



Choose Columbia

Columbia Economic Development Corporation

April 18, 2016

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

**RE: Federal Highway TIGER Grant
Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association (HVRTA)**

Dear Secretary Foxx,

Columbia Economic Development Corporation (CEDC) is pleased to extend its support for the Dutchess County and the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's (HVRTA) Federal Highway TIGER Grant application to complete the eight-mile trail connection between the Village of Millerton and the Town of Ancram.

The completion of the rail trail between Columbia and Dutchess Counties will provide economic and public health benefits, and has a positive effect on community pride and identity. Rail trails across the country have increased value of nearby properties and boost spending at local businesses – increasing tax revenues in the communities in which they are located. Trails make communities more attractive places to live and provide low or no-cost recreation to all who enjoy them.

The project supports the vision of the Capital District Economic Development Council for community revitalization and the Commissioner's priority to enhance public attraction to and enjoyment of our cities, towns and villages.

Sincerely,

Tony Jones, Board Chair
Columbia Economic Development Corporation