

Ulster County Greenway
Memo for Technical Advisory Committee Meeting #2
02.25.13

Hello UC Planning Staff and TAC members:

In anticipation of Friday's meeting, I am attaching two working documents to help move our discussion along. I say "working documents" because neither of them will become final products. Rather, they are documents I created as part of this working process. As you know, Task 1 is "Reconnaissance, and assessment of Ulster County's existing Comprehensive plan elements" and this represents that effort. It's a lot to read, so I don't expect you to go over it in detail

1. Selected Findings from Ulster County Plans

This was Step 1: I read all of the documents thoroughly and cut-and-pasted from them what I considered to be the most important and relevant pieces for demonstrating conformance with the Greenway Compact Principles or for what we think will be the big themes in the Greenway Compact Document itself. Think of this as the Cliffs Notes for the four documents.

It is useful in two ways:

- First, it is a ready-reference document for me to use throughout this work. I will probably amend it as we go forward.
- Second, it gives you all a chance to critique my reading of the documents. It has the same potential issues as the real Cliffs Notes: something is inevitably lost in the process of doing such a radical reduction. What have I not picked up that you think I should not have missed? What important concepts are missing because they are not even in these four documents? (we touched on that a bit at our first meeting last month).

Obviously, I do not include the most detailed information. The Long Range Transportation Plan is a good case in point: It lists hundreds of short and long term projects. I selected and featured only the ones for which there is supporting discussion in the body of the document, such as the Intermodal Center in Kingston. Some of that more detailed information may find its way into an Appendix. It will be easier to make those kinds of decisions as the Compact Document evolves.

You will notice that portions of the text are **green**. This is the text that I cut and pasted into the second document:

2. Ulster County Greenway Compact: Plan Alignment

This was Step 2: This document is meant to identify those portions of each of the 4 plans that support each of the 5 Greenway Principles. I created this by cutting and pasting from the Selected Findings document described above. Each of the 5 Greenway Principles has its own heading a heading in the document. Within each of the 5 sections, each of the 4 plans are listed and the relevant excerpted text is pasted in where I thought it was appropriate.

A few observations:

- Obviously, the best thing is for there to be at least some entry from each of the 4 plans under each of the 5 Greenway Principles headings. But this does not happen equally as one would expect.
- As I did with the Orange County Greenway exercise, I allow myself a broad interpretation of some of the Principles. For example, I would suggest that the principle of **Natural and Cultural Resource**

Protection should include anything that we think of as “smart growth”. I would suggest that **Public Access**, which in the narrow definition of the Greenway Principle is talking about access to the Hudson River Greenway Trail System, should include anything we think of as “mobility.”

- Sometimes the same piece of excerpted text appears under more than one Greenway Principle heading. That is a good thing, because it represents the “balance” we spoke about with Mark at our last meeting.
- The thinnest section is **Heritage and Environmental Education**. This was true in Orange County as well. Anything you can think of to add would be great, whether it is in the 4 documents or not.

As with the Selected Findings document, you all should feel free to critique what I have done: What have I missed from the documents? What should we include that is not in the 4 documents? What other thoughts do you have?

As I said, this is just a working document to help facilitate the creation of that portion of the Greenway Compact plan where we illustrate conformance. My next step, after Friday’s discussion with all of you, is to write up a draft memo that is closer to what we will put in the actual Compact – about 5, well-written pages explaining conformance under each of the 5 Principles. To that end, you can also help me by weighing in on what you think are the most important elements in this document to highlight to demonstrate conformance.

Between now and Friday, I will try to put together some more synthetic thoughts about what I have learned having gone through this exercise. Of course, your thoughts are essential.

See you Friday.

Rob