

# WINNAKEE



## LAND TRUST

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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.

Winnakee Land Trust has been working diligently with public and private partners to implement a long term strategy for a network of trails and lands in Dutchess County. This important project is a critical part of that effort and will establish vital non-motorized transportation linkages that have implications for reducing greenhouse gas emissions, improving public health, creating safe routes for people of all ages.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this important project for Dutchess and Columbia Counties.

Sincerely,

Gregg Swanzey  
Executive Director

