

ROUTE 209 SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION & LAND USE STUDY

This is a cooperative study to be undertaken by the New York State Department of Transportation, the Ulster County Transportation Council (the Metropolitan Planning Organization for Ulster County) and the Towns of Hurley, Marbletown, Rochester, Wawarsing and the Village of Ellenville.

Why study this corridor?

This corridor is experiencing increasing traffic growth and land use development. A section of the Route 209 corridor is also part of the New York State Designated Shawangunk Mountain Scenic Byway and requires special considerations. A comprehensive sustainable multi-modal transportation and land use study is needed to identify transportation projects and land use strategies which will enhance our environmental quality and help create quality communities.

How will this be done?

This study is financed by Federal and State Transportation monies and will be managed by the NYSDOT and the UCTC. An Advisory Committee made up of the municipal leaders and other interested parties in the corridor will guide the study and assure that all stakeholders have a chance to participate fully in the study effort. A strong public participation process is essential to the study and will be utilized throughout to identify issues, opportunities and provide input to develop consensus transportation and land use strategies to meet present and future development and mobility needs in the corridor. All modes of transportation will be fully analyzed (highway, transit, aviation, bicycle, pedestrian, etc.) to assure a wide range of safe and efficient transportation choices are available. A consultant team made up of planning and engineering professionals will be selected to assist the NYSDOT, the UCTC and the municipalities over an 18 month period to develop a consensus plan for the corridor. This plan will identify needs and prioritize short and long term transportation projects and land use strategies to balance mobility needs, community enhancement, economic development, environmental quality and smart growth strategies.

Study Scope and Highlights

The study will begin with an inventory and analysis of the existing transportation system and land use policies in the corridor. All modes of transportation (highway, transit, aviation, bicycle, pedestrian, etc.) will be analyzed for capacity, safety, operations and future mobility needs. The relationships between transportation, land use, quality communities, environmental quality and energy will also be studied. Public participation will be utilized to identify issues, opportunities and develop future growth and transportation scenarios which will be computer modeled to help us develop consensus strategies for achieving desirable future transportation and land use goals and objectives. Public workshops will be utilized to develop a vision, goals and objectives for the corridor's future and to identify needed transportation projects and land use recommendations and ordinances required to help achieve these. Geographic information systems will be used. Environmental constraints mapping and community enhancement plans will be developed as part of the study. The consensus plan will be adopted by the municipalities to guide future growth and transportation.

How can you assist this effort?

Whether you are a municipal leader, a business owner, a commuter, a resident who lives in the corridor or a person interested in the future of the area you will have many opportunities to participate in the study and voice your ideas and concerns. There will be many public meetings, workshops, a website and both written and verbal comments are needed to help us all plan for our future.

Contacts for more details: Dennis Doyle, Ulster County Planning Director (845-340-3340, www.co.ulster.ny.us, Planning@co.ulster.ny.us) or Russell Robbins, NYSDOT Regional Transportation Planner (845-431-5723, www.dot.state.ny.us, rrobbins@dot.state.ny.us)