

Draft - November 10, 2015

Dennis Doyle
Ulster County Planning Director & Staff
Ulster County Transportation Council
244 Fair Street
P.O. Box 1800
Kingston, NY 12402

**Joint Letter of Support for New Paltz Submissions to Ulster County
Transportation Council for Three New Paltz Projects Proposed to Receive
Implementation within the 2016/2017 Unified Planning Work Program**

Dear Dennis:

On November 10, 2015 the New Paltz Village Board and Town Board met jointly on various topics of mutual interest. The communities share a transportation network. We have similar economic destinies in that if we are able to successfully plan, develop and manage the transportation system, and achieve its efficient and effective operation, then the whole community will benefit. At this meeting the joint boards discussed and each respectively authorized, by voice vote, this letter urging the Transportation Council's prioritization of the following New Paltz projects within its 2016/2017 Unified Planning Work Program (UPWP):

- A New Paltz Congestion Management & Parking Study;
- Formulation of a Plan for Enhancing the Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Linear Park and Gateways in New Paltz's Core; and
- Establishment of Streetscape Plan for a Vital North Chestnut Street.

New Paltz Congestion Management & Parking Study - The limited grid in New Paltz's core, with one major west-east route -- Main Street/ Route 299 -- offers travelers, including visitors, only one primary way to access open space and recreation environments, including cultural events at the County Fairgrounds. There is a significant, long-standing problem of this Main Street corridor frequently experiencing congestion on weekends. This project will establish strategies to alleviate non-recurrent congestion and proactively address event and destination traffic management and mitigation. Both Boards agree this is our highest priority.

Plan for Enhancing Wallkill Valley Rail Trail Linear Park & Gateways in New Paltz's Core – This project is a facility and transportation study that will draw-on community input to define ways to optimize active transport and open space and recreation level of service on this heavily used part of the trail. The study will explore how to establish a hub within the burgeoning regional trail system. It will present, test and refine alternative linear park and active transport design options for the trail and its gateways, generating planning-level cost estimates and graphics that can be used to advance next-stage readiness, including future grant applications. Design process will explore notions like: adding benches and viewing areas, unified wayfinding and interpretive signage, gateway improvements, lighting and landscaping enhancements, and trail surface/ tread improvements. Overall, the project will show how to optimize resource use, recommend strategies to manage this linear park, and facilitate complementary adjacent land use, such as through better connections to Huguenot Street and linkage with adjacent properties.

Streetscape Plan for a Vital North Chestnut Street –State Rte. 32 North is zoned for mixed-use and pedestrian-scale development. Yet, the corridor has a highway-use orientation. This plan will define capital improvements and mitigation that can be applied by local government and property owners to establish improved form and ambiance, including to achieve a more complete street. The plan will bolster concepts and strategies for infill and incrementally building-out 'green infrastructure', including the street tree canopy, and integrated sidewalk and bicycle facilities. This will solidify the vision for the street and property development within this priority growth area.

Thank you for your anticipated support of these important New Paltz studies. Both municipalities look forward to collaborating with you on them.

Sincerely,

Honorable Susan Zimet
Town Supervisor

Tim Rogers
Mayor