

Appendix A

Summary of Public Comments

The PDCTC Technical Committee and staff cooperatively developed the Draft *New Connections* between 2006 and 2007. The final “review draft” was prepared in fall 2007, and PDCTC staff developed a Plan Summary for distribution in October 2007. A Public Notice and the Plan Summary were mailed to the Public Information mailing list, the press, and the PDCTC committee members on October 9, 2007. Two Public Information meetings were held on October 18, 2007 at the Dutchess County Planning & Development office and in the LaGrange Town Hall.

The Air Quality Conformity Analysis was completed in mid-October. A Public Notice of the completion of the Conformity Determination for the Poughkeepsie Ozone Non-Attainment area was mailed to the Public Information list, the press, and the PDCTC committee members on October 25, 2007.

Comments on *New Connections* were due on November 8, 2007. Comments on the Air Quality Conformity were due on November 26, 2007. This report contains all comments received prior to those deadlines. The PDCTC response is outlined immediately following each comment.

Empire State Passengers Association – The following comments were made by email. [Steve Strauss, Board Member]

1. I would like to suggest that PDCTC include Amtrak in its public agency outreach, mailings and e-mails. Amtrak is an important part of the lower Hudson Valley's transportation network and the MPOs in NYS seem to have a hard time including them.

PDCTC Response – *Amtrak was included in our public agency outreach.*

2. The Empire State Passengers Association is quite interested in PDCTC adding improvements at Rhinecliff station (parking, high level platforms, maybe a self-service ticket machine) to future TIPs.

PDCTC Response – *The PDCTC welcomes an application from Amtrak as part of its Transportation Improvement Process.*

Pedestrian/Intersection Safety – Make improvements for pedestrian safety along Routes 22 and 55 in Pawling and add turning lanes to the intersection of Routes 55 and 82 in the Town of LaGrange [Jane Geisler]

PDCTC Response – *The PDCTC appreciates the suggestions and pedestrian safety in addition to safety of all the users of all modes of transportation users is a priority of the PDCTC.*

Route 22, 55, and 82 are under the jurisdiction of NYSDOT and they therefore need to be involved in any projects along those roadways. We have forwarded your concerns to the Region 8 Regional Planning and Program Manager.

Taconic Resources for Independence, Inc. – The following comments were made by email. [Bill Quinn, Peer Advocate]

1. I very much appreciate the mention which the plan makes of the growing transportation needs of the elderly and those with disabilities. However, I have a specific concern related to this area. Under its current schedule, the bus system is not able to accommodate those who have regular 9 to 5 jobs due to a lack of evening service. While I understand that fiscal matters are a concern, there are many in the county, particularly those with disabilities, who are unable to drive. Such persons have no other way of accessing employment aside from the public transportation system. Furthermore, this will be a growing need as older Dutchess County residents are required to stay in the work force longer as a result of the raising of the minimum retirement age for future generations.

PDCTC Response – *The PDCTC is currently conducting a Transit Development Plan to identify ways to improve the efficiency and operations of the two local bus systems. The plan will propose and evaluate service improvements, focusing on a combination of operating strategies (e.g. adding/removing routes), schedule adjustments (e.g. reduce deadhead and transfer times), longer service hours, and system changes (e.g. new shuttle routes).*