

Workgroup 10: Dave Mason

Transportation infrastructure

Vision Excerpts

We upgrade and expand our visitor amenities.

Our core vision is of interdependent yet self-reliant communities that:

- *Significantly reduce fossil fuel use* through:
 - Human muscle power in the form of biking and walking on improved and safer inter-hamlet bikeways and trails
 - More use of shared transportation systems (Regional busses, local delivery services, rail)
- *Upgrade public utility infrastructure, including sewer, broadband, roads, etc.*

As further trust and good communication is developed among the key constituencies, more strategic actions are possible, including:

- An amendment process that:
 - Enables counties and town roads to be updated to handle climate change

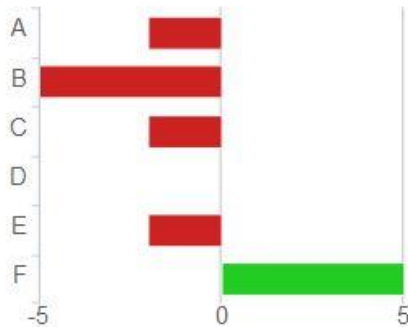
Events

#104 Regular Severe Weather Events Stress the Park
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Regular Severe Weather Events Stress The Park

Climate change has put more water vapor in the atmosphere and caused more precipitation. There are now regular heavy floods in winter and spring. Severe and violent thunderstorms cause blowdowns and fires, and there are more frequent power and communications outages. They regularly tear up roads and destroy bridges which are increasingly difficult to repair before the next disaster. All this puts pressure on Federal Disaster relief, local government and local emergency services.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

State Adds \$3m to Keene and Jay Flood Resilience Budget

The 2 towns had been promise \$6m if they created a credible plan. Many NYS towns were part of the same program. The plan produced by Keene and Jay won a state-wide award that resulted in an added \$3m for a total of \$9m.

[Read the news story here.](#)

125 New Weather Stations Coming to NYS

Buyouts of Flooded Homes in Essex County Completed

Numerous Rt 73 Flood Damaged Bridges to be Replaced

DEC Decides to Remove Storm Damaged Marcy Dam

FEMA Flood Plain Mapping Near Completion

State Puts \$6m Into Keene and Jay Flood Work

Tropical Storm Irene in August 2011

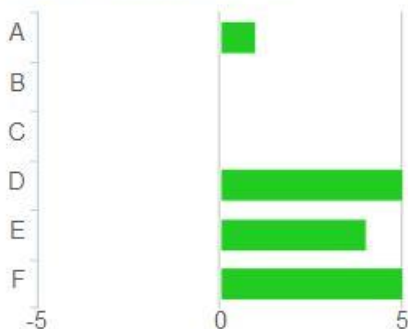
Lake Champlain reaches record levels and floods

June 2013 flooding

Towns Merge Highway Departments

With financial pressures building due to the Property Tax Cap, Towns have been forced to cut costs significantly. One relatively easy step for some towns is to merge their highway departments with those in neighboring towns or with their county department.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Washington County Starts Talks for Highway Dept Changes

Washington County has begun to review options for consolidating highway departments.

[Read the news story here.](#) And 2 months later, more discussion about snow plowing [here](#).

State Offers Taxpayer Rebates for Towns Sharing Services

Lake George Town and Village Sign Sharing Agreement

Some Town and Village Sharing Discussions Starting

2022 : Regulation

1 Comments

Amendment Allows Use of Roadways for Community Utilities

Most of the State highways that run through the Park travel over land that is part of the Forest Preserve. This means that telecom, water or sewer systems can not be put under the roadbed, which is the obvious corridor for installing new utility infrastructure. This amendment solves this problem once and for all. If you want to bury something under an existing State or County highway to meet a community need, it is now allowable. (Town roads not included)

Evidence

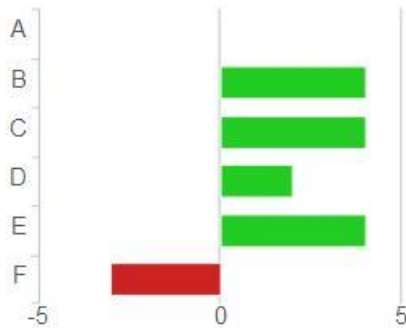
CGA Group Offers White Paper on Utility Amendment

The CGA Amendment Working Group released a white paper offering a proposal to allow buried utilities under roads as part of a larger proposal.

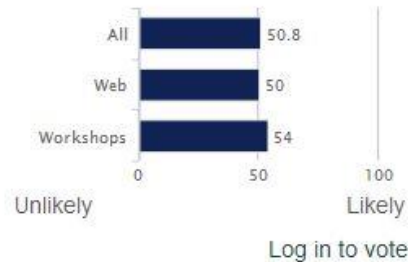
The paper and data can be found [here](#).

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



2022 : Regulation

1 Comments

Amendment Creates Community Small Project Land Bank

The new land bank facilitates small swaps of Forest Preserve land for community needs like water wells, power lines, broadband fiber, inter-village bike paths, etc. Formerly, each of these small things required a lengthy and costly constitutional amendment process. This is modeled on an existing Transportation Land Bank that gives DOT the flexibility to maintain roads in wilderness areas. There are strict guidelines for approval of projects and there are a fixed number of relatively few acres (e.g., 500) in the bank.

Evidence

CGA Group Releases White Paper Describing a New Land Bank

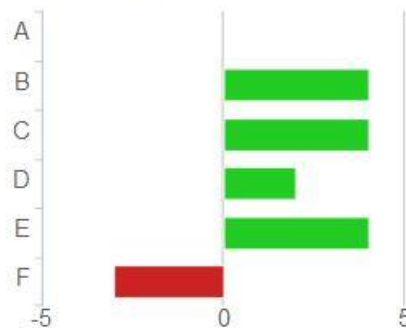
The CGA Amendment Working Group released a white paper describing an approach to a land bank for town and county roads and community projects.

The details can be found [here](#).

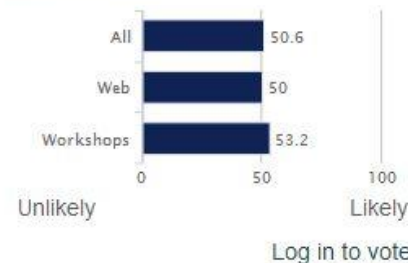
DEC and Rq Lake Finalize 7yo Land Swap for Water Wells

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



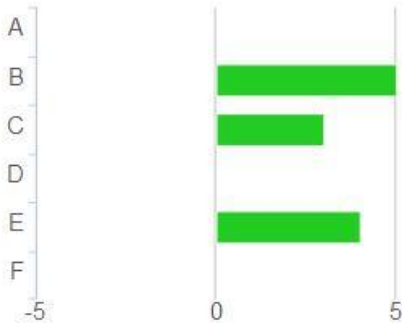
2022 : Transportation

0 Comments

Airports in and Near the Park Expand Flights to Major Cities

A major airline (e.g., Southwest) now operates at the Plattsburgh Airport so there are more flights to major cities like New York and Washington. The Watertown Airport now handles medium-sized jets and has a few flights to major cities including Chicago.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

LP Airport Adding 15 Airplane Parking Space

The Lake Placid airport is adding new apron parking for 15 planes. This is 90% FAA funded.

[Read the news story here.](#)

Cape Air Halts Plan for Flights to Westchester Airport

LP and SLK Airports See \$1.1m for Upgrades

Plattsburgh Airport Gets \$4.5m for Terminal Expansion

\$55m Expansion of Plattsburgh Airport Approved

Saranac Lake Airport to get \$1 million terminal expansion, upgrade

Plattsburgh is to begin expansion construction in 2014

Airport Upgrade Grants Flowing

[Log in to add evidence](#)

2027 : Transportation

0 Comments

Busses and Other Shared Transportation Widely Used

To reduce auto use and oil dependency, inter-village transport systems were put in place in many areas of the Park. Most are busses that run on propane or perhaps some kind of syngas derived from wood. These shared transportation options are most heavily used by people getting to work, as well as by seniors and some tourists.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

Essex Public Bus Usage Weak

Now the bus is just a flag down service along specified routes and times. Still, it is not getting much usage. Bus systems are organized by Counties, so this one connects to neighboring County systems

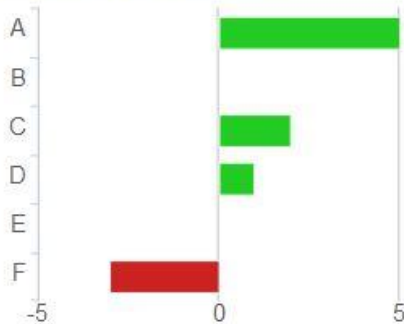
[You can see the bus route here.](#)

[Log in to add evidence](#)

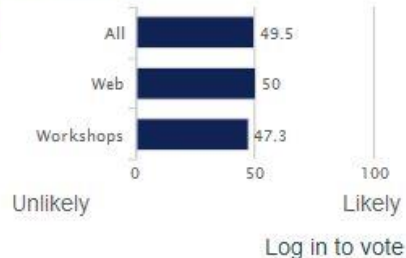
DOT Shifts Engineering Resources Toward Environment

DOT is no longer building interstates and the issues it faces more often involve environmental protection. It has hired many more environmental engineers while it has allowed its traditional highway engineering staff to decline through attrition. These new staff tackle problems like substitutes for road salt, bigger culverts more suited for wildlife migration, etc.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Log in to vote

Evidence

New Beet Brine Replacing Some Road Salt

The NYS Thruway is testing a new beet brine mixture to reduce salt in winter.

[Read the DOT news release here.](#)

New Road Salt Being Used in Lake George

Porous Pavement Project Shows Promise

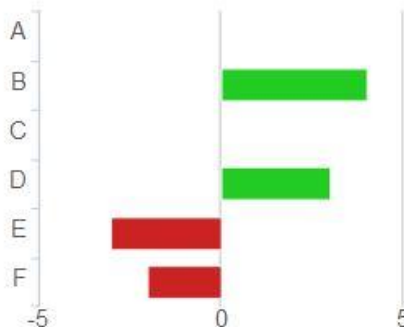
Lots of Storm Damaged Bridges to be Replaced

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Highway "Branding" Efforts Stepped Up

After years of neglect, there is now renewed investment in distinctive signage, guardrails, informational stops, and rest areas within the Park. This cohesiveness makes it clear to visitors that they have crossed the Blue Line. Officials have come to an agreement with the US Dept of Transportation with respect to signage.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Log in to vote

Evidence

New Washington Cty Tourism Map Online

The map is intended to guide tourists to numerous small sites the county has to offer. The county includes the eastern shore of Lake George.

[Check out the map here.](#)
[Read the news story here.](#)

One Scenic Byway Turning to a Phone App

State Spends \$12m to Rebuild Whiteface Mtn Highway

Scenic Byways, Bikeways and Blueways growing

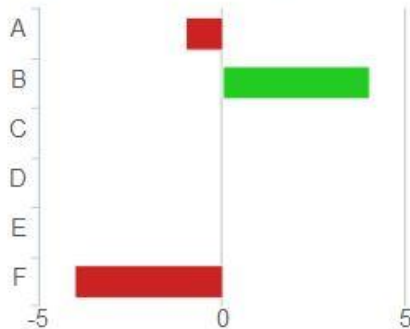
Roadway Upgrades Aim to Create World Class Driving Tours

Road projects throughout the Park are being coordinated to create a world class experience for visitors in cars. New and upgraded viewing areas, consistent design elements for signage, guard rails, enhanced maps suggesting routes and attractions, etc. New phone apps help people identify what mountains they are seeing, direct them to places where they can watch rock climbers and tell them where the nearest gas station and rest rooms are located.

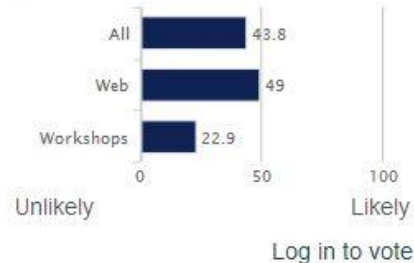
Evidence

[Log in to add evidence](#)

Influenced Scenarios



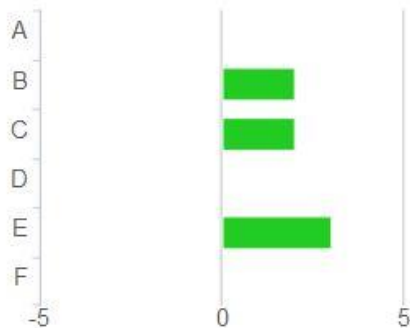
Likelihood



Saratoga – North Creek RR Begins Regular Service

The Iowa Pacific Company has invested in the line that connects to Amtrak in Saratoga making it work well for New Yorkers. Passenger counts exceeded all expectations, bringing skiers and summer visitors to North Creek w/o a car all year round. Freight service has been added. An extension to Newcomb is in the works as a green solution to hauling mine tailings to markets now reached by trucks.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

80% of Iowa Pacific Holdings Sold

Iowa Pacific Holdings owns the Saratoga North Creek RR and 13 other short rail operations. The news investors are expected to add financial strength to the company.

[Read the news story here.](#)

Hadley, Thurman RR Stations Being Repaired

Stone Shipments to Begin on S-NC Rail Line

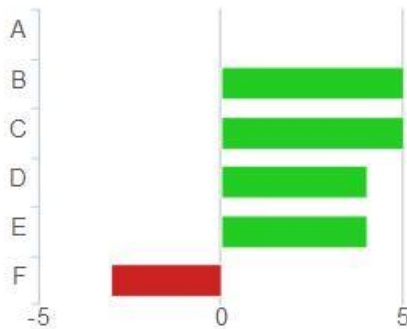
The train is so successful that events are being created based on train access

Freight is the real business, not passengers

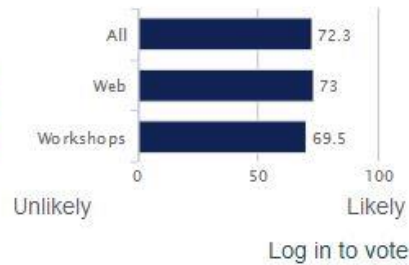
Main Street Revitalization Grants Improve Hamlets

Relative to Vermont, for example, many ADK hamlets and villages were ugly and run down. To attract new residents and small shops, a variety of grants are used to improve the look and feel of Main Streets all over the Park.

Influenced Scenarios



Likelihood



Evidence

▶ **\$300k Added to Smart Growth Program**

▶ **Port Henry Gets \$131k Mainstreet Improvement Grant**

▼ **Lake George and Saranac Lake get Sidewalk Grants**

Lake George (\$1.1m) and Saranac Lake (\$800k) have received grants to improve pedestrian and bike routes.

[Read the LG story here](#)
[Read the SLK story here.](#)

▶ **Saranac Lake Mainstreet Revitalization Project Funded**

▶ **Lyons Falls Mainstreet Revitalization Project Funded**

▶ **Northville Approves Historic District Plan**

▶ **Lake George Wins \$100k for Streetscape Improvements**

▶ **5 Hamlets Complete "Smart Growth 3" Projects**

▶ **Saranac Lake forming a "Downtown Advisory Board"**

▶ **Plan approved to make Saranac Lake more bike and pedestrian friendly**

▶ **Lake George REDC grant will begin revitalization plan**

▶ **Lake George Village accepts 6 story zoning**