

**Creating The Ulster & Delaware Corridor Advisory Committee -  
Ulster County Legislature**

Referred to: The Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee (Chairman Briggs and Legislators Allen, Archer, Bartels, Litts, Maio, and Maloney), and The Ways and Means Committee (Chairman Gerentine and Legislators Allen, Belfiglio, Briggs, Gregorius, Maio, Maloney, and Richard Parete)

Legislators Lynn Archer, Manna Jo Greene, and Kenneth Ronk offer the following:

WHEREAS, the County of Ulster purchased a 38.6-mile Ulster and Delaware Railroad (U & D) corridor in 1979 to promote economic development through expanded tourism and to provide recreational opportunities; and

WHEREAS, the Ulster County Legislature had determined that it was critical to establish a policy for the future uses of this important, under-utilized, public asset; and

WHEREAS, Resolution No. 275 of 2014 establishes Ulster County's policy for a segmented "rail with trail" plan for the U&D corridor; and

WHEREAS, it is incumbent for the Ulster County Legislature to ensure that its policies are in agreement with attaining the greatest good for its constituents; and

WHEREAS, the long-term economic success of this policy warrants a heightened fact finding, public examination and study of its policy for the U&D corridor situated within Ulster County to determine the most beneficial options obtainable; 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;*" now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the "U&D Corridor Advisory Committee" shall be established for the purpose of:

- a. Conducting a thorough reexamination and study of the work completed to date, with the addition of an economic assessment, by township, with respect to optimum economic feasibility of the U&D Corridor;

**Resolution No. 155      April 21, 2015**

**Creating The Ulster & Delaware Corridor Advisory Committee -  
Ulster County Legislature**

- b. Following Ulster County's procurement process, the committee will retain the services of an independent consultant to assist with the review and additional research, as defined by the committee, to help determine the most appropriate development of the U&D Corridor;
- c. By no later than November 30, 2015, the Advisory Committee shall present its findings to the Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning and Transit Committee, in the form of a written report, which shall set forth proposed next steps in the process of carrying out Ulster County's existing policy regarding the U&D Corridor; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the membership of the U&D Corridor Advisory Committee shall be comprised of the following members for a term commencing present through December 31, 2015:

- 1. Lynn Archer (District 21)
- 2. Ken J. Ronk (District 13)
- 3. Mary Beth Maio (District 10)
- 4. Herb Litts (District 9)
- 5. David Donaldson (District 6)
- 6. Manna Jo Greene (District 19)
- 7. Tracey Bartels (District 16)

and, be it further

RESOLVED, to retain the services of an independent consultant pursuant to (b) above, the 2015 Ulster County Budget is hereby amended as follows:

**TRANSFER**

<b><u>FROM</u></b>		<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
A4-1331-4553	Contingency	\$30,000.00
<b><u>TO</u></b>		<b><u>AMOUNT</u></b>
A4-1006-4400	Other Fees for Professional Services	\$30,000.00

and, be it further

**Resolution No. 155      April 21, 2015**

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Ulster County Legislature**

RESOLVED, the U&D Corridor Advisory Committee will seek input from groups including, but not limited to, the Environmental Management Council, the Ulster County Trails Advisory Committee, the Catskill Mountain Railroad as current lessee; the Ulster County Department of Planning, Department of the Environment, Tourism Department, the Ulster County Transportation Council and the NYC DEP; and, be it further

RESOLVED, that the County Executive may appoint staff from the Executive branch of government to assist the U&D Corridor Advisory Committee in its work, and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES:

NOES:

Passed Committee: Economic Development, Tourism, Housing, Planning, and Transit on April 7, 2015

Passed Committee: Ways and Means on \_\_\_\_\_.

FINANCIAL IMPACT:

\$30,000.00