



Parks & Trails

NEW YORK

Board of Directors

David F. Shaffer, *Chair*
James C. Dawson, *Vice Chair*
Robert J. Kafin, *Vice Chair*
Judith C. Mower, *Secretary*
A. Joseph Scott III, *Treasurer*

Kent L. Barwick
David Bronston
Jane Clark Chermayeff
Mary L. Cotter
Edward Doherty
Charles E. Dorkey III
David Grome
Thomas Holmes
John G. Hunter
Seymour H. Knox IV
Kevin M. Lanahan
Doug Logan
Douglas R. McCuen
Richard P. Morse
Kristen Mucitelli-Heath
Timothy J. Nelson
Arthur V. Savage
Michael Tannen
Alan N. Vincent
Stephanie H. Wacholder

Advisory Council

Edward A. Ames
Anne Perkins Cabot
Joan K. Davidson
Henry L. Diamond
Douglas Durst
John Hanna, Jr.
Joseph J. Martens
Barnabas McHenry
Lynden B. Miller
Peter L. Rhulen
Larry Rockefeller
Anne Sidamon-Eristoff
Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff
David Sive
Diana L. Taylor

Robin Dropkin
Executive Director

29 Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207
P 518.434.1583
F 518.427.0067
www.ptny.org
ptny@ptny.org



November 11, 2011

Michael P. Anderson, P.E.
New York State Department of Transportation
Tappan Zee Bridge Project Office
ERSOB
4 Burnett Blvd.
Poughkeepsie NY, 12603

Dear Mr. Anderson:

Parks & Trails New York would like to commend the FHWA, NYSDOT, and NYSTA for including a bicycle/pedestrian path in both of the replacement alternatives set forth in the scoping document for the Tappan Zee Bridge. The inclusion of a safe, non-motorized travel option will not only alleviate some of the commuter traffic from the roadway, but also help encourage additional healthy, active transportation among area residents.

In addition, this pathway can serve as an important role in linking the abundance of parks, trails, and attractions in Westchester and Rockland Counties into a regional network. As is clearly apparent today at Walkway Over the Hudson State Historic Park to the north, a bicycle-pedestrian path will become a destination in itself for visitors and residents who wish to experience the scenic beauty of the Hudson Valley visible from the bridge.

Of the two options presented in the scoping document, we strongly encourage FHWA, NYSDOT, and NYSTA to select the Long Span Option as the lower number of piers and greater structural strength associated with this option would benefit both the Hudson River and the users of the bridge. We also prefer the uncommitted span of the Long Span Option as it ensures the long-term viability of the bridge by allowing those levels to provide a more complete range of use in the future. Given the projected population growth detailed in the scoping document, a mass transit crossing at this location is inevitable and ideally should be included at this time. At a minimum, building the future infrastructure concurrently with the new bridge (as per option 1 on 2-6 of the scoping document) would prevent delays and service disruptions that would be encountered by adding the infrastructure to the crossing at a later date.

Finally, Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul J. Feiner has recently proposed that retaining the existing Tappan Zee bridge would save New York State hundreds of millions of dollars in demolition costs and serve as major tourist attraction not unlike the Walkway Over the Hudson State Park. If the present bridge is as safe for the traveling public as noted on page 1-5 of the



Board of Directors

David F. Shaffer, *Chair*
James C. Dawson, *Vice Chair*
Robert J. Kafin, *Vice Chair*
Judith C. Mower, *Secretary*
A. Joseph Scott III, *Treasurer*

Kent L. Barwick
David Bronston
Jane Clark Chermayeff
Mary L. Cotter
Edward Doherty
Charles E. Dorkey III
David Grome
Thomas Holmes
John G. Hunter
Seymour H. Knox IV
Kevin M. Lanahan
Doug Logan
Douglas R. McCuen
Richard P. Morse
Kristen Mucitelli-Heath
Timothy J. Nelson
Arthur V. Savage
Michael Tannen
Alan N. Vincent
Stephanie H. Wacholder

Advisory Council

Edward A. Ames
Anne Perkins Cabot
Joan K. Davidson
Henry L. Diamond
Douglas Durst
John Hanna, Jr.
Joseph J. Martens
Barnabas McHenry
Lynden B. Miller
Peter L. Rhulen
Larry Rockefeller
Anne Sidamon-Eristoff
Constantine Sidamon-Eristoff
David Sive
Diana L. Taylor

Robin Dropkin
Executive Director

29 Elk Street
Albany, NY 12207
P 518.434.1583
F 518.427.0067
www.ptny.org
ptny@ptny.org



scoping document, we ask that the DEIS also address the impacts of demolition on the fiscal and environmental resources of the State while evaluating the potential impacts of allowing the Tappan Zee Bridge to remain as a regional recreational resource. We still request that the new bridge include the shared use pathway as presently planned while the existing bridge would serve visitors seeking a more leisurely experience as a mid-river park.

Parks & Trails New York is New York’s leading statewide advocate for parks and trails, dedicated since 1985 to improving our health, economy, and quality of life by working with community organizations and municipalities to envision, create, promote, and protect a growing network of parks and more than 1,500 miles of greenways, bike paths, and trails throughout the state.

With its multi-use pathway the new Tappan Zee Bridge and possibly the current bridge can serve as an important element of the Lower Hudson Valley’s park and trail network. Thank you the opportunity to comment on this landmark project.

Sincerely,

Robin Dropkin
Executive Director