increase safety in this corridor as well as multimodal transportation infrastructure. Measures such as HOV/carpool designation, public transportation infrastructure development, bicycle lanes, and multimodal path systems will ensure long-term congestion mitigation and can also act to protect and promote public health

Safety is also a specific concern for us. We believe that as the project alternatives are developed, considerations must be given to not only injuries from crashes between vehicles, but also to injuries caused by pedestrian-vehicular interactions. Specific safety issues to address in this planning study should include development of an adequate and safe infrastructure, including ADA accessibility, for convenient walking and crossing as well as sufficiently marked lanes for bicyclists, appropriate speed transitions, and clear signage.

Assessment of the human environment, or human health impact, is an appropriate and necessary component of environmental assessment in NEPA. While this agency is not currently funded to provide comprehensive human health assessments for NEPA-related development proposals, we support comprehensive assessment and mitigation development for issues affecting the human environment. Any lack of comments on specific potential health impacts should not be construed as concurrence that no significant human health impact would result from the project.

Collaboration with county and state public health officers during this phase of project analysis is appropriate and should be considered.

Although we have no other project specific comments to offer at this time, we do recommend

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that the topics listed below be considered during the NEPA process, along with other necessary topics, and addressed if appropriate. Mitigation plans that are protective of the environment and public health should be described in the DEIS wherever warranted.

AREAS OF POTENTIAL PUBLIC HEALTH CONCERN:

Air Quality

- dust control measures during project construction, and potential releases of air toxins
- potential process air emissions after project completion
- compliance with air quality standards

Water Quality/Quantity

- special consideration to private and public potable water supply, including ground and surface water resources
- compliance with water quality and waste water treatment standards
- ground and surface water contamination (e.g. runoff and erosion control)
- body contact recreation

Wetlands and Flood Plains

- potential contamination of underlying aquifers
- construction within flood plains which may endanger human health
- contamination of the food chain

Hazardous Materials/Wastes

- identification and characterization of hazardous/contaminated sites
- safety plans/procedures, including use of pesticides/herbicides; worker training
- spill prevention, containment, and countermeasures plan

Non-Hazardous Solid Waste/Other Materials

- any unusual effects associated with solid waste disposal should be considered

Noise

- identify projected elevated noise levels and sensitive receptors (i.e. residential, schools, hospitals) and appropriate mitigation plans during and after construction

Occupational Health and Safety

- compliance with appropriate criteria and guidelines to ensure worker safety and health

Land Use and Housing

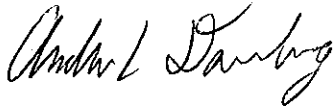
- special consideration and appropriate mitigation for necessary relocation and other potential adverse impacts to residential areas, community cohesion, community services
- demographic special considerations (e.g. hospitals, nursing homes, day care centers, schools)
- consideration of beneficial and adverse long-term land use impacts, including the potential influx of people into the area as a result of a project and associated impacts
- potential impacts upon vector control should be considered

Environmental Justice

- federal requirements emphasize the issue of environmental justice to ensure equitable environmental protection regardless of race, ethnicity, economic status or community, so that no segment of the population bears a disproportionate share of the consequences of environmental pollution attributable to a proposed project. (Executive Order 12898)

While this is not intended to be an exhaustive list of possible impact topics, it provides a guide for typical areas of potential public health concern which may be applicable to this project. Any health related topic which may be associated with the proposed project should receive consideration when developing the draft and final EISs. Please furnish us with one copy of the draft document when it becomes available for review.

Sincerely yours,



Andrew L. Dannenberg, MD, MPH
Associate Director for Science
Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services
National Center for Environmental Health
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
4770 Buford Highway, MS F-60
Atlanta, GA 30341