

NEW YORK METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL



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Hudson River Valley Greenway Link

Summary of Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) Comments

TAC Meeting #1, December 1, 2008

Submitted January 12, 2009 by:



with:



Hudson River Valley Greenway Link Technical Advisory Committee Meeting, December 1, 2008

“What We Heard”

The following list summarizes the comments and recommendations made at the first Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting for the Hudson River Valley Greenway Link study on December 1, 2008.

General Comments and Recommendations for Study Team

- In the State legislation this project was defined as a multi-use trail, “along the Hudson River.” This effort should strive to create a trail along the waterfront where possible.
- Bringing people to the water will help build stewardship
- The greenway should be envisioned as a “string of pearls,” connecting outstanding features and communities along the way
- Coordinate HRVGL with the East Coast Greenway, Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, the South County Trailway and the Putnam Rail Trail
- Obtain a precise measurement of the distance between the edge of the rail and the top of the riprap
- Consider building unpaved sections of the trail for runners
- Access and use of the trail should be free-of-charge. Pursue public-private agreements where needed for trail ownership and maintenance
- Bus routes in the Bronx should connect to the trail to provide residents in the eastern Bronx access to the waterfront
- Westchester County and the City of Yonkers are committed to building a trail along the waterfront as part of the Westchester County RiverWalk.
- Cherry Walk in Manhattan could be used as a model for a waterfront path
- Look at Stowe, Vermont as an example of a successful multi-use trail along the water

Potential Project Constraints

- The priority of the College of Mount Saint Vincent and the Sisters of Charity is to preserve their property, just north of 261st Street along the waterfront.
- Topography, erosion and existing/former industrial land use pose significant challenges to building a waterfront trail.
- Another concern of TAC members is preserving natural features and wildlife habitats

- Parking along the trail would be an issue. Trail users would want additional parking so drivers could bike into Manhattan.
- Potential obstacles in Yonkers include the sewage treatment plant, owned by the Westchester County Department of Environmental Facilities, and the Glenwood Power Station. Coming up with a feasible design solution for routing the trail around the plant and power station will be a significant challenge.
- The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC) may be changing its definition of Mean High Water to recognize sea level rise due to global warming. A change in this definition may reduce the available right-of-way for a waterfront trail.
- Getting the trail over the Harlem River will be the most difficult challenge. The study team should explore the possibility of attaching a cantilevered structure to the Spuyten Duyvil and/or using Track 6 along the waterfront. The study team should also look into possibility of routing the trail across the Henry Hudson Bridge.

Goals and Objectives

- Provide connections to the greenway system and surrounding communities
 - Create connections between waterfront and inland communities.
 - Provide functional transportation access to employers
 - Coordinate HRVGL with the East Coast Greenway, Old Croton Aqueduct Trail, the South County Trailway, the Putnam Rail Trail and other trailways in the area.
- Ensure public access to the waterfront
 - Consider mobility of all users, including those with disabilities
 - Provide direct access to the waterfront from transit stops and parking areas
 - Strengthen or create new east-west access routes to the waterfront (explore possibility of restoring old bridges over the railroad tracks in the Bronx)
 - Provide clear and adequate signage to trail routes and facilities
- Ensure safety of trail users and provide opportunities for active and passive recreation
 - Provide places for trailway users to sit and enjoy the waterfront
 - Comply with design guidelines for trail safety and security
- Explore potential for economic development/tourism along the Yonkers waterfront.
 - Consider the American Sugar Refining Factory site and other landmarks as a destination for trail visitors

- Explore opportunities for supportive businesses along the trail (i.e. kiosks for snacks or beverages).
 - Consider use of trail markers or similar tourism development ideas
- Promote education and stewardship of the waterfront
 - Landscape should be used to interpret the history of an area
 - Pursue education grants and programs that work to enhance understanding of the natural environment.
 - Propose safe routes from local schools to the waterfront
 - Provide connections and signage to areas of natural and historic significance and to educational facilities such as Wave Hill and the Beczak Environmental Education Center.
- Create a plan with community input, involvement and support to forward implementation of the Hudson River Greenway Valley Link.
 - Get HRVGL projects listed on the five-year Transportation Improvements Program (TIP) for New York City and Westchester County.