Economic Zone Meeting
Southern Zone – Hudson Valley Region
August 12, 2003

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Maurice Rasheed  NYSDOT  518-457-3429
Kealy Salomon   PDCTC - Dutchess  845-486-3600
Richard Peters  NYSDOT Region 8  845-431-5723
Charles Radier  Empire State Development  845-567-4882
Anthony Lange  NYS Thruway Authority  518-471-5846
Herb Heckler    Ulster County Planning - MPO  845-340-3338
Ross Pepe      Construction Industry Council  914-631-6070
Mike DiTullo   Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress  845-565-4900
Laura Walls    Mid-Hudson Pattern for Progress  845-728-2838
Kate Schmidt   Orange County Dept. of Planning  845-291-2529
Chris Campany  Orange County Dept. of Planning  845-291-2326
William Crowell Parsons, Project Manager of Parsons/CHA JV  212-266-8507
Sophia Rakowsky Parsons  212-266-8520

• Economic Sectors of Concern
  o Key sectors expected to grow in the future include the following:
    o Nanotechnology (synergy with Capital District nanotech growth)
    o Advanced Manufacturing (e.g., high-tech, biotech, medical instruments)
    o Healthcare
    o Financial Services
  o The unemployment rate is less than 4%. Housing and school costs are starting to outpace salaries.

• Growth Constraints
  o Perception of non-competitiveness.
  o Commutation out of area (about 38% of workforce in the Hudson Valley commutes south for work).
  o Lack of centralized utilities, particularly water and sewer. Resistance at county level to site-specific water and sewer facilities. Often, even when financing ability and support exist at county level, there is resistance at the local/municipal level (fear that utilities will spur uncontrolled growth).
  o Lack of public transportation. Not enough clustered development to support mass transit. Large employers such as distribution centers are reluctant to share employee addresses with counties, making it difficult to develop any ride-share programs.
  o Congestion and longer travel times.
Lack of comprehensive development plan in Ulster County, though efforts to make the county appear more attractive to investors are already underway.

“Home-rule” approach to decision-making limits the impact that EDZs and other county or state-level incentives can have.

CSX has very limited service in Ulster County and almost all area industries are overwhelmingly dependent on truck service.

- **Transportation Initiatives of Interest to this Region**
  - Passenger/commuter rail
  - Cross-river transit (e.g., Newburgh-Beacon Ferry)
  - Highway capacity
  - Stewart Airport
    - Fares and destinations keep Stewart from capturing its potential market share.
    - Drury Lane issues are keeping companies like Jet Blue away.
    - Lack of regularly scheduled service deters high-end investment in the region.
    - No competition with Westchester airport likely.
    - Congestion at toll plazas
  - A truck freight management plan is needed for the region, especially for Interstate 84. Large distribution centers result in impacts on local routes such as 9W.

**ACTION ITEMS**

- Contact the Hudson Valley EDC regarding its marketing study.