



# Hudson River Valley Greenway

1991 Celebrating 25 Years 2016

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Acting Chair  
Greenway Conservancy

**MARK CASTIGLIONE**  
Acting Executive Director

April 20, 2016

Robert H. Balkind, P.E.  
Deputy Commissioner  
Dutchess County Department of Public Works  
626 Dutchess Turnpike  
Poughkeepsie, New York 12603

Dear Mr. Balkind,

The Hudson River Valley Greenway is pleased to support your Harlem Valley Rail Trail Phase IV project in Dutchess County, New York.

The Hudson River Valley Greenway and Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area were established in large part to preserve and promote the cultural resources and historic places of the Hudson River Valley. Our two organizations support collaborative efforts between residents, government agencies, nonprofit organizations, and private partners to interpret and celebrate the nationally-significant history of our region. In addition to the tangible benefits of these preservation efforts, our activities are essential in promoting a popular appreciation for these historical and cultural sites to both residents and visitors alike.

The Harlem Valley Rail Trail is a designated Greenway Trail. The goal of the Greenway Trail program is to establish a trail network that will connect people to the river, their communities and other significant recreational, historic and cultural resources. The Harlem Valley Rail Trail is an important link in this network, and completing this trail connection will provide essential connections between communities. This project will 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 Road (Copake Falls); and 3 pedestrian bridges to connect to the trail at Black Grocery Road 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 and will be a premier destination trail within the Hudson River Valley Greenway Trail system.

The project is in keeping with the vision of the Hudson River Valley Greenway and the Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area, and therefore it has our full support.

Sincerely,

Mark Castiglione  
Acting Executive Director  
Hudson River Valley Greenway  
Hudson River Valley National Heritage Area