

A. INTRODUCTION

Public outreach and agency consultation are required by the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and by Executive Order 12898, "Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations." CEQ's NEPA regulations state that federal agencies shall (1) make diligent efforts to involve the public in preparing and implementing their NEPA procedures; and (2) provide public notice of NEPA-related hearings, public meetings, and the availability of environmental documents so as to inform those persons and agencies who may be interested or affected. Section 106 requires a consultation process with the NEPA lead agency, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), affected Native American tribes, and other "Consulting Parties" regarding the potential effects of the undertaking on historic resources. In addition, Executive Order 12898 ("Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations") requires federal agencies to involve the public on project issues related to human health and the environment. The U.S. Department of Transportation's "Final Order on Environmental Justice" indicates that project sponsors should elicit public involvement opportunities, including soliciting input from affected minority and low-income populations in considering project alternatives.

B. PUBLIC OUTREACH**WYANDANCH RISING PUBLIC OUTREACH**

The Wyandanch Intermodal Transit Facility Project is the result of an extensive community-based revitalization process of visioning and planning that began in 2002, called *Wyandanch Rising*. The Town of Babylon hired Sustainable Long Island to engage community stakeholders, so that they could determine and prioritize the values, goals, and ultimately the recommendations for their downtown redevelopment. Over 800 residents, businesses, civic groups, clergy, planners, architects, government officials, and property owners participated in this process. One of the results of this input was a desire to develop the site around the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Long Island Rail Road (LIRR) Wyandanch station as a mixed-use transit-oriented development.

As part of *Wyandanch Rising*, the Wyandanch Implementation Committee was started and has continued throughout the development of the *Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan*. The Committee is a cross section of leaders within the community who have organized for the purpose of advancing *Wyandanch Rising* and supporting the overall revitalization of Wyandanch. The Committee has been an active partner with the Town of Babylon's Office of Downtown Revitalization, through regular meetings and by having an active seat at the decision-

Wyandanch Intermodal Transit Facility

making table in determining future developments within the hamlet. The Wyandanch Implementation Committee has met regularly since September 2004.

WYANDANCH INTERMODAL TRANSIT FACILITY FEASIBILITY STUDY AND WYANDANCH DOWNTOWN REVITALIZATION PLAN PUBLIC OUTREACH

The goal of developing transit-oriented development near the LIRR Wyandanch station has been carried throughout the planning efforts for the Project Site, which includes the Town's acquisition of funding to advance the feasibility, environmental review, and now preliminary design of the elements of the Project. These efforts included a blight study and economic and market trends analysis for the downtown Wyandanch designated Urban Renewal Area. Those efforts were funded under the Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Program grant, which also funded a Nomination under Step 2 of the BOA program, Urban Renewal Plan, and Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), collectively referred to as the *Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan*. The Draft GEIS was accepted as complete by the Town Board on April 8, 2009, and the public comment period was held open until May 8, 2009. The Final GEIS was accepted as complete on May 11, 2009 with the public comment period held open until May 21, 2009. The Urban Renewal Plan and GEIS Findings Statement were adopted on May 22, 2009 following a public hearing on the plan held on the same day.

An integral part of the *Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan* was the creation of a Steering Committee to help guide the process. The Wyandanch Steering Committee was composed of representatives from the Office of Downtown Revitalization; the Wyandanch Implementation Committee; federal, State, County, and local municipal departments; Wyandanch Community Development Corporation; Sustainable Long Island; and the consultant team; and provided an opportunity to formally bring together the many stakeholders and groups that have been working separately to implement *Wyandanch Rising*.

The *Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan* identified Strategic Site A as a viable location for a proposed intermodal facility. Thus, concurrently with the plan, the Town directed preparation of a feasibility study for the Wyandanch Intermodal Transit Facility Project, which began in 2007. A Public Information Meeting on the *Wyandanch Downtown Revitalization Plan*, *Wyandanch Intermodal Transit Feasibility Study*, and the Project, was held in Wyandanch at Wyandanch Youth Services, Inc. on September 18, 2007. For the *Wyandanch Intermodal Transit Facility Feasibility Study*, two alternatives were presented to the public. This meeting included an open house session followed by a formal presentation with a question and answer session. During the meeting, representatives of the Town (Supervisor Steve Bellone and Planning and Development Commissioner Anne Marie Jones) and the consulting team, presented preliminary feasibility study findings related to existing conditions in the study area including roadway safety deficiencies, lack of station access and facilities, lack of commercial development, undersigned storefronts, lack of pedestrian friendly spaces, and little or no green space. The meeting also included an overall update on the ongoing redevelopment and revitalization effort for downtown Wyandanch. Over 75 community residents participated in the meeting. In addition, members of the New York State Assembly, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, New York State Department of State, Suffolk County Legislature, and the Metropolitan Transportation Authority Long Island Rail Road attended the meeting.

Outreach consisted of a mailer to the 11798 ZIP code announcing the meeting; letters and flyers sent to civic leaders; and flyers distributed throughout the commercial center of Wyandanch. Materials were prepared in Haitian Creole and Spanish, and translators were available for residents who spoke those languages.

Chapter 16: Public Outreach and Agency Coordination

Additional meetings were held with specific groups throughout 2007 to update representatives of the community on the planning and development efforts for downtown Wyandanch. A meeting was held with the Wyandanch Youth Council of Wyandanch Memorial High School on March 3, 2007. As a result of this outreach, seven students committed to participate in the *Wyandanch Rising* efforts. A meeting was held on September 15, 2007 with the youth of New Shiloh Community Development Corporation. This meeting produced four new members, all of whom volunteered and participated in the September 18, 2007 community meeting. In addition, a meeting was held March 7, 2007 with clergy to keep them informed, provide needed input, and encourage their congregants to continue their participation in the process.

PUBLIC OUTREACH DURING PLANNING FOR THE PROJECT

As stated, the goal of developing transit-oriented development near the LIRR Wyandanch station has been carried throughout the planning efforts for the Project Site, since the advent of *Wyandanch Rising* in 2002. The Wyandanch Implementation Committee has met monthly to discuss the direction and funding of the planning and design efforts for the area. These meetings have helped to shape the Project. In addition, meetings were held with the Wyandanch Steering Committee to include stakeholders in the planning process. As stated, the Project’s public outreach and participation component included the Public Information Meeting held in Wyandanch at Wyandanch Youth Services, Inc. on September 18, 2007, and additional meetings with specific groups were held throughout 2007.

Additionally, the Town of Babylon sponsored and/or participated in meetings held throughout 2008 and 2009 and into 2010 to update the community on the Project and the overall planning efforts for downtown Wyandanch. **Table 16-1** lists the various public and stakeholder meetings that have been held in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

**Table 16-1
Public and Stakeholder Meetings Held in 2008, 2009, and 2010**

Meeting	Date
Suffolk County Sewer Summit	March 2008
Public Information Meeting	August 2008
Wyandanch Community Forum with Congressman Steve Israel	October 23, 2008
Wyandanch Implementation Committee	Monthly Meetings
Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Public Meeting	October 2008 and July 2009
Brownfields Smart Growth Spotlight Workshop	March 2009
DBE Public Meeting	July 2009
Kickoff for Canvassers	August 2009
Meeting with MTA (LIRR Project Update Meeting)	September 2009
Town Dedication of Wyandanch Help Center	November 2009
Long Island Regional Planning Council Meeting	November 2009
NYMTCC	November 2009
Meetings with Suffolk County	December 2009 and bi-monthly between January and May 2010
Wyandanch Weed & Seed Meetings	May and June 2010
MTA-LIRR/NYS Department of State-Project Update	June 2010
Source: Town of Babylon	

Wyandanch Intermodal Transit Facility

One such meeting was an open house on November 24, 2009 where the Town, in conjunction with the Long Island Regional Planning Council, presented an update on all of its revitalization efforts for Wyandanch including the Wyandanch Intermodal Transit Facility Project, the anticipated new sewer line, and the anticipated relocation of the community health center. Over 150 residents attended the event and were provided the opportunity to submit questions and comments after the presentation.

The Project's public outreach and participation program will be ongoing throughout the NEPA process in accordance with applicable regulations.

C. AGENCY COORDINATION, PERMITS, AND APPROVALS

The Project must comply with federal, state, and applicable local regulations. To satisfy these regulations, the Town of Babylon will continue to solicit review and comment from the following agencies:

- New York State Department of Environmental Conservation—State Pollutant Discharge Elimination System General Permit for Stormwater Discharges from Construction Activity (Permit No. GP-01-08-001).
- Suffolk County Department of Public Works—Coordination related to traffic improvements along Straight Path. The Town has already met with the Suffolk County Department of Public Works to discuss the potential traffic impacts of the Project and gain approval of proposed design changes to Straight Path, which is a County road.
- Town of Babylon Department of Public Works—Approval of design of new roadway network.
- Town of Babylon Planning Board and Architectural Review Board—Approval of Site Plan.
- Town of Babylon Planning and Development Department—Review of Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan.

In addition, FTA and the Town have completed consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office at the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation, which includes a review of effects on historic resources under Section 106 of the *National Historic Preservation Act*.

D. AVAILABILITY OF THIS EA

This EA will be available for review on the Town's website at www.townofbabylon.com and at Babylon Town Hall and FTA's offices at the addresses listed below.

E. CONTACT INFORMATION

For further information regarding this document, contact:

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