

TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
 Department of Planning

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TOWN OF CLARKSTOWN
 Planning Board

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TZB-120E



March 27, 2008

Mr. Michael P. Anderson
 NYS DOT
 Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Project Director
 660 White Plains Road, Suite 340
 Tarrytown, NY 10591

Dear Mr. Anderson:

The Town of Clarkstown Planning Department has been directed by the Town Supervisor, Alexander J. Gromack, to review the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Scoping Update Packet and to provide comments on the scoping process. We respectfully request that the following comments be considered and addressed:

We are concerned that the Preferred Transit Mode for the Corridor will be selected before the environmental analysis is complete and the DEIS can be reviewed by the public. The selection process is unclear in the Scoping document. The transit modes described in the Scoping Update Document are listed as bus rapid transit, commuter rail transit and light rail transit. If one of these modes is selected as the Preferred Transit Mode for the Corridor, it will preclude the consideration of the build alternatives that have a mixture of transit modes. If the Preferred Transit Mode is, in fact, a combination of modes as represented in the various build alternatives, selecting a Preferred Transit Mode will essentially dictate the build alternative, which is to be selected at the end of the environmental assessment process. Either way, the environmental review process seems to preclude the public from commenting on the potential environmental impact of one transit mode versus another.

The geographic area to be studied by the Assessment Methodologies should be expanded, particularly with regards to transportation and land use. Section 6.1 of the Scoping Update Document states that the "relevant major roadways" will be studied within a half mile area on either side of the Corridor. Access to transit stations and the Interstate will place a burden on local roads as residents commute during peak traffic hours. An examination of potential impacts should be expanded to include major roadways throughout Rockland and Westchester Counties and local roadways closer to the corridor.

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Section 6.3 of the Scoping Update Document states that the "land use analysis will consider areas approximately one-half mile on either side of the Corridor." This distance seems small considering the far reaching impacts of the project. Potential land use impacts associated with this project can have a scope similar to that of the original construction of the Tappan Zee Bridge, which undeniably spurred development, particularly housing developments, throughout Rockland and Orange Counties. The potential impact on housing (demand, costs, etc) and demographics is not specifically addressed in the scoping document. The Scoping Update Document states that land use impacts "resulting from changes in travel patterns, travel time and congestion" will be examined as part of the environmental impact statement. As part of this process, land use impacts associated with the placement of transit stations should also be examined within Rockland and Orange Counties. The creation of a mass transit system along the 287 corridor extending to Port Chester and Manhattan will create an increased demand for development in a wide ranging area around transit hubs.



We thank you for providing us with the opportunity to review the Scoping Document for the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor as this project stands in a position to bring dramatic changes to the Town of Clarkstown and the surrounding region.

Sincerely,

Jose C. Simoes
 Jose C. Simoes
 Clarkstown Town Planner

C: Alexander J. Gromack, Town Supervisor

TZB-016E

Dear Sir or Madam,

Attached is a copy of the Town of Clarkstown's comments on the Tappan Zee Bridge/I-287 Corridor Project Scoping Document. A hard copy has been sent via mail and a copy has been faxed, both of which are on the Town Planning Department's letterhead and are signed by Town Planner, Jose Simoes. Please feel free to contact me if you require any additional information.

James Creighton
Assistant Town Planner
Town of Clarkstown - Planning Department
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New City, NY 10956
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Jose C. Simoes
Clarkstown Town Planner

C: Alexander J. Gromack, Town Supervisor