

**Establishing The Ulster County U&D TRAC (Trail Rail Advisory Committee)**

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Maloney and Legislators Berky, Delaune, Lapp, Litts, Maio and Rodriguez)

Chairman Kenneth J. Ronk, Jr. and Majority Leader Mary Beth Maio offer the following:

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster owns 38.6 miles of the Ulster and Delaware Railroad corridor (U&D corridor); and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 275 of 2014, the Ulster County Legislature established the County's policy for the U & D corridor; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 155 of 2015, the Ulster County Legislature created the Ulster and Delaware Corridor Advisory Committee to make an assessment of this distinctive County asset and to determine the highest and best use of it; and

WHEREAS, the U&D Corridor Advisory Committee had copious meetings and hired a consultant to assist the Committee in its mission; and

WHEREAS, the U&D Corridor Advisory Committee filed its findings and recommendations with the Clerk of the Legislature at the end of November 2015 and such recommendations included an amendment to the Ulster County policy on the U&D corridor as well as the release for a Request for Proposals (RFPs) for potential tourism railroad operators following the expiration of the current U&D lease which expires on May 31, 2016; and

WHEREAS, by Resolution No. 488 of 2015, the Ulster County Legislature amended the County's policy on the U&D corridor and required the release of an RFP for potential railroad operators 90 days after Resolution No. 488 went into effect; and

WHEREAS, on March 17, 2016, the Director of Purchasing released the RFP for a Tourist Railroad Operator; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature is an important participant in the advancement of the U&D corridor and seeks to keep the process of its development open and transparent; and

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WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature wants to ensure that there are continued benefits of railroad events to businesses in uptown Kingston and to expand trail use throughout the U&D corridor; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature appreciates the time and effort expended by the U&D Corridor Advisory Committee and deems its recommendations as worthwhile and, accordingly, desires to see that the Committee's recommendations are abided by; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ulster County Charter Section C-16 and the Administrative Code Section A2-11: "*Advisory committees, commissions and boards. Members of all citizens' committees, commissions and boards appointed pursuant to Section C-11K of the Charter shall serve at the pleasure of the County Legislature. They shall serve without compensation other than for actual and necessary expenses within appropriations made therefor, unless otherwise provided by resolution of the County Legislature. The Chairman of the County Legislature shall be a member ex-officio of all such committees, commissions and boards;*" and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Ulster County Charter Section C-47, "The Director of Planning and/or the County Planning Board shall perform such other and related duties as required by the County Executive or County Legislature," now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the U&D TRAC (Trail Rail Advisory Committee) shall be established for the general oversight of the development of the U&D Corridor, and be it further

RESOLVED, that the U&D TRAC shall be comprised of six members of the Ulster County Legislature, 3 of whom shall be appointed by the Majority Leader, and 3 of whom shall be appointed by the Minority Leader, for a term commencing at the effective date of this Resolution through December 31, 2017; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the Director of Planning, or designee, shall update the U&D TRAC at each of its meetings as to the status of various projects along the Corridor, including but not limited to the available and secured funding sources for each project, and the on-going maintenance plan for the segmented rail with trail Corridor, and move its adoption.

