

March 3, 2026

Commissioner Marie Therese Dominguez, Esq.  
NYS Department of Transportation  
Albany,  
NY 12238

Dear Commissioner Dominguez,

**Putnam County Transportation Alternatives Program – Fair Street Grant Application**

[Philipstown Advocates for Trails \(PAT\)](#) wishes to express strong and unreserved support for Putnam County's Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) grant application to build a sidewalk from VCS's Mayor's Park to Little Stony Point, the Hudson Highlands State Park and the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail (HHFT) along Fair Street.

[PAT](#) was established in May 2024 as a grassroots organization committed to promoting the construction, upkeep and access of multi-use trails and paths for community residents, both for their recreation and as a means of getting around the neighborhood. We have almost 200 followers, mainly residents of Philipstown. While our followers have a range of views, the vast majority are supporters of the HHFT and keen to see it realized as soon as possible with safe connections to the Village of Cold Spring (VCS) by way of sidewalks on Morris Avenue and Fair Street as well as direct access via Dockside Park. We are also keen advocates for improving the ability to get around the neighborhood on foot or bicycle and in wheelchair or stroller.

The TAP grant promises to fill a much-needed hole in the sidewalk connecting VCS to Little Stony Point. For many years now increasing numbers of hikers have walked the gauntlet of walking in the roadway along Fair Street and risk being knocked down by a motor vehicle. We have also noticed how the hard shoulder - the space between the white line marking the edge of the road and the verge - has been narrowed, giving even more space to vehicles and even less to walkers. This is an intolerable situation. Pedestrians should be given greater priority. After all we are all pedestrians: we are not all motorists.

If the project is approved, PAT will help promote awareness of the route and how it offers safe access to the Hudson Highlands State Park and HHFT.

In closing we wish to commend VCS and the Town of Philipstown for making significant recent improvements to village sidewalks and pedestrian crossings. We also wish to thank Brian Nice and Ronan Kiter for their efforts to improve and extend sidewalks on Morris Avenue.

We thank you for considering our support for the grant application.

Yours sincerely,

*Michael Guillorn, Kathleen McLane, Joe Del Santo and Paul Thompson (for Philipstown Advocates for Trails)*