



U.S. Department
of Transportation

Federal Railroad
Administration

Administrator

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

APR 2 2008

RECEIVED
4/4/08

Mr. Michael P. Anderson
Project Director
TappanZee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Project
New York State Department of Transportation
660 White Plains Road, Suite 340
Tarrytown, NY 10591

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) has received your letters of February 15 and 11, 2008, including the revised notice of intent to prepare an environmental impacts statement (EIS) for the rehabilitation and improvement of the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor. FRA recognizes the importance of this highway crossing of the Hudson River and the need for improvement incorporating transit services.

FRA supports the concept of providing transit service in this corridor and finds merit in long term planning that would include the physical capability of carrying a rail line in any new bridge constructed.

While the I-287 corridor clearly could support some transit service, it is less clear that there is any potential for intercity passenger rail or freight rail service. The route across the Tappan Zee Bridge does not follow any designated high speed rail (HSR) corridor, nor does it directly connect any major urban centers that would lend themselves to intercity rail service.

For this reason, the FRA will follow but does not need to be closely involved in this EIS process.

I thank you for providing this information and inviting FRA involvement.

Sincerely,

Joseph H. Boardman
Administrator

Cc: Hang Chu, P.E., Deputy Director

10
20