



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

The Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller Empire State Plaza • Agency Building 1, Albany, New York 12238
www.nysparks.com

Eliot Spitzer
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

February 20, 2008

Representatives of Involved/Interested Agencies
(see attached distribution list)

Re: Walkway Over the Hudson
City of Poughkeepsie and Town of Lloyd, New York

To Whom It May Concern:

This project proposes to transform the dormant Poughkeepsie-Highland Railroad Bridge into a pedestrian and bicycle trail called "Walkway Over the Hudson." The bridge is currently owned by the not-for-profit organization Walkway Over the Hudson, which has been working closely with the Dyson Foundation to secure the necessary funds for the renovation of the bridge. The project will afford spectacular views of the Hudson River Valley and also serve as a link between extensive trail networks on either side of the Hudson River. The project is scheduled to open by September 2009 as part of the 2009 Henry Hudson Quadricentennial Celebration. Upon completion of the construction activities, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (New York State Parks) will assume responsibility for administering public use of the Walkway Over the Hudson, including staffing, operating costs, and maintaining the trail features and associated public facilities. Ownership of the bridge structure will be transferred to an appropriate New York State entity (not yet determined) which will be responsible for maintaining the bridge deck, steel superstructure, and substructure.

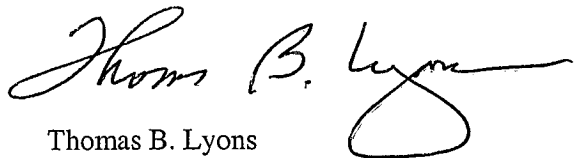
The enclosed Final Design Report is a follow-up to the Draft Design Report issued in November 2007. A public information session was held on January 9, 2008 to inform the public about the project and receive feedback and comments. Approximately 500 people attended the meeting and much support for the project was received. This report incorporates comments from both the community and involved agencies, and those comments are addressed in Chapter V of this Final Design Report.

With regard to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA) process, we believe that the necessary information is now available upon which to base a SEQRA Determination of Significance. This information is contained within the Final Design Report which describes the project, impacts and mitigation.

The detailed design phase of the project has begun, and the design team will continue to work with the community and involved agencies throughout this phase of the project. Demolition of the existing rails and decking is expected to begin in late Spring 2008, with construction of the new trail deck to begin in late Summer 2008.

We thank you for the feedback you've already provided on this project and look forward to continued cooperation. Should you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact me at (518) 474-0409, or by email at: Thomas.Lyons@oprhp.state.ny.us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Thomas B. Lyons". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

Thomas B. Lyons
Director
Resource Management

Enclosure