



SAVING THE LAND THAT MATTERS MOST

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April 26, 2016

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

RE: Application for TIGER Grant to support Harlem Valley Rail Trail Extension

Dear Secretary Foxx:

Scenic Hudson is writing to support the Dutchess County and Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association's (HVRTA) TIGER Grant application to complete the eight-mile trail connection between the Village of Millerton and Under Mountain Road in the Town of Ancram.

This segment includes 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. Upon completion, these three components will connect approximately 28 miles of trail between Wassaic (Dutchess County) and Hillsdale (Columbia County). The connection to Metro North Railroad's Wassaic Station provides access to thousands of New York City area bicyclists. Upon completion the trail will extend 46 miles from Wassaic north to the Village of Chatham, well into Columbia County.

While this project is outside Scenic Hudson's primary service area, we recognize the importance of the Harlem Valley Rail Trail to the Hudson Valley's emerging rail trail network. We also appreciate the fact that the Harlem Valley Rail Trail is a regional asset providing connections between several villages and hamlets in eastern Dutchess and Columbia Counties. As such, Scenic Hudson believes that the trail will serve as both a transportation and economic benefit to the region.

Scenic Hudson urges your consideration of this grant for the Harlem Valley Rail Trail Association to help complete this important connection between eastern Dutchess and Columbia Counties.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andy Bicking, Director of Public Policy and Special Projects
Scenic Hudson, Inc.