I-87 Multimodal Corridor Study

Study Advisory Group Meeting

September 12, 2003

Albany, NY

New York State Department of Transportation
Today’s Presentation

• Update on Recent Study Activities
• Evolving Study Theme
• Discussion of Preliminary Results
  • High Speed Rail
  • Existing Conditions Assessments
• Initial Project Concepts
• Schedule of Upcoming Activities

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Recent Study Activities

- Economic Zone & Stakeholder Meetings
- On-Going Technical Studies
  - High-Speed Rail Study
  - Baseline Corridor Studies by Mode
- NY-Quebec Coalition Meeting in Montreal
Recent Study Activities

- Economic Zone Meetings
  - Central Zone Meeting
  - Southern Zone Meeting
- Other Stakeholder Meetings
  - Counties & Local Municipalities
  - Chambers of Commerce, Development Agencies, etc.
  - Major freight handlers
Theme: I-87 High-Tech Corridor

- Evolution of:
  - Transportation Technology
  - Travel Demand
- High-Tech Activity in Corridor
- Need for High-Tech Solutions

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Theme: I-87 High-Tech Corridor

- Seek Recognition as “Smart Corridor”
  - Safety and Security
  - Enhanced freight movement
  - Traveler/shipper information systems
  - Improved commuter operations
  - Expand intermodal opportunities

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General Project Concepts

- High-Tech Hub Access
- Capacity in Capital District
- Border ITS Improvements
- Smart Freight Corridor
- Northway Arterial Access
- Recreational Access
- Airport Access
- Intermodal Improvements
High Speed Rail Studies Update

- Coordinated with MTQ Study
  - MTQ – Montreal to Border
  - NYSDOT – Border to Albany
- Separate Studies: NYC to Albany (part of Empire Corridor)
- Pre-Feasibility Study
  - Assess full-corridor HSR (150 mph)
  - Look for incremental gains
High Speed Rail Studies Update

• Initial MTQ Alignment Results
  • Looked at ~135-200 mph
  • Two routes – CP & CN
  • Two Montreal stations
  • Topography conducive to HSR
  • “Jet Train” technology most likely
High Speed Rail Studies Update

• Initial MTQ Alignment Results

• Main Findings
  • Both alignments possible
  • Minimal alignment change required
  • Travel Time -- Montreal to Border: 20-30 min. vs. 90 min. now
  • Potential service: 10-12 trains daily

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High Speed Rail Studies Update

- Initial NYSDOT Study Results: 150 mph Alignment
  - Developed as true “European” alignment (150 mph throughout)
  - Difficult topography requires:
    - Major divergence from existing alignment
    - Substantial tunnel & viaduct construction
**High Speed Rail Studies Update**

- Initial NYSDOT Study Results:
  - 150 mph Alignment
  - Travel Time -- Albany to Border: 1.8 vs. 4.5 hrs. now (3 vs. 9 stops)
- HSR – Main Findings:
  - High costs vs. potential market
  - HSR – reduced stops
  - Long segments to reach speed
  - Freight conflicts

**Albany-Border Segment Stations**
- Albany-Rensselaer
- Schenectady
- Saratoga Springs
- Fort Edwards
- Whitehall
- Ticonderoga
- Port Henry
- Westport
- Port Kent
- Plattsburgh
- **Rouses Point**

Present Travel Time:
- NYC-Montreal: 10:14
- Albany-Border: 4:35
High Speed Rail Studies Update

• Assessing “Incremental” Options
  • “Top” Speeds: 79-120 mph
  • Enhance existing alignment
  • Look for cost-effective off-alignment opportunities

• Next Steps
  • Coordinate MTQ-NYSDOT results
  • Assess merits of alternatives
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Focus of Existing Conditions Studies

  • Obtain & review data
  • Assess corridor-wide conditions by mode
  • Review with key agencies & stakeholders
  • Identify key action areas
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies - Highways
  - Initial Study Area Designations
  - Rationale for Selection of Key Study Areas
    - Volumes & Congestion
    - Safety & Clearances
    - **Linkage to Economic Activity**
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies - Highways
  - Key Study Areas/Corridors
    - I-87: Capital District
    - I-87: Border Area
    - I-87: Secondary Study Area locations
  - Key Non-Interstate Roads

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies - Highways
  • Key Findings: Capital District
    • Existing commuter period congestion
    • Future demands in planned growth areas
    • Access to transportation facilities
    • Pavement & bridge conditions
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies – Highways
  • Key Findings: Border Crossing
    • Traffic queues
    • Related high accident rate
    • Demand for improved signage on highway related to border conditions
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies - Highways
  • I-87 Secondary Area: Key Findings
    • Inadequate I-84/I-87 connection
    • Major congestion in Tappan Zee Bridge – I-287 Corridor
    • Safety & increased demands at Rt. 17/I-87 interchange
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies - Highways
  - Secondary Roads: Key Findings
    - East/West Routes:
      - Competing & growing demands
      - Widespread deficiencies
    - North/South Routes:
      - Increasingly used as alternates
      - Greater demands on inadequate roads
  - Capital Region: congestion on key arterials

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies - Highways
  - Key Improvement Areas
    - Capacity and access improvements in Capital District
    - Safety and capacity improvements at border
    - Secondary area interchange improvements
    - Upgrades to key non-interstate roadways

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies – Rail Network
  • Key Findings
    • Congestion: freight vs. passenger
    • Capacity: single vs. double track
    • Limitations of intermodal market

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I-87 Multimodal Corridor Study

**Review of Existing Conditions Studies**

- **Results of Studies - Rail Network**
  - **Key Improvement Areas**
    - Capacity: Double track
    - Speed: track and signals
    - Clearance: double stack heights
    - Maintain and expand key freight connections
    - Intermodal yards

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies – Rest Areas
  • Key Findings
    • Traveler service needs:
      • Fuel and phones
      • Patrolled rest areas
      • Travel information
      • Better spacing of facilities
    • Limited truck parking & services

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies – Rest Areas
  • Key Improvement Areas
    • Expanded cell-phone coverage & roadside phones
    • Traveler information at rest areas & services (ITS)
    • Additional North Country facilities
    • Designated truck inspection facilities/areas
    • Electrification of truck areas

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies – Intermodal
  - Key Findings
    - Limited yard locations
    - Physical constraints: clearances, small/inefficient operations
    - Lack of cooperation between modes

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies – Intermodal

• Key Improvement Areas

  • Additional intermodal facilities
  • Relocate and/or improve existing yards (clearances, trackage, controls)
  • Waterborne intermodal opportunities
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies - Aviation
  - Key Findings: Commercial Airports
    - Primary Area: mostly covered by Montreal, Burlington and Albany (within 2-hour drive)
    - Expanding Air Service at Other Airports: Limited market potential

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**Review of Existing Conditions Studies**

- **Results of Studies - Aviation**
  - **Key Findings: General Aviation**
    - Growing demand for private corporate flights (Post 9/11)
    - Need full-service facility between Glens Falls & Plattsburgh
    - Albany growth: shift general aviation flights to other airports

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies - Aviation
  • Key Findings: Air Cargo
    • Need population & employment density to justify service hub
    • Carriers prefer fewer, high-volume/low-cost hubs
    • Limited market support for expanded facilities in corridor

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies - Aviation
  • Key Improvements
    • Expand aviation facilities at Schroon Lake
    • Foster completion of:
      • Plattsburgh improvements
      • Access improvements to Albany and Stewart
**Results of Studies - Waterborne**

**Key Finding: Main Focus – Port of Albany/Rensselaer**

- Multi-modal potential
- Potential growth from Port Inland Distribution Network
- Good rail-highway linkage
- Tandem truck facility: good for port & highways

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies - Waterborne
  - Key Improvement Areas - Albany/Rensselaer
    - Interstate Access
    - Roll-On/Roll-Off capability
    - Container handling areas
    - Rail trans-loading efficiencies
    - Channel improvements

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies - ITS
  • Key Findings
    • Limited facilities or networks
    • Lack of corridor-wide traffic management
    • Shortage of traveler information services
    • Potential for “Smart Corridor” applications
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies - ITS
  • Key Improvement Areas
    • Expand use of existing systems (EZ Pass, TRANSMIT)
    • TSM-TDM for peak traffic management
    • Expanded incident management
    • Improved management of traffic at border
  • Trucks: CVO safety & security
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies – Intercity/Intracity Transit
  - Key Findings
    - **Intercity**: pooled operations, modest demand growth
    - Recreation area needs
    - **Intracity**: Low-density area demand
      - Expansion in Capital District
      - Limited rail service potential

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies – Intercity/Intracity Transit
  - Key Improvement Areas
    - BRT/bus priority systems
    - Carpool/Vanpool programs
    - Planning for growth hubs
    - Possible rail service options
Review of Existing Conditions Studies

• Results of Studies – Border Crossing
  • Key Findings
    • High percentage of trucks
    • Safety & congestion issues
    • Rail passenger & freight delays
    • Limitations of “Port of Excellence,” FAST & NEXUS

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Review of Existing Conditions Studies

- Results of Studies – Border Crossing
  - Key Improvement Areas
    - Continued funding for “Port of Excellence,” FAST & NEXUS
    - Public-private partnerships
    - Improved trucker facilities
    - Highway-ITS improvements

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General Project Concepts

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Schedule of Upcoming Activities

Complete HSR Study
Long List of Projects
Phase II Short List
Prelim. Phase II Results
Complete Ph. II: Final Report
Newsletters

Mar 03  May 03  July 03  Sept 03  Nov 03  Jan 04  Mar 04  May 04

Study Advisory Meetings

Today’s Meeting

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