

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PROJECT IDENTIFICATION NO. 8127.26

ROUTE 987G TACONIC STATE PARKWAY AT PUDDING STREET

TOWN OF PUTNAM VALLEY, PUTNAM COUNTY

COMMENTS AND RESPONSES FROM AUGUST 19, 2016 EMINENT DOMAIN
PROCEDURE HEARING AND PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

1. Comment: This intersection is very dangerous and needs to be rebuilt now; why is construction scheduled in 2019? Can the design process be expedited?

Response: Our design team continues to work towards the current 2019 construction start date. Additional funding for advancing construction before then has not been identified at this time.

2. Comment: The current sign going north is too close to the intersection to properly warn drivers. Can there be additional, interim signage at the intersection to alert drivers to slow down and use caution?

Response: An evaluation of the signs at the intersection was performed within the last 2 years. The result indicates that there are no additional signs warranted.

3. Comment: Can there be a stop-gap measure of a red light?

Response: The installation of a traffic signal is not a feasible interim mitigation measure due to safety concerns.

4. Comment: Drivers travel too fast on the Taconic State Parkway; for the time being, can there be an increase of speed enforcement by police?

Response: Speed enforcement is the responsibility of law enforcement, in this case the NYS Police. NYSDOT has forwarded the concerns of speed on the Taconic State Parkway to the State Police.

5. Comment: Suggest building a sheriff or NYS trooper station near intersection.

Response: Future development plans for either are the responsibility of the Putnam County Sheriff's office or the NYS Police.

6. Comment: During construction, how will the detour affect traffic or daily commuters of Pudding Street? How will it affect emergency vehicles?

Response: Detour and traffic routing plans during construction have yet to be determined. NYSDOT will work with stakeholder groups, including the Town of Putnam Valley, the school district and emergency service providers, before finalizing this plan. Additionally, NYSDOT will work to ensure that any closure of Pudding Street is necessary and limited to

the shortest amount of time possible. Access to the Roaring Brook community during any closure of Pudding Street is expected to be available from Peekskill Hollow Road.

7. Comment: Will there be access to the northbound and southbound lanes of the Taconic State Parkway and to and from Pudding Street?

Response: The preferred alternative includes exits and entrances to/from the Taconic State Parkway and Pudding Street.

8. Comment: How will the phases of construction affect the flow of traffic?

Response: Detour and traffic routing plans during construction have yet to be determined. NYSDOT will work with stakeholder groups, including the Town of Putnam Valley, the school district and emergency service providers, before finalizing this plan. Additionally, NYSDOT will work to ensure that any closure of Pudding Street is necessary and limited to the shortest amount of time possible. Access to the Roaring Brook community during any closure of Pudding Street is expected to be available from Peekskill Hollow Road.

9. Comment: What is the length of the project schedule?

Response: The construction work is anticipated to last approximately 12 months.

10. Comment: An increase in traffic along the Taconic State Parkway has caused the noise levels in the adjacent communities to increase. Has a noise study been performed to warrant the installation of noise walls?

Response: A noise assessment study was prepared for the project. The study indicates that for both the existing and future build condition (2050) there is no noise impact based on the federal National Noise Abatement Criteria. For the future build condition the noise levels for the receptors identified are actually lower than the existing noise levels. This is a result of the proposed location of the northbound Taconic State Parkway traffic being moved further away from developed receptors. Therefore the warrants for a noise barrier do not meet the federal regulations.

This project will not preclude the installation of noise abatement measures if warranted in the future.

11. Comment: What is the plan for storm water mitigation? Will excess runoff from the Taconic State Parkway be channeled directly into the Roaring Brook Lake, or will it first enter wetlands before flowing into the lake?

Response: The NYS Department of Transportation will follow all NYS Department of Environmental Conservation's regulations related to stormwater management.

The Department will review the stormwater runoff drainage system from the Taconic State Parkway and the adjoining area that outlet toward the Roaring Brook Lake Community and lake.

12. Comment: What will become of the water table once the marsh is filled?

Response: Wetlands that will be impacted by the project will be replaced on a 2 for 1 basis. The replacement wetlands will be constructed within the same watershed.

13. Comment: Will there be bike or pedestrian crossing accommodated in the new design?

Response: Yes, Pudding Street will have a minimum 6 foot paved shoulders on both sides of the roadway within the project limits. The existing Roaring Brook trail will be relocated by NYSDOT as part of the highway reconstruction contract. The location of the trail crossing on Wiccoppee Road will be evaluated to maximize safety.

14. Comment: The current plans for the Pudding Street Bridge allow for a single pier in the median. Has a potential, future widening of the Taconic State Parkway been taken into account? Should the bridge therefore be a single span?

Response: The NYS Department of Transportation has no plans to widen the Taconic State Parkway in the foreseeable future. However, the proposed bridge span will be designed to accommodate a third lane in each direction of the Taconic State Parkway should plans change.

15. Comment: Due to the limits of construction, it appears that portions of parking from adjacent stores will be taken. If so, where could these spaces be replaced? And what will the grade of the future road be in front of these stores on Pudding Street?

Response: There are no permanent impacts to the parking area anticipated. Any temporary impacts are anticipated to be mitigated by performing the work during non business hours. The final grade in front of the stores will be determined during the final design phase.

16. Comment: How close will the northbound off ramp be to Brookside Avenue?

Response: It is anticipated that the new northbound exit ramp will be approximately 60 feet closer to Brookside Avenue than where the Parkway is located today.

17. Comment: There is an old Native American trail marker (a bent tree) within the limits of construction. Are there any plans to preserve this piece of history?

Response: The NYS Department of Transportation will locate the trail marker and consider its location in the design of this highway improvement project.

18. Comment: Will there be another public outreach meeting?

Response: Meetings with identified stakeholders including the emergency service providers, town and county representatives, the school district and the Roaring Brook Lake Property Owners Association will be ongoing throughout the project's design and development.

19. Comment: Owns property along Pudding Street and is looking to sell.

Response: All property owners impacted by the project will be contacted by the NYS Department of Transportation's Office of Right of Way.

20. Comment: Add exit access lanes on the parkway at Route 301 and Peekskill Hollow Road instead of fixing Pudding Street, they probably have higher number of accidents.

Response: Both of these locations were identified in the Taconic State Parkway Task Force report to be improved. Work at those interchanges is outside of the scope of the Pudding Street project and that implementing other recommendations of the Taconic State Parkway task force study will be considered for future capital projects by the Department as resources permit.

21. Comment: Close Pudding Street between 6&6

Response: The Pudding St crossing of the Taconic State Parkway is used by the Putnam Valley school district's buses on a daily basis during the school year. Permanently closing the crossing between 6am and 6pm would have a negative impact to the community.