



Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation  
Taconic Region Commission

Kathy Hochul  
Governor

Erik Kulleseid  
Commissioner

April 11, 2023

The Honorable Kathy Hochul  
Governor of the State of New York  
New York State Capitol Building  
Albany, NY 12224

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Taconic Region Commissioners  
Edgar M. Masters, Chair  
Randall J. Fleischer  
Frederick H. Osborn, III  
Linda Tarrant-Reid  
Pamela Tillinghast Dubitsky  
Jared Rodriguez, Commission Pending  
Emily Saland, Commission Pending

Re: Redesign of Westchester Route 9 Corridor

Dear Governor Hochul:

It has come to the attention of the Taconic Region Commission (the Commission) that the New York State Department of Transportation (the DOT) intends to undertake a redesign effort for the Westchester Route 9 Corridor from the Yonkers/Hastings-on-Hudson border to the northern border of Sleepy Hollow (the Corridor). We understand the DOT has selected a design engineer and will begin a public outreach and design process beginning Spring 2023. We applaud the DOT's efforts to consider the transportation, safety and environmental needs of the communities residing on either side of this vital Corridor. **The Commission is particularly interested in how the DOT's efforts will support and enhance safe connections to our various State Parks facilities within the project area and how certain gaps in pedestrian access may be closed.**

The Corridor contains connections to and sections of New York State Parks facilities including the Old Croton Aqueduct State Historic Park and Rockefeller State Park Preserve. It knits these important parks and sites together with other major Hudson Valley historic and recreation sites including Phillipsburg Manor, Kykuit, Sunnyside, the Mario Cuomo Bridge Shared Use Path, Lyndhurst Manor, the Old Dutch Church and Sleepy Hollow Cemetery, and more. Together, these intertwined sites of local, national, and global importance are an economic engine for all of New York State.

**The Commission is encouraged by relatively recent advancements and considerations for traffic planning and international design best practices.** We are eager to see the Corridor improved from its current condition. The Commission is excited to work toward repairing broken sections of the Old Croton Aqueduct pathway. We believe the DOT is highly capable of delivering a world class corridor which is sensitive to pedestrian safety, tourism and recreation, and the local economy; one that is capable of smoothing and improving the flow of travelers on two wheels, four wheels, or two feet. The work the DOT does is critically

important to the vitality and sustainability of New York State Parks and to the Taconic Region. **We request regular updates on the project and its progress, a meeting with the Governor's Office and DOT officials to discuss the project in the context of our Region's priorities, and an opportunity to participate in ongoing public outreach sessions. Furthermore, the Commission requests that DOT officials accept additional comments from the Commission as the project design evolves.**

Sincerely,



Edgar M. Masters, Chair  
PO Box 1, Copake Falls, NY 12517  
(518) 329-6451

and on behalf of:

Randall J. Fleischer, Taconic Region Commissioner  
Frederick H. Osborn III, Taconic Region Commissioner  
Linda Tarrant-Reid, Taconic Region Commissioner  
Pamela Tillinghast Dubitsky, Taconic Region Commissioner  
Jared Rodriguez, Taconic Region Commission Pending  
Emily Saland, Taconic Region Commission Pending

CC: Stacy Lynch, Chief of Staff to the Governor  
Erik Kulleseid, Commissioner, NYS Office of Parks, Recreation & Historic Preservation  
Minelly De Coo, Deputy Director of Infrastructure  
Nivardo Lopez, Deputy Secretary to the Governor on Transportation  
Marie Therese Dominguez, Commissioner, New York State Dept. of Transportation  
Janice McLachlan, Chief of Staff, New York State Dept. of Transportation