

Ulster & Delaware Corridor Advisory Committee

DATE & TIME: March 20, 2025 at 5:00 PM
LOCATION: Legislative Chambers, 6th Floor, County Office Building, Kingston
PRESIDING OFFICER: Chair Collins
LEGISLATIVE STAFF: Michael Tierney, Legislative Support Specialist
MEMBERS PRESENT: Legislators Kovacs, Litts, Nolan, Sperry, Uchitelle
MEMBERS ABSENT: Legislator McCollough
QUORUM PRESENT: Yes
OTHER ATTENDEES: Meg Carey, Ken Harris, Harry Jameson, Kudakwashe Mvronda, Ernie Hunt, Jodi Hickey, Jackie Hinly, Marcia Roosa, David Hilliard, John Prestopino, Earl Pardini, Josie Pardini, Russ Bonk, Ken Anello, Bryan Blas, Ryan Lennox, Michael J. Marnell, Harrison Balduf, Dan Turgis, Val Nigrom Vinny Nigro, Larry Roth, Tony Bochino, Angela Bochino, Keisha Hoerrner, Steve Rice, Douglas Nikkila, Karl Beard, Kevin Smith, Paul Alexander, Nick Mercurio, Andy Mossey, Jurgen Benalk, David Hayes, Robin Panico, Michael Chrobot, Ralph Durham, Roger Gibson, Maxanne Resnick, Duncan Schmitt, Susan Auchincloss, Lou Kleppner, Betsy Blair, Phil Cosme

Chair Collins called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and asked Clerk Tierney to call the roll.

Motion No. 1: **Motion to Approve the Minutes of the March 18, 2025 Meeting**
Motion Made By: Legislator Nolan
Motion Seconded By: Legislator Sperry

Voting in Favor: Legislators Collins, Kovacs, Litts, McCollough, Nolan, Sperry, Uchitelle
Voting Against: None
Votes in Favor: 7
Votes Against: 0
Disposition: **Minutes Approved**

Chair Collins proposed a compromise plan, allowing the rail to extend across 28A far enough to allow the train to fully cross the roadway, while extending the trail from Basin Road to that point. Chair Collins also stated that he believes the Madden Building, owned by the County, could be of use to a rail operator as the destination sought after. Legislator Nolan stated that this proposal was advocated for in the past by Catskill Mountain Rail Road. Legislator Uchitelle stated that this seems like a reasonable compromise between the two interests that could allow for greater partnership between rails and trails.

Legislator Litts stated that Rail with Trail is feasible and would simply require lifting the track and adjusting its position within the corridor, adding that this has been offered to be paid for by Catskill Mountain Railroad at no cost to taxpayers. Legislator Nolan stated that the disposal of creosote rail ties would be a cost to the County and its removal should be in the hands of licensed remediators.

Legislator Litts stated that there is an agenda on this Committee as some members simply do not like rails. Legislators disagreed with that assessment.

Chair Collins stated that this proposal will be cheaper than Rail with Trail. He said that if the Committee were to make this recommendation, the Committee should ask NYSDOT to amend their PFRAP award to CMRR to assist with the renovation of the Madden House. Legislator Nolan stated that this is a reasonable compromise, using the existing footprint of the structures already present at this intersection.

Legislator Litts reiterated that it would not be cheaper than Rail with Trail as CMRR would be covering the cost. Chair Collins disagreed citing the narrowness of Stoney Hollow and the fragility of the wetland below. He also cited the estimated \$1 million cost of a new Beesmer Road Bridge. Legislator Litts said this would be offset by the rock cutting and filling.

Legislator Nolan stated that the reason this section of the corridor was not designated in the previous iteration of this Committee was precisely because of these issues.

Legislator Sperry stated that this is the start of a conversation on expansion and there is a lot to consider.

Legislator Litts stated that the Legislature has a disease of shooting from the hip and fixing the issues created from that after. Chair Collins stated that the Committee's recommendation is completely advisory and must go to the full body for a vote. The next steps should this compromise be recommended would be to develop buy in from all stakeholders and the County Executive.

Legislator Nolan stated any recommendation should prioritize site control by the County and connectivity between Kingston and the Ashokan Reservoir.

Legislator Kovacs stated that this compromise is a step in a positive direction and asked that he be given time to speak with the Town of Kingston for their input as the compromise destination would be within their community.

Adjournment

Motion Made By: Legislator Kovacs

Motion Seconded By: Legislator Litts

Votes in Favor: 5

Votes Against: 0

TIME: 6:19 PM

Respectfully Submitted: Michael Tierney, Legislative Support Specialist

Approved: April 24, 2025