

Meeting Notes: Townline Rail Project
8/31/22 – 11AM (EST)

Attendees:

Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) - Andrea Poole
Townline Rail Terminal, LLC (Townline) - Toby Carlson, Anthony Viscoso
Clark Hill - Justin Marks
Town of Smithtown - Jennifer Juengst
VHB - Alan Summerville, David Wortman, Candice Andre

General Discussion Points

- Introductions: OEA opened the meeting and attendees provided brief introduction.
- OEA provide overview of progress to date.
 - Preparation of Work Plan
 - OEA will send finalized Work Plan to Clark Hill.
 - Agency Coordination
 - Agency input was requested by 7/22/22. No substantial input was received.
 - VHB continues coordination with the agencies on specific requests.
 - Site Visit occurred on 8/1/22
 - Townline met with OEA and VHB to tour the project site. OEA and VHB examined the area surrounding the project site.
- Current tasks:
 - Clark Hill requested a wavier for the preparation of an EIS.
 - VHB will submit a memo to OEA backing up their professional recommendation
 - OEA will respond to the wavier for an EIS submitted by Clark Hill.
 - VHB is drafting Information Request No. 1 for review by OEA. OEA will submit the Information Request No. 1 to Clark Hill.
 - VHB is drafting Chapters 1 (Purpose & Need) and 2 (Proposed Action & Alternatives) of the EA. Clark Hill/Townline will have an opportunity to confirm accuracy of the current operations and proposed action.
 - Townline provided updates on ROW actions.
 - Smithtown provided an update on the city's comprehensive planning document that would include zoning for the proposed rail line.
- Anticipated schedule:
 - Draft EA – December 2022
 - Petition for project submitted to OEA – late October 2022
 - Town Comprehensive Plan – completion end of 2022, Board approval in first quarter of 2023
- Action items:
 - OEA – Schedule status meeting with Townline in early October
 - Clark Hill - provide Townline an understanding of the DCMS system on STB website, and walk through the process to access public data available there.
 - OEA – Send final Work Plan to Clark Hill. Complete.
 - OEA/VHB – Send Information Request No. 1 to Clark Hill/Townline. Complete.

- VHB – Prepare a formal environmental review document determination memo based on site visit and scoping information
- OEA - Respond to Clark Hill request for wavier of an EIS (need memo from VHB)
- VHB – September deliverables: Chapters 1 and 2, methodology for review areas, data request #1

END OF MEETING SUMMARY

Meeting Notes: Townline Rail Project
9/28/22 – 10AM (EST)

Attendees:

Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) - Andrea Poole

Townline Rail Terminal, LLC (Townline) - Toby Carlson, Anthony Viscoso, Les Poinelli

Clark Hill - Justin Marks

VHB - Alan Summerville, Candice Andre, Allison McAuliffe

General Discussion Points

- OEA provide overview of progress to date.
 - OEA provided the final Work Plan to Clark Hill.
 - Clark Hill requested a wavier for the preparation of an EIS.
 - VHB submitted a memo to OEA documenting their professional recommendation for the appropriate environmental review document.
 - OEA provided Information Request No. 1 to Clark Hill.
 - OEA and VHB coordinated on the draft Chapter 1 and methodology format for technical sections.
 - VHB continues coordination with the agencies on specific requests, as necessary.
- Current tasks:
 - OEA will respond to the wavier by Clark Hill regarding the appropriate environmental review document.
 - Clark Hill and Carlson are compiling information needed to fulfill responses to Request No. 1 – Carlson anticipates submitting this to OEA by 10/3.
 - Carlson is working with HDR on site design, which should answer cut / fill / offset questions.
 - Andrea noted that this information request responses can be submitted as available, rather than wait for one full submittal.
 - VHB is drafting Chapters 1 (Purpose & Need) and 2 (Proposed Action & Alternatives) of the EA.
 - Clark Hill/Townline will have an opportunity to review Chapters 1 and 2 to confirm accuracy of the current operations and proposed action.
 - Townline completed the demolition permit for the residence on the subject site.
 - Townline provided news articles (Newsday and Smithtown News) to the group.
 - Carlson is working with Smithtown and the County for road abandonment of on-site roadways.
- Other Discussion Items:
 - Suffolk County computer system has been hacked, so Townline is awaiting some formal correspondence.
 - Docket for this project is not active in the DCMS System. Andrea is working internally to address the technical glitch in the system.

- Anticipated schedule:
 - Draft EA – December 2022.
 - Petition for project submitted to OEA – late October 2022.
 - Town Comprehensive Plan – completion end of 2022, Board approval in first quarter of 2023.
- Next Status Meeting – October 26, 2022 at 10:00 am.
- Action items:
 - OEA – circle back to team on updates to DCMS troubleshooting.
 - Clark Hill/Townline – Fulfill Information Request No. 1.
 - OEA - Respond to Clark Hill request for environmental review document determination (VHB provided memo).
 - VHB – October deliverables: Chapters 1 and 2, methodology for technical approaches, EA technical sections.

--END OF MEETING SUMMARY--

Meeting Notes: Townline Rail Project
10/26/22 – 10AM (EST)

Attendees:

Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) - Andrea Poole, Joshua Wayland
Townline Rail Terminal, LLC (Townline) - Toby Carlson, Anthony Viscoso, Les Poinelli
Clark Hill - Justin Marks
VHB - Alan Summerville, Candice Andre, Allison McAuliffe

General Discussion Points

- OEA update:
 - OEA reviewed Chapters 1 (Purpose & Need) and 2 (Proposed Action & Alternatives); VHB is addressing OEA comments
 - Chapters will be sent to Clark Hill for review once OEA comments are incorporated (anticipated to be sent in the next couple of weeks, depending on OEA's legal team review)
 - VHB is developing the resource area and impacts section (will be provided to OEA as complete – anticipate early next week)
 - Meetings with VHB and OEA will follow for technical review
 - VHB requested additional information regarding import of goods
 - VHB has tonnage expected daily, but would like to determine what the contents of that tonnage is, if possible
 - VHB continues coordination with the agencies on specific requests, as necessary
- Carlson update:
 - Waiting on support letters from local officials and surrounding stakeholders (i.e. municipality, Covanta energy, etc.)
 - Town attorney is finalizing draft language for “rail transfer stations” to go into Town ordinance
 - Carlson met with one neighbor whose biggest concern is noise (Carlson is open to a sound mitigation, if necessary)
 - Clark Hill is within a week or two of filing their petition
- Current tasks:
 - VHB is incorporating OEA comments on Chapters 1 (Purpose & Need) and 2 (Proposed Action & Alternatives) of the EA
 - VHB is in progress on drafting Chapter 3
- Other Discussion Items:
 - Carlson clarified the operational plan: one train would come in, drop 20 cars and then pick up 20 cars – one in one out overnight, operating off commuter hours.
 - Josh inquired if the group had received voluntary mitigation measures from the applicant?
 - Andrea clarified that we are currently discussing mitigation by design – an impact discussion will be needed before we discuss any further mitigation.

- Josh noted that USACE Section 404 of Clean Water Act may warrant some mitigation. Josh will provide some examples of projects with a similar scope that had voluntary mitigation measures.
- Anticipated schedule:
 - Draft EA – December 2022.
 - Petition for project submitted to OEA – late October 2022.
 - Town Comprehensive Plan – completion end of 2022, Board approval in first quarter of 2023.
- Next Status Meeting – November 23, 2022, at 10:00 am.
- Action items:
 - VHB – Chapters 1 and 2, methodology for technical approaches, EA technical sections.

--END OF MEETING SUMMARY--

Meeting Notes: Townline Rail Project
11/23/22 – 10AM (EST)

Attendees:

Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) - Andrea Poole
Townline Rail Terminal, LLC (Townline) - Anthony Viscoso, Les Poinelli
Clark Hill - Justin Marks
HDR – Richard Semenick
VHB - Alan Summerville, Candice Andre

General Discussion Points

- Focus of the meeting - discuss the alternatives considered during the design of the proposed action.
 - Building documentation for the EA on why the design specifics of the proposed action
 - Criteria used, pros and cons of design concepts
 - Applicant provided two design options to the Town, and the Town chose the plan that was submitted to OEA
 - Other plan was 45 degrees from the existing track (double check that it is included in submittal)
 - Design takes advantage of space available on the site to accommodate future growth
 - Specific reason for 25 cars – Toby Carlson may know
 - Concept with 2 tie-ins to LIRR – reasoning behind NYA not wanting, or does it have to do with cost? Request additional information in formal Information Request No. 2
 - Existing agreements only include single switch
 - HDR – concepts started out much shorter in 2015 due to property ownership constraints (Carlson Corp did not own adjacent lots along rail, but now owns full line on property)
 - Did Town request space for 40 cars? Criteria for action
 - Reasons for engineering design
- VHB is preparing Information Request No. 2 to formally ask these questions
 - OEA will review and submit to Applicant early next week
- Next Status Meeting – December 28, 2022, at 10:00 am.
- Action items:
 - VHB – Prepare Information Request No. 2.

--END OF MEETING SUMMARY--

Meeting Notes: Townline Rail Project
1/4/2023 – 10AM (EST)

Attendees:

Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) - Andrea Poole

Townline Rail Terminal, LLC (Townline) – Toby Carlson, Anthony Viscoso, Les Poinelli

Clark Hill - Justin Marks

VHB - Alan Summerville, Candice Andre, Allison McAuliffe

General Discussion Points

- Focus of the meeting – review Chapter 2 of the Environmental Assessment (EA) (Proposed Action and Alternatives) to receive preliminary feedback from Townline and Clark Hill.
 - Team confirmed that the narrative is accurate and includes all information provided in the petition, responses to information requests.
 - Townline inquired on potential small shifts in the design during the state review process and construction impacting the EA and/or Board decision.
 - STB noted that the EA will be encompassing/conservative enough to cover small shifts in the design if it remains within the study area. The SEQR process will focus on consistency with local plans and ordinances of the ancillary facilities.
- OEA presented the revised draft Work Plan – updated with current schedule and revisions to how Chapter 3 approaches are being included.
 - Overall approach and description of the proposed action has remained the same.
 - There will be a 30-day public comment period – standard for an EA.
 - Anticipate the Draft EA in February/March and final EA in May 2023.
 - There is not a statutory timeframe for the Board to make a determination for this type of project.
- Next Status Meeting – 1/25/2022 @ 10AM (EST)
- Action items:
 - VHB – Continue work on draft EA.
 - VHB – Circulate revised Work Plan.
 - OEA – Ensure all filings are posted to DCMS.

--END OF MEETING SUMMARY--