

## APPENDIX P: Public Involvement

A comprehensive public involvement program has been a part of the New Jersey – Pennsylvania Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project and Environmental Assessment throughout the conduct of this study. The program was designed to inform the public and elected officials of the purpose of the study, explain the transportation alternative under consideration, receive input on project components and inform the public of environmental review activities. Elements of the public participation program are discussed in this section.

### P.1 Technical Advisory Committee (TAC)

A committee was assembled to provide a forum for ongoing communication with regulatory and review agencies, local agencies and officials in the region about the status of the study. Members of the study's Technical Advisory Committee include:

- Delaware River Joint Toll Bridge Commission (DRJTBC)
- Federal Transit Administration - Region II
- Federal Transit Administration - Region III
- Lackawanna County Director of Transportation
- Lackawanna County Regional Planning Commission
- Monroe County Planning Commission
- Monroe County Railroad Authority
- Morris County DOT
- NJ TRANSIT
- NJDOT – Bureau of Freight Services
- NJDOT – Division of Ports, Terminals & Freight
- North Jersey Transportation Planning Authority
- Northeastern Pennsylvania Alliance
- Pennsylvania DOT Bureau of Public Transportation
- Sussex County Planning Department
- Warren County Planning Board

The following is a list of meetings held with the TAC. Meetings will continue to be held during the next phase of the study process.

- September 26, 2002
- November 14, 2002
- March 30, 2003
- May 14, 2003
- July 9, 2003
- September 18, 2003
- October 3, 2003
- December 16, 2003
- May 27, 2004
- June 15, 2004
- August 12, 2004
- December 16, 2004
- August 30, 2006

## **P.2 County Meetings**

Coordination with the Counties was undertaken immediately upon project initiation to give the Counties the opportunity to provide input to the technical work being undertaken by NJ TRANSIT, including providing suggestion for community outreach within their communities. The following meetings were held:

02/14/03	Monroe County
02/20/03	Warren County
02/27/03	Sussex County
06/18/03	Lackawanna County

The Counties all participate on the project TAC. On-going coordination with the Counties has occurred through the TAC meetings.

## **P.3 Municipal Meetings**

A significant effort was undertaken to reach out to the individual municipalities along the corridor to discuss project features and study status and to receive feedback regarding station issues. The format for these meetings was informal – they were working meetings in which NJ TRANSIT shared information regarding the site-specific technical work undertaken and engaged local officials in discussions of issues and opportunities. Data collection, particularly for the New Starts submission, is also a component of these meetings. Parties interested in transportation in each town, such as the mayor and one or two councilpersons or planning board members, were encouraged to attend these sessions.

### **P.3.1 Municipal Meetings - Round #1**

NJ TRANSIT introduced the project and presented an aerial photograph of the town, with labels such as town boundary, adjacent towns, existing rail right-of-way, and major roadways. Meeting attendee from the town were encouraged to give their thoughts on where they would like to see a station in town, benefits they envision, and concerns that should be addressed. The following meetings were held:

03/26/03	Blairstown Township
03/26/03	Green Township
03/27/03	Andover Township
03/27/03	Byram Township
04/17/03	Borough of East Stroudsburg
04/30/03	Mount Pocono Borough
05/12/03	Smithfield Township
06/10/03	Andover Township
06/18/03	City of Scranton
09/10/03	Stroud Township

### P.3.2 Municipal Meetings - Round #2

A second round of municipal meetings was held to review the detailed of engineering plans prepared for stations, yard and other key feature area. Ridership information prepared by NJ TRANSIT was utilized to prepare the station site plans based on the amount of parking estimated to be required. The preliminary station layout included parking, platform and other site features. Acceptance of the plan by the town was sought at the meetings. Formal acceptance of the plan by the governing body through resolution was encouraged. The following meetings were held:



A coordination meeting with Stanhope Borough was held on June 16, 2004.

05/07/04	Andover Township
05/20/04	Borough of East Stroudsburg
05/13/04	Green Township
05/13/04	Andover Borough
05/12/04	Blairstown Township
06/15/04	Coolbaugh Township
06/16/04	Stanhope Borough
06/17/04	Stroud Township
06/17/04	Mount Pocono Borough
10/11/04	Smithfield Township

### P.3.3 Municipal Meetings - Round #3

Coordination meetings were held regarding the Minimal Operable Segment (MOS) with the involved communities, Stanhope and Andover Township, on May 22, 2008.

## P.4 Newsletters and Fact Sheets

Two different communication tools have been used during the conduct of the Lackawanna EA to reach out to the TAC, interested parties and the project mailing list. Fact sheets were used as brief study updates provided on a periodic basis. This method was used as a low-cost technique to quickly reach out to interested parties. As such, fact sheets were developed in color using standard desktop publishing and printing. Newsletters were used as a more elaborate outreach technique. Newsletters were professionally designed and written to highlight key issues and study progress. Newsletters were developed in color and off-set print on glossy paper.

The fact sheets and newsletters were sent at the following key project milestones:



A project newsletter was prepared in June 2004.

- *Fact Sheet #1:* In December 2003, a fact sheet was sent to advise persons on the mailing list of the recent progress on the project, and inform them that open houses will be held in early 2004.
- *Newsletter #1:* A newsletter was prepared in June 2004 in conjunction with the first round of public open house meetings. A four-page, color, glossy off-set print newsletter was prepared. The newsletter explained to the public the status of the project, open house meeting schedule, overview of the plans for the rail service (including station locations, ridership and costs), key technical findings, answers to “frequently asked questions” and contact information.
- *Newsletter #2:* Newsletter #2 will be prepared for use at public meetings on the EA.

## P.5 Open House Meetings

Open house meetings are held to inform a wide audience of information regarding the project. Two rounds of open house meetings were held for the Lackawanna Cut-Off project.

### P.5.1 Open House Meetings – Round #1

The purpose of the first round of open house meetings was to share preliminary results of the planning and environmental analyses undertaken as work advances on the preparation of an environmental assessment. These open houses were widely advertised and meeting invitation letters were mailed to those on the mailing list. The Open Houses were held to present the technical findings of the study including information on ridership and costs.

The open house meetings for the Lackawanna Cut-Off Project were held:

#### **Pennsylvania (Monroe County)**

Monday, June 28, 2004

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Ramada Inn

101 Broad Street, Delaware Water Gap, Pennsylvania 18327 (off Interstate 80)

Phone: (570) 476-0000

#### **New Jersey (Morris, Sussex and Warren Counties)**

Tuesday, June 29, 2004

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Adam Todd Banquet Caterers

263 Route 206 at Cranberry Lake, Andover, New Jersey 07821

Phone: (973) 347-4004

#### **Pennsylvania (Lackawanna County)**

Thursday, July 1, 2004

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Hilton Scranton Hotel & Conference Center

100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

Phone: 570-343-3000



Meeting attendees view informational materials and discuss the project with the study team.



Meeting attendees view project presentation.

These open house meetings provided an opportunity for the public to review information on the proposed restoration of rail service on the Lackawanna Cut-Off and to discuss the project with members of the project team. Project materials were available for review including corridor maps, sample operating schedules, station and yard site plans, ridership and cost data, environmental process information and contact information.

There was a continuous loop presentation for viewing anytime between the hours of 3:00 and 8:00. A project newsletter and comment sheet was provided to all meeting attendees. There was an opportunity for the public to provide comments on this project, either at the open house meeting or in writing.

### **P.5.2 Open House Meeting – Round #2**

Open houses were held to present the environmental findings as a result of the Environmental Assessment, as committed to the public and FTA by the project team during agency scoping in the previous County study. These open houses were widely advertised and meeting invitation letters were mailed to those on the mailing list. The document was available for review at local and county libraries and on NJ TRANSIT's website. Copies of the EA were also available upon request.

The second set of open house meetings for the Lackawanna Cut-Off Project were held:



Meeting attendees view project presentation.

#### **Sussex County, New Jersey**

Tuesday, January 23, 2007

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Perona Farms,

350 Andover-Sparta Road, Andover, New Jersey

Phone: 973-729-6161

#### **Warren County, New Jersey**

Monday, January 29, 2007

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Blairstown Municipal Complex

106 Route 94, Blairstown, NJ

Phone: 908-362-6663

#### **Monroe County, Pennsylvania**

Thursday, January 25, 2007

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Quality Inn (formerly Clarion Hotel)

1220 W Main Street, Stroudsburg, PA

Phone: 570 420-1000

#### **Lackawanna County, Pennsylvania**

Wednesday, January 17, 2007

3:00 PM to 8:00 PM

Hilton Scranton Hotel & Conference Center

100 Adams Avenue, Scranton, Pennsylvania 18503

Phone: 570-343-3000

The meetings provided an opportunity for the public to review displays and to informally discuss the EA on a one-to-one basis with members of the project team. Two formal presentations were made at each location, followed by the ability to make formal comments, recorded by a stenographer.



Meeting attendees discuss project materials with study team.

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
1	6/28/2004	Al Koster	Resident-East Stroudsburg, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For Rail- Impressed with plan, and hopes to take advantage of the line soon.
2	6/28/2004	Fred Falteiser	Resident-East Stroudsburg, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Against Rail- Not a viable competitor with Martz bus, and projections of commuters are underestimated
3	6/28/2004	Lis Memoli	Resident-Hardwick, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Wanted to know how soon the rail would be coming
4	6/28/2004	Joel Anabilah- Azamah	Resident-Brooklyn, NY	Open House Comment Sheet	Should Start the first 2 trains in Tobyhanna or Mount Pocono to save mileage, and offer direct weekend service to Penn Station
5	6/28/2004	Christopher Barbieri	Resident-Mountainhome, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	The Platform at Tobyhanna should be located east of the toby-switch tower.
6	6/28/2004	David G. Fox	Resident, Stroudsburg, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Against rail- believes it will attract more people to Monroe County, creating a need for schools and infrastructure. This along with the unprofitability of the rail road will cost tax payers more money. Also noted that frequent calls have been made to the Pocono Mts. Chamber of commerce asking when railroad travel will begin.
7	6/28/2004	Ludmila F. French	Resident-Blairstown, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For Rail
8	6/28/2004	Bill Mac Dougall	Resident-Stockertown, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For Rail- would use rail for pleasure to access NYC and Scranton, looks forward to not having to use RT. 80 which is too congested. Would also like to see service extended into Lehigh Valley.
9	6/28/2004	Richard Infante	Resident-Delaware Water Gap, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Curious about plans to deal with ridership increases occurring earlier than 2025.
10	6/28/2004	Alan R. Schwartz	Resident-East Stroudsburg, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Against a station in East Stroudsburg because it would be a "traffic nightmare."
11	6/28/2004	James Lions	Resident-East Stroudsburg, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For Rail- check out poconocommuter.com
12	6/28/2004	Carlos Blackwood	Resident-East Stroudsburg, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Believes ridership estimates are low, this commuter alternative will cause people to "flock" to the Poconos
13	6/28/2004	Clifton C. Mapp	Resident-Cresco, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Wants more information
14	6/28/2004	Karl Hashagen	Resident-East Stroudsburg, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Travel times are too long and that will deter people from choosing the train.
15	6/28/2004	Eugene M. Kearney	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For Rail- likes that it uses existing facilities, suggests cutting stops to speed travel time
16	6/28/2004	Richard Weisel	Resident-Crown Point, IN	Open House Comment Sheet	For Rail- enthusiastic about project, hopes that it will bring economic benefits to town centers with train stations

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
17	6/29/2004	Ann Marie Peters	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Concerned that the 50 spaces wouldn't be enough for the Andover Station, so people might park on Forest Lakes Drive, and walk through the woods to get to the Station.
18	6/29/2004	Linda Gorrfried	Resident-Johnsonburg, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For Rail
19	6/29/2004	John McDonough	Resident-Andover, NJ, and member of Forest Lakes Water Board	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Would like more information to calm his consumers
20	6/29/2004	Tom Perl	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against Rail-A train would ruin Byram's country atmosphere. Concerned that this project was being pushed threw regardless of public opinion. Also, ridership is too low for the cost.
21	6/29/2004	Karen Perl	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against Rail-The train would spur development in the area, a second level should be added to RT. 80 for the train to ride on instead. Also concerned about freight and garbage being transported.
22	6/29/2004	Larry Rotter, PE	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Asked how this can be built since the Andover Station is in the designated High Lands Region. Would like electric engines to minimize air pollution.
23	6/29/2004	Jose M. Oliveira	Resident-Union, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Is moving to property in Knowlton that is against the tracks. Concerned about noise pollution and wondered if NJ Transit would require access to his property in the case of an emergency.
24	6/29/2004	Don Crabtree	Morristown, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail- glad there will be less traffic on RT. 80 because car accidents will decrease.
25	6/29/2004	John G. Hemmings	Resident-Long Valley, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-it is a good way to keep cars off congested roadways such as RT. 80 and RT. 206. Commends NJ Transit's work with light rail and hopes to see more funding for light rail in the future.
26	6/29/2004	Clare Hofmann	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Concerned about cost and possible spills from hazardous material. Also worried about the cost.
27	6/29/2004	Jeffrey Nowling	Resident-Byram Township, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-Believes the rail is fiscally irresponsible to the people of NJ. By divided the 2800 riders by the estimated \$350 million in fixed costs, he concluded that it will cost \$125,000 per rider for this rail.
28	6/29/2004	Karl Hoffman	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Concerned about runoff from the parking lot and rail into Hemlock lake because more runoff would change the DEP classification of the Dam the retains it. Also concerned that 50 parking spaces would not be enough and the riders would park on Forest Lake Drive instead.

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
29	6/29/2004	John Hastie	Resident-Sparta, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-would like to see faster trains, and asked about the cost of daily and monthly tickets.
30	6/29/2004	Robert B. Tierney	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail
31	6/29/2004	Edward Ellis	Resident-Sparta, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Loves Trains, but is concerned that this may be a "pork barrel" project. Misunderstood/miscalculated that the annual operation costs amount to over \$7,000 per rider.
32	6/29/2004	Evelyn Tierney	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail
33	6/29/2004	Ronald Gatti	Resident-Sparta, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	The Andover Station should be eliminated because tunnels and bridges prevent the expansion of Roseville Road. The park and ride site in Mt. Arlington should be used instead.
34	6/29/2004	Michael Sawicki	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail
35	6/29/2004	Stella Sawicki	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail- Would like to see express service from Andover to Paterson, NJ
36	6/29/2004	Mark McClung	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Mixed-Believes the rail is a worthy cause but is concerned about his personal property which is along the right-of-way. Noted that he would not be using the rail to commute, but would for occasional excursions. Liked the information meeting.
37	6/29/2004	John Richardson, Sr.	Resident-Fredon, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-suggested emphasizing the economic and real-estate benefits of the rail to gain support.
38	6/29/2004	George Mosley	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Asked if trains would be laid of in Andover and if freight would eventually use the rail.
39	6/29/2004	Glenn Habrial	Resident-Blairstown, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Would ride from the Blairstown Station, and encourages freight to get trucks off of RT. 80
40	6/29/2004	Susan Rotter	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-Concerned about negative impacts of Diesel Pollution, garbage and toxic chemicals being shipped, the depreciation of real-estate, and increased sprawl.
41	6/29/2004	Susan Wise	Resident-Stanhope, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Believes that the Station in Netcong is sufficient and a Station in Andover is unnecessary, but supports a rail that connects to PA.
42	6/29/2004	Thomas and Rosanne Banwolf	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-because it cuts through yards and a park, will increase pollution, and depreciation of real-estate along the corridor, and the ridership is too low. Would like a debate on this topic.

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
43	6/29/2004	Geri Anglum	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-should have buses instead, wont use for work or leisure because it will be too inconvenient, will negatively affect her home. Thinks town will have to pay for the extra police and garbage pick up.
44	6/29/2004	Eric Grove	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-it is a great alternative to commuting on RT. 80. Suggested shuttles to the station via County Transit systems. While he supported the station in Andover, NJ he did think there would be a need for more than 50 Parking spaces there.
45	6/29/2004	Maria Nelson	Resident- (Byram) Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail
46	6/29/2004	Richard A. Volk	Resident-Stanhope, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail
47	6/29/2004	Bernadette Huby	Resident-(Byram) Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Concerned that the whistling as the train goes threw the station will be disruptive. People in the town who do not have jobs along the rail line and drive to work will not benefit because the train will only remove 800 cars a day, and people who move to the area for an easier commute will drive everywhere else, and thus increase traffic.
48	6/29/2004	Bernie Bukowski	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-The line should also include weekend and holiday service, believes peoples' complaints about noise pollution are unfounded. Also suggests building up services around the station.
49	6/29/2004	Rosemarie Riley	Resident-Stanhope, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-Doesn't believe the ridership estimates, references an article in the Star Ledger on June 29, 2004: "Garbage and Freight Trains are not welcome in my Backyard"
50	6/29/2004	Albert L. Papp, Jr.	Director, New Jersey Association of Railroad Passengers (NJ-ARP)	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail- He offers technical suggestions that particularly encourage a high-speed rail. Suggests considering the Americanized version of the Spanish Talgo Pendular.
51	6/29/2004	Don Barnickel	Resident-Flemington, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the rail
52	6/29/2004	Jerry Wickersham	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the rail-concerned about noise and air pollution as well as depreciated real-estate values.
53	6/29/2004	Alice Harrison	Resident-Sparta, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Concerned about the train station in Andover, NJ. Believes this comprised with high density housing will greatly increase traffic in the area.

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
54	6/29/2004	Margaret McGarrity	Representative on Byram Township's Master Plan	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-It is a waste of public funds. Feels the project is being pushed forward without regard to public opinion. The additional residential development that this project would spawn is not worth it.
55	6/29/2004	Richard Miller	Resident-Hackettstown, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-will be an economic assets to the surrounding area while increasing real-estate values and the number of jobs.
56	6/29/2004	Richard Stewart	Resident-Newton, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-it is long overdue
57	6/29/2004	Nancy Garrison	Resident-Stanhope, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Would like to see the station moved to be along RT. 206 so traffic on back roads will not increase or interfere with children going to school.
58	6/29/2004	Harold Garrison	Resident-Stanhope, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Suggested moving the station to the intersection of Forest Lake Dr. and RT. 206
59	6/29/2004	F. Smith	Resident-Sparta, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-As exemplified by other towns with railroad stations, real-estate will increase, believes this rail is long overdue and desperately needed.
60	6/29/2004	Bob and Joanne Webster	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-supports the choice of the Andover Station. Suggested shuttle busing to the stations.
61	6/29/2004	Earl Riley	Resident-Stanhope, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-will have a negative impact on the area, because of noise and smell as well as the freight that would feed from the trash transfer station in Roxbury onto this line.
62	6/29/2004	Tina Stay	Resident-Hackettstown, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail
63	6/29/2004	Doug Hiscano	Resident-Basking Ridge, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Suggested moving the station to RT. 206. The cost of a raised platform would be the same as the cost of expanding the road at the currently proposed station.
64	6/29/2004	M.J. Dumont	Concerned Citizen	Letter	For the Rail- He is tired of years of preliminary meetings and development with no follow threw, the process needs to be sped up.
65	6/29/2004	Lorie Miller	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Feels the issues of fiscal sense, safety, pollution and environmental concerns (such as the stream in Forest Lake) have not been adequately addressed.
66	6/29/2004	Richard Mach	Chairman, Blairstown Township Planning Board	Open House Comment Sheet	The Blairstown Township Committee has sent 2 resolutions expressing the township's disapproval of a station. Frelinghusen wishes to host a station. Wants to know if this switch can be made. Also wants the DOT to guarantee that freight and specifically garbage will not be hauled through Blairstown.

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
67	6/29/2004	Fred Suljic	Retired Sussex County Planning Director and currently a community planning consultant in Vernon, Ogdensburg, and Green	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-does not want any freight on the line. Should be less emphasis on getting to Hoboken and more on transporting to the Secaucus Transfer Counties.
68	6/29/2004	Denise Koellhoffer	Resident-Byram Township, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-hopes that this can be put forward despite many of Byram's citizens' typical negative reaction to this sort of thing.
69	6/29/2004	William Koellhofer	Resident-Byram Township, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Glad to have Pennsylvania's Universities at a greater accessibility.
70	6/29/2004	Michael Walsh	Resident-Andover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Would like to have the town meeting that was promised over a year ago.
71	6/29/2004	Robert Belz	Co-chairmen of citizen group H.O.R.N. (Halt Outrageous Railroad Noise)	Letter	The formal letter expressed the desire to see current rail upgraded and expanded before adding more rail as the Midtown direct cannot handle anymore passengers. Believes the ridership from PA to Morris County will be futile, and it is unfair that people who chose a smaller house in Morris County to minimize there commute should have to subsidize commuters in PA who face a much longer commute for a bigger house.
72	6/29/2004	David Hoyt	Resident-Stanhope, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	If the whistle can be cut out he will have no problem with the project. Believes that the 16 whistles a day will deafen everyone within a 500 foot radius of the station.
73	6/29/2004	Robert H. Stephum	Resident-Dover, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Summarized some of the History of the Lackawanna Cut-off
74	6/29/2004	Tammie Horsfield	A member of the T.I.E. (Transportation Integration Effort) Resident-Newton, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail- Looks forward to having more transportation options.
75	6/29/2004	Jacob J. Smith	Resident-Sussex, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-the sooner the better
76	6/29/2004	Valerie M. Deufort	Member of Sussex County Chamber of Commerce and T.I.E. Committee	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-a much needed alternative means of moving people through the area. Likes that tracks are being reused instead of building new ones.
77	6/29/2004	Denton Uptegrove	Resident-Newton, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Suggested offering some kind of a snack cart with coffee and sandwiches for the long ride from Scranton to NYC
78	6/29/2004	Richard C. Evans	Resident-Newton, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Suggested moving the Andover station a few miles west where there are less trees and more rational home owners.

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
79	6/29/2004	Ron Schopperth	Resident-Newton, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-Believes that money should be put towards revitalization of urban and suburban areas so people will not move into rural areas to begin with. This will only encourage people to move farther from their places of employment and will ultimately destroy <u>North Western New Jersey</u> .
80	6/29/2004	Richard Hodson	Mayor-Hopatcong, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-believes it is the best alternative for the present population
81	6/29/2004	Susan Schopperth	Resident-Newton, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	Doesn't want increased truck traffic from the construction. Also miscalculated the cost per rider by treating the ridership as annual instead of daily.
82	6/29/2004	Goarge C. Tomczyk	Resident-Parsippany, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-suggested weekend service to the Poconos and Scranton
83	6/29/2004	Christine Widgren	Resident-Newton, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Has commuted to NYC for 30 years and looks forward to having a direct route without having to drive to Dover.
84	6/29/2004	Linda Nieman	Resident-Newton, NJ	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-the sooner the better
85	7/1/2004	Pat Reilly	Resident-Moscow, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-It would be beneficial for the NJ Transit Employees who live in the area and commute to NJ
86	7/1/2004	Pat Reilly, Jr.	Resident-Moscow, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-It would be beneficial for the NJ Transit Employees who live in the area and commute to NJ
87	7/1/2004	Steve Thompson	Resident-Gouldsboro, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-The sooner the better, and is glad to see a station in Tobyhanna
88	7/1/2004	Andrew Lenns	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the Rail-It is a waste of tax payer's money.
89	7/1/2004	Carla Vincent	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail
90	7/1/2004	Gratz Washellik	Resident-Tobyhanna, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Glad to see a station planned in Tobyhanna
91	7/1/2004	Tudor E. Williams	Resident-Clarks Summit, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Would like it in as soon as possible, and believes it will do wonders for the area.
92	7/1/2004	Joseph Piechota, Jr.	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-The sooner the better.
93	7/1/2004	Charles W. Carstens	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-2010 is not soon enough, senior citizens won't be around to enjoy the rail if it is built that far in the future.
94	7/1/2004	Paul J. McHale	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail
95	7/1/2004	Ellen Dorse	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Enjoyed the information session, and hopes the support will encourage the project

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
96	7/1/2004	Francene and Ariana Liples	Resident-Moosic, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-The train is long overdue and will be great for the community, economy and morale of the Scranton area.
97	7/1/2004	Scott J. Taylor	Resident-Acova, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Suggests learning from the trials and tribulations of this project to preserve other rail lines, especially the line from Scranton to Philadelphia which a segment in the Bethlehem area is in danger of <u>being ripped up</u> .
98	7/1/2004	Jon Tabatabaie	Resident-New York, NY	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Hopes the project will lead to more frequent service, high speed trains, and the regionalization of rail authority in Monroe and Lackawanna counties
99	7/1/2004	Alan Helfner	Resident-Tobyhanna, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Right now I-80 is too congested and the bus is too expensive, so this will offer a great alternative. Would also like better access to locations in New Jersey
100	7/1/2004	Rosemary M. Cugan	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-suggested sending a letter to congress and depicting the bleak future without the rail to gain support
101	7/1/2004	M. Obrien	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Encourages reaching out to NEPA for ideas and concerns, also hopes for cooperation amongst local governments to handle the area's public safety
102	7/1/2004	Bud Cook	Resident-Long Pond, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Concerned that the maps at the presentation were 20 years out of date and did not reflect thousands of acres of state gamelands and state forests
103	7/1/2004	Dan McKeon	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Hopes that the trains offer amenities such as refreshments
104	7/1/2004	Mary Beth Kashuba and Shawn Seabrook	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Hope service between Scranton and NY resume soon but are concerned with safety and security in Scranton decreasing once it is more closely tied NYC
105	7/1/2004	Mark Kleeman	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Believes the rail is long over due. 6 people from the New York/New Jersey area have made offers on his home, suggesting that there is money coming to the area.
106	7/1/2004	Thom Welby	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Believes the Project meets the economic and social needs of the area, the amount of traffic it will remove from the interstates is a step in the right direction, and hopes this will bring more people into Scranton.
107	7/1/2004	Sharon M. Meagher	Full-time faculty member of University of Scranton and Resident Waverly, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Would be very effective if the travel time was more competitive (2 hours each way instead of 3), believes it will boost the economic and cultural vitality of Scranton. Further more, it would benefit the University of Scranton because the school would be able to host more conferences if it had convenient train service to NYC

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
108	7/1/2004	Michael Loehr	Resident-Clarks Summit, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Project-Believes the ridership will be higher than projected. The project will enhance mobility and improve traffic conditions on Route-80 which have only gotten worse.
109	7/1/2004	Bruce Abbott, Jr.	Resident-Dunmore, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Looks forward to riding it and hopes the completion is earlier than the projected 10 years reported by the local news. Suggested trying to use high speed trains to increase ridership and wondered if the train could go to Penn Station instead of Hoboken.
110	7/1/2004	Paul Hart	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Suggested cutting the Delaware Water Gap, East Stroudsburg, and Analomink stations to two stations since the three are so close together anyway. Also thought the fact that the Tobyhanna is along the only segment of the line where high speeds are possible should be considered. Beloved careful reevaluation of station locations could help reduce travel time to less than three hours. Also believed the number of people leaving from Scranton is underestimated, since a large number of people will use the train for leisure.
111	7/1/2004	Bruce Abbott, Jr.	Resident-Dunmore, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-The travel time from Scranton to NYC is too long, if the trip was less than 2.5 hours ridership could double or even triple.
112	7/1/2004	Lynn Stanos	Affiliated with University of Scranton	Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail: Had several questions: Would fares and travel times really be competitive with bus service?; Will there be express routes at certain times?; Are weekend and off-peak commuters being studied?; Why is train service being planned for Scranton when the projected population for 2025 reflects a 5.6% decrease and there are a mere 45 riders a day projected?; What other in depth comparisons are being made with existing services from Hoboken to Scranton?. Also commented that the 3 hour commute would be too much of a turn-off and was glad to see information regarding environmental impact studies.
113	7/1/2004	Rosanne Ellis	Resident-Scranton, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	Wished there was a small map of the Route in the fact sheet that was given out.
114	7/1/2004	Anonymous		Open House Comment Sheet	For the Rail-Disagrees with the population projects

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
115	7/20/2004	John Siptroth	Smithfield Township, PA Board of Supervisors - Chairman	Letter	The proposed DWG Station at the Welcome Center does not have the infrastrucutre to support the rail park and ride as proposed. Notes the Smithfield Township owned property is used for recreational purposes. Notes that River Road is NOT designed to support the additional traffic for a station of this size.
116	6/23/2004	Ben Gottfried	Susquehanna Region Coordinator - Empire State Passengers Association	E-mail	Requested 25 copies of project fact sheet and NJT operations handouts if they exist. Notes that NJT's role as an intercity rail carrier offers all three State new opporutnities and challenges.
117	6/30/2004	Michael Follow		Telephone & Letter	Requested to be on mailing list
118	-	David Peter Allan		Contacted W. Kuser	Requeested 20 copies of project fact sheet
119	-	Pete Cullen		Contacted W. Kuser	Change of address
120	7/1/2004	Gene Feyl	Mayor of Denville	Letter	Strongly objects to the Lackawanna Cut-Off Project; outlines specific concerns in letter with regards to 1) sprawl 2)) viability 3) frieght 4) air quality 5) noise 6) cost
121	6/23/2004	Edward J. Sekula Jr.	Lake Musconetcong Regional Planning Board - Chairman	Letter	Proposing constructing a rail spur to Lake Musconetcong, dredging the lake, and using the material as either fill or top soil for construction of the cut-off; is in favor of the project and offered to help in any way
122	-	Kevin R. Aitker	Citizen - Sparta	Open House Comment Sheet	For the project
123	-	Shawn Muller	Citizen - Lake Hiawatha	Open House Comment Sheet	For the project
124	-	Paul Schirra	Citixen - Scranton	Open House Comment Sheet	For the project
125	-	J. Vincent	Citizen - Clarks Summit, PA	Open House Comment Sheet	For the project
126	-	Erika Saunders	Pfizer employee	E-mail to W. Kuser	Self and several others from Pfizer (office near Grand Central Staton) are considering moving to PA & want to know the commuting options; requesting 1) timeline for project 2) where stations will be in PA - will determine where they will have homes built

**NJ TRANSIT Lackawanna Cut-Off Passenger Rail Service Restoration Project:  
Open House Comment Log**

<b>ID #</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Affiliation (Resident, Mayor, Etc., + location)</b>	<b>Comment Form</b>	<b>Summary of Comment</b>
127	-	Robert Simpson	Citizen - Mt. Tabor	Open House Comment Sheet	Against the project because of cost, burden to taxpayers, and hauling of garbage
128	-	Adam Paladini	Citizen - Highland Lakes	Open House Comment Sheet	For the project
129	7/6/2004	William Wright	Citizen - Craford	Letter	For the project; comments 1) double track 2) should handle local trains and Amtrak to Binghampton, Syracuse and Niagara Falls 3) should handle at least one Class One freight rail operation
130	-	Debra Natyzak	Frelinghuysen Township Committeeperson	Open House Comment Sheet	Frelinghuysen Township has the old Johnsonburg station. It is a hazardm used as a dump and get complaints to clean up and restrict access. Township Committee "eager to get the site back into operation"