



ULSTER COUNTY LEGISLATIVE NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION

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Chair of Ulster County Legislature Calls for Independent Study on U&D Corridor Options

(Kingston, NY) — In response to continued debate and unresolved questions surrounding the future use of the Ulster & Delaware (U&D) railroad corridor, Ulster County Legislature Chair Peter Criswell announced today that the Legislature will move forward with soliciting an independent feasibility study to guide its next steps.

“The U&D Corridor Committee completed its work with thoughtfulness and care, offering valuable recommendations and proposed resolutions,” said Criswell. “However, the Legislature’s recent vote to postpone a final decision made it clear that significant questions remain — particularly around cost, environmental and sound impacts, engineering feasibility, zoning, land ownership, and the proposed rail-trail compromise.”

To ensure those questions are fully addressed, Criswell has requested that the Office of the Clerk prepare a Request for Quotes (RFQ) to engage a qualified, independent agency to conduct a comprehensive **U&D Corridor Development Feasibility Report**. The study will include:

- A full cost comparison of trail-only, rail-only, and rail-with-trail options
- Review and synthesis of existing studies and committee findings
- Engineering feasibility analysis of critical corridor features, including wetlands and the Route 28A crossing
- Environmental and sound impact assessments
- Land use considerations, including zoning, parcel size, and land swap potential
- Preliminary depot concept planning, including parking and acreage needs
- Analysis of public input and stakeholder perspectives

“This is not a duplication of the committee’s work — it is the next step,” Criswell said, “The committee was charged with engaging stakeholders, understanding the history, and outlining options. This study will deliver a neutral, technical analysis of the fiscal and physical realities of each alternative, helping the Legislature make a fully informed, forward-looking decision.”

Criswell emphasized that while the study will come at a cost, that investment is minimal compared to the potential long-term financial, environmental, and legal risks of making a decision without complete information.

“We need to get this right — not just for today’s taxpayers, but for future generations,” Criswell said. “This is about responsible governance, sound planning, and ensuring the public has confidence in the decisions we make.”

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