Economic Zone Meeting
Southern Zone – Catskill Region
August 20, 2003

Meeting Summary

Attendees:

Gary Harvey  Greene County Highway Department  518-943-4600
Irene Norsworthy  Greene County Planning & Econ. Development  518-943-6585
William Crowell  Parsons, Project Manager of Parsons/CHA JV  212-266-8507
Sophia Rakowsky  Parsons  212-266-8520

• Economic Sectors of Concern
  o Advanced Manufacturing (e.g., high-tech, biotech, medical instruments)
  o Businesses that average 25-50 employees
  o Greene County Technology Park is the biggest project underway right now. Tenants were attracted by “shovel-ready” nature of site, proximity to interstate, and potential for future rail access

• Growth Promoters
  o Low price of land
  o Location
  o Cheap and abundant power (Central Hudson is lowest cost energy provider in the state)
  o Marketing campaign underway to show Greene County as modern and attractive place to live and work
  o Proximity to universities and high tech industry in Capital District
  o Planning done mostly at town, not county, level
  o Greene is right at the edge of major distribution areas (NYC and Montreal/Quebec)
  o Availability of natural gas
  o Convenient access to Albany Airport
  o Corrections industry provides stable tax base for the county
  o Seasonal tourism (recreation attractions at Hunter and Wyndham)

• Growth Constraints
  o Greene County never became the “bedroom community” for Albany that people thought it would be
  o Cheap land but small buying population
  o Lack of cell, broadband and internet services
  o Water and sewer located mainly along Route 9W
Transportation Initiatives of Interest to this Region

- Better tourist information needed to help drivers decipher road network and gauge distances. Frequent confusion regarding nomenclature (e.g., Thruway vs. Northway), exit numbering system (e.g., Exit 21 on Thruway vs. Exit 21 on Northway), etc.

- Some isolated improvements may be needed on local roads (e.g., Routes 9W and 23) to support any larger projects in the future.

- Improvements will be needed for the interchange at Exit 21 to support Home Depot development.

- Cross-Hudson ferry (Hudson-Catskill or Hudson-Coxsackie) or bridge would provide better access to passenger train service for Greene County residents.

- Rail freight currently passes through the county but does not serve it.

- No bus service currently exists between Greene and Albany.

- May need improvements to Route 32 in middle portion of the county (Route 32 connects Ulster County to Albany)

- Tourist/recreation access (e.g., dedicated “ski buses” providing direct service to Hunter and Wyndham)

- While adequate truck rest areas exist in the area, impromptu truck parking at Exit 21 visitor center occasionally presents a problem.