

DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT
for

Tappan Zee Hudson River Crossing Project
Interstate 87/287, Rockland and Westchester Counties, New York
PIN 8TZ1.00

SUBMITTED PURSUANT TO 42 U.S.C. 4332 (2) (c)
and 49 U.S.C. 303
by the U.S. DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION,
FEDERAL HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION

NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

NEW YORK STATE THRUWAY AUTHORITY

Cooperating Agencies

Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP);
National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS);
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE);
U.S. Coast Guard (USCG);
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA);
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (NYSDEC);
New York State Department of State (NYSDOS);
New York State Office of General Services (NYSOGS); and
State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of the New York State Office of Parks,
Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP).

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) examines the potential environmental effects of proposed alternatives for the Tappan Zee Hudson River Crossing Project, and where adverse impacts are identified, it discusses measures to mitigate them. The purpose of the project is to maintain a vital link in the regional and national transportation network by providing a new Hudson River crossing between Rockland and Westchester Counties, New York, that addresses the limitations and shortcomings of the existing Tappan Zee Bridge and meets the structural, operational, safety, security, and mobility needs of the Tappan Zee Hudson River Crossing.

Comments on this draft EIS are due by March 15, 2012 and should be sent to Michael Anderson, New York State Department of Transportation, 4 Burnett Boulevard, Poughkeepsie, New York 12603.

Jan 18th, 2012

Date of Approval

Joseph A. Foglietta

New York State Department of Transportation

1/18/12

Date of Approval

Donald R. Bell

New York State Thruway Authority

Jan 18, 2012

Date of Approval

Michael J. Flannery

Federal Highway Administration

The following persons may be contacted for additional information concerning this document:

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EXECUTIVE ORDER 11990
WETLANDS
STATEMENT OF FINDINGS

TAPPAN ZEE HUDSON RIVER CROSSING
ROCKLAND AND WESTCHESTER COUNTIES, NEW YORK

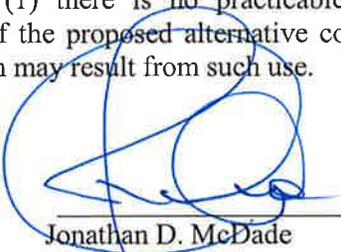
The project was reviewed for compliance with Executive Order 11990, Protection of Wetlands and the U.S DOT Order 5660.1A.

The project involves unavoidable temporary impacts to 3.5 acres of possible freshwater wetlands, 5.3 acres of NYSDEC littoral zone tidal wetlands, and 0.4 acres of NYSDEC tidal wetland adjacent area. This work is necessary to fulfill the purpose and need of the proposed project, to address the structural, operational, safety, security and mobility needs of the Tappan Zee Hudson River Crossing.

The project was designed to minimize impacts by requiring only temporary wetlands that will be restored. Based upon these considerations, it is determined that there is no practicable alternative to the proposed construction in wetlands that would avoid all wetland areas and that would meet the stated objectives of the proposed project. The proposed action includes all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from such use. In conjunction with discussions with regulatory agencies, a wetland mitigation plan is being developed.

Erosion and sediment control will be designed to protect wetland areas during construction using Stormwater Management Practices as part of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan. All design and mitigation measures will incorporate the requirements of the NYSDOT Standard Specification for Temporary Soil Erosion and Water Pollution Control and the New York State Standards and Specifications for Erosion and Sediment Control.

Based upon this information, I find that (1) there is no practicable alternative to such construction and (2) that this construction of the proposed alternative contains all practicable measures to minimize harm to wetlands which may result from such use.


Jonathan D. McDade
Division Administrator
Federal Highway Administration

1/18/2012

(DATE)