

ATTACHMENT B: ROUTE 22 REGIONAL ISSUES ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW PROTOCOL

EPDPA Issues Assessment Interview Protocol

INTRODUCTION

We are the assessment team from the Consensus Building Institute, a not-for-profit facilitation/mediation firm based in Cambridge, Massachusetts. The Eastern Putnam-Dutchess Planning Alliance (EPDPA) has asked us to initiate a regional issues assessment of the proposed Route 22 expansion.

The goal of this effort is to help the region think more systematically and effectively about regional growth in order to ensure economic development, environmental quality, and the well being of area residents. Ultimately, EPDPA would like to determine whether a regional, facilitated dialogue among diverse and committed stakeholders on these issues would be useful and productive.

We are specifically interested in learning what you think are the current challenges, opportunities, and limitations regarding the proposed Route 22 expansion, and your view about how the issues could be addressed.

The purpose of the Regional Issues Assessment is to:

- Help stakeholders better understand each other's concerns;
- Provide stakeholders with a road map for moving forward if a consensus-building process is appropriate.

Through this Assessment, stakeholders such as the municipal members of EPDPA, relevant agencies, businesses, landowners, and citizens, will accomplish the following goals:

- Identify the stakeholders and clarify the issues regarding the proposed Route 22 expansion;
- Explore and specify the interests and concerns of each stakeholder group and consider the breadth of the differences among the parties;
- Investigate stakeholders' willingness and capacity to participate in dialogue and discussion; and,
- Assess the feasibility of designing a consensus building process that would be acceptable to the stakeholders and would effectively address issues of concern.

THE ASSESSMENT PROCESS

As non-partisan neutrals, the way we conduct an assessment is to confidentially interview a diverse range of stakeholders to learn more about their views, questions and concerns, and to explore ways to address them. We will conduct approximately 50 interviews with regional stakeholders as well as two open public sessions on January 28th. The planned interviews and open sessions are equally important steps in this Regional Issues Assessment Process.

We will summarize what we hear from stakeholders in the form of a draft report and list the people we've talked to in a "List of Interviewees." **Specific comments will not be attributed any stakeholder by name or organization.** We maintain this confidentiality to protect your views and concerns, and to ensure that interviewees can be as honest and direct as possible. Everyone we speak with will have an opportunity to review and comment on the draft report before we finalize it.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

Following are the questions we will be using to guide the interview process.

You and your organization

- Please tell us about yourself and/or your organization. How long have you been with this organization? In what ways does your work and/or interests relate to the proposed Route 22 expansion?

View of the Current Situation

- What are your interests, thoughts and concerns regarding the 3-mile section/Route-22 corridor?
- What is your view of the current planning and decision-making process for this proposed expansion project?
- Has the proposed Route 22 expansion project raised thoughts, ideas, or concerns regarding broader regional land, transportation, economic, and environmental planning? If so, how? What will be necessary to plan for future growth in the region?
- Do you believe that the region as a whole should coordinate its planning efforts in at least some ways? If so, how? If not, why?

- What additional information, if any, would you like to share with other stakeholders to help them understand your perspective?

Improving the Current Situation

- Do you think the current dialogue and decision-making process around the proposed Route 22 expansion could be improved? If so, how? If not, why?
- Suppose a diverse group of stakeholders from the region were convened to dialogue on issues raised by the Route 22 expansion (be it about this project specifically or more broad regional planning issues):
 - What topics might such a group address? What should the key goals and objectives of such a dialogue be?
 - How could it be coordinated with existing planning efforts?
 - What form should such a dialogue take? (Informal, or more structured and formalized with groundrules, a work plan, a chair, membership, and so forth? Facilitated?)
 - Which stakeholder groups would need to be represented?
 - Would such a process add value to current local, regional, and state efforts?
 - What would be the necessary conditions for your organization to want to participate?

Thank you for considering these questions. We will prepare our draft Issues Assessment by the end of February. When we have a completed draft, we will forward it to you for your review. We would appreciate an e-mail, fax and mailing address to do so. Thank you for your time.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE A COPY of the Issues Assessment please provide your contact information below:

Name:
Title:
Organization:
Phone:
E-mail:
Fax:
Address:

Date interviewed:

Please comment the Assessment Team with additional comments or questions:

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