

## **MEMORANDUM**

To: Stillwater Route 4 Corridor Study Advisory Committee

From: Michael Welti, AICP and Thomas Oldenburg

Date: May 30, 2006

Re: Notes from Public Workshop 2 – May 23, 2006

Job #: 90574.00

The second public workshop for the Stillwater Route 4 Corridor Study was held on Tuesday, May 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:00 PM in the Stillwater Middle School Gymnasium. There were 12-15 people who attended this workshop. The agenda used to organize the meeting is attached.

### Welcome

Mr. Welti welcomed everyone and reviewed the agenda for the workshop.

### Presentation

The background and purpose of the Route 4 Corridor Study and summaries of the Design Guidelines and Transportation Recommendations in the Draft Plan were the subjects of a presentation by Michael Welti, Project Manager for the Chazen Companies.

### Facilitated Discussion

Following the presentation, workshop participants were asked to answer two questions about the ideas presented in the Draft Route 4 Corridor Plan:

What do you like about the ideas presented this evening?

What concerns you about the ideas presented this evening?

Mr. Welti facilitated this discussion, asking participants to help generate a list of responses to the first question, and then a list responding to the second.

### ***Positive Ideas***

Residents and local officials liked the idea that the plan can serve as a tool for applying for grant monies for future improvements along the corridor. The Plan contains specific suggestions regarding grant programs and very preliminary cost estimates for certain corridor improvements. Because funding such improvements is an important issue for the community, this was a well received component of the Draft Plan. A few participants and especially members of the Study Advisory Committee expressed their overall happiness with the document, saying that the plan really feels like it evolved from the concerns and suggestions expressed by the committee and the public. Residents also liked the conceptual trail network illustrated on the plan, believing that trails are a very realistic improvement for the corridor.

### ***Concerns about the ideas presented***

Recommendations in the Draft Plan for traffic calming measures (such as a potential raised median) and other suggested transportation ideas were a concern among some residents. They were not sure how the recommendations would be received by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Kevin Novak, of NYSDOT, was present and he explained that the NYSDOT is open to “context-sensitive solutions” and that many traffic calming techniques are making their way into NYSDOT design standards. Mr. Welti explained that NYSDOT is working more closely with communities today, helping with the design and construction of projects in a manner that is consistent with local plans or community goals. A few residents thought that in addition to the Saratoga National Historical Park, the National Cemetery should also be recognized in the study as an attraction that draws visitors to Stillwater.

### ***Additional Questions/Concerns***

A discussion about private funding for transportation improvements took place. Residents and local officials wanted to know if “development agreements” could be used to pay for transportation projects. Mr. Welti explained that New York State does not allow municipalities to require impact fees; however, through the SEQRA process municipalities can establish Generic Environmental Impact Statements for specific areas. Under this type of GEIS, potential growth in an area is forecast and infrastructure improvements or other public investments necessary to mitigate the

adverse impact of such growth are identified. Development activity in the area can then be assessed mitigation fees, calculated through a formula so that they are roughly proportionate to the size of the impact produced by individual projects. Mr. Welti explained that before undertaking a GEIS, Stillwater should consider whether the area is likely to experience enough development activity in the foreseeable future to generate a substantial funding stream. At the current time, that would appear unlikely.

Mr. Welti also addressed a few questions on the approval procedure for the Route 4 Corridor Plan. He explained that the CDTC linkage program does not suggest a specific method for adopting one of these land use / transportation plans, but the Town and Village can do a number of things in order to give the plan legitimacy. They could simply accept the plan as policy guides for their municipalities or they could adopt the plan as amendments to their comprehensive plan. The Town Board and Village Board will need to determine the approach that best meets their needs.

#### Next Steps and Adjournment

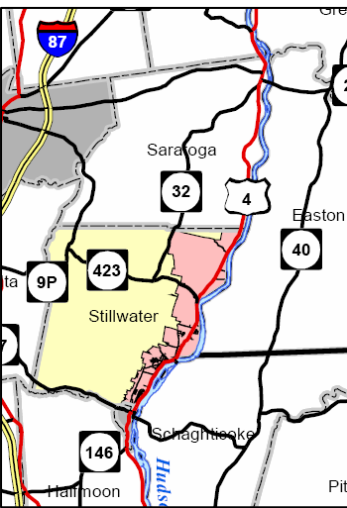
Mr. Welti told the audience that any additional comments could be submitted to Supervisor Connors at Town Hall or Mayor Martin at the Village Offices by May 31<sup>st</sup>. The final Study Advisory Committee will be held at Town Hall on June 1<sup>st</sup> from 4:30 PM to 6:30 PM. The committee would review comments and make any final changes to the plan at that time.



There being no further comments, the workshop was adjourned.

# Stillwater U.S. Route 4 Corridor Plan Study Advisory Committee (SAC)

**Public Workshop #2**  
**Tuesday, May 23, 2006**  
**7:00 to 9:00 PM**

## AGENDA



 Study Area Boundary  
 Town Of Stillwater

1. Welcome and Agenda Review

2. Presentation

- Project Background
- Draft Design Guidelines and Transportation Recommendations

3. Facilitated Discussion

- What do you like about the ideas presented this evening?
- What concerns you about the ideas presented this evening?
- Additional questions/comments?

4. Wrap-up

- Final Study Advisory Committee Meeting  
Thursday, June 1<sup>st</sup> – 4:30 to 6:30, Town Hall
- Additional Comments or Suggestions by  
May 31st to:  
Supervisor Greg Connors – Town Hall  
Mayor Ernest Martin – Village Offices

5. Adjournment