

**CITY OF NEWBURGH
SUSTAINABLE MASTER PLANNING
TRANSPORTATION FOCUS GROUP**

**Meeting Notes from Committee Meeting
Held on February 3, 2006, City Hall, 6:30 p.m.**

Attendees: Ian MacDougall, Deb Cahill, Marietta and Mike Curry, Antony Takahashi.

We started with a discussion about merging with the “Built Environment” group. Antony Takahashi has spoken with their members and they appear to be very interested in including a transportation perspective into their work. We will need to talk to them in the near future to decide on merging or not merging. We will consider meeting with the Built Environment group before the next monthly Master Planning meeting...possibly on the evening of the Master Planning meeting on the 3d Tuesday this month (Monday being a holiday).

We then discussed the proposed “**public forum**” for transportation. This has been an idea that has been around since last month and we are now at the point where we want to schedule it and line up our speakers (MPO and DOT) who have expressed an interest in presenting their role in the planning in execution of regional planning issues as well as what they perceive as the important issues for Newburgh. It would also be interesting to hear about the regulatory environment (i.e. Air Quality Attainment/non-Attainment) we are working under and expect to work under in the near future.

Publicity should be done in local papers, at the City Council meeting, by a flyer, and potentially Channel 23 on TV.

Other issues that we thought would be nice for discussion at the public forum:

- **Parking** is very important. This is not just a future issue and is potentially a galvanizing issue for the community. Antony checked on parking for other metropolitan areas such as Baltimore and Berkeley and they both have parking policies in place which require residents to pay for parking permits in residential areas.
- **Bicycle paths.** Recreational bike paths are nice but as part of air quality attainment, other metropolitan areas are promoting bicycle paths for commuter and general mobility solutions.
- **Cars** are still the primary mode of transportation in Newburgh. What needs to be done with traffic is something that should be debated. The growth of Orange County in general will increase car traffic in and around Newburgh.

We agreed to have two (2) forums to allow people to attend on a weeknight or on a weekend. A date of Thursday, February 23, 2006 in the evening, Saturday, February 25, 2006 has been proposed.

Task Assignments:

- Ian will check to see if the Library is available on those dates. An alternate site is the “Activity Center” at Delano Hitch Park.
- Ian will check on the availability of the MPO and DOT speakers as well as participation in the forum by the Orange County Planning Commission.
- Antony will draft a “news release” for review by the group on the weekend (3-5 Feb). Antony will also draft a flyer to be placed in some key local areas (i.e. bus shelter, on the ferry, gas stations) to publicize the meeting
- Antony will contact the MTA for a speaker on the future of the Ferry. (plans for weekend service, late night service, seasonal service...)
- Marietta will contact Leprechaun to come and talk about their service (ridership, planning)
- Mike will check with the air port regarding any information they can provide regarding their newly approved master plan.
- Debbie will contact the newspaper to see what needs to be done to get the notice into the “local events” section of the THR.
- Debbie will also contact the students at MSM to see if they would be interested in participating in the transportation subcommittee.

The meeting ended with a question regarding some of the people who attended the first 2 meetings but then stopped. Antony will call them to see if they are interested in re-engaging with the group.