

**Town of Beekman Recreation & Parks**

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April 15, 2016

Honorable Anthony Foxx, Secretary of Transportation  
U.S Department of Transportation  
1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington DC, 20590

Dear Secretary Foxx:

I am writing in support of the Dutchess County and Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's (HVRTA) application to complete the eight-mile trail connection between the Village of Millerton and Under Mountain Road in the Town of Ancram; the tunnel crossing of State Route 22 at the intersection of State Route 22 and Orphan Farm Rd (Copake Falls); and 3 pedestrian bridges to connect to the trail at Black Grocery Rd in Copake. These three components will finish approximately 28 miles of trail from Wassaic (Dutchess County) to Hillsdale (Columbia County), linking to New York City via Metro North Railroad. Upon completion the entire trail will be 46 miles.

The mission of Beekman Recreation and Parks includes encouraging a healthy lifestyle. The use of walking and biking trails has greatly increased among our residents. Adding to the length of the HVRT will foster more and extended use and be a nearby benefit to our community. We at Beekman Rec are excited at the prospect of this project which will join two counties, NY State Parks, and a not for profit in a project which will become a destination for residents of our Town along with many others from near and far.

I am hopeful that the you and the review committee will consider a grant for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association to aid them in improving this important "connection" in eastern Dutchess and Columbia Counties. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jeanne Scigliano  
Recreation Director

The mission of the Town of Beekman Recreation & Parks Department is to provide recreational opportunities which will encourage a healthy and active lifestyle. We strive to promote lifelong leisure skills and to enhance the quality of life and sense of community for all residents of the Town of Beekman.

