

**A. INTRODUCTION**

This document is a Draft Generic Environmental Impact Statement (DGEIS) for the Proposed Action. The DGEIS has been prepared in accordance with the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act (SEQRA). The Lead Agency, the New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation (OPRHP), previously determined that a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS) would be appropriate for the environmental review of the proposed Fjord Trail and issued a Final Scoping Document for the DGEIS in 2017. The reasons supporting this determination included the conceptual design of most of the proposed Fjord Trail at the time, the need to broadly analyze the cumulative impacts of a series of actions (phased development of the trail), and the regional extent of the proposed project area. To be clear, this DGEIS solely evaluates the “Proposed Action” as defined in Chapter II, “Project Description.” The DGEIS does not analyze or evaluate additional project elements which appear in the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Draft Master Plan (February 2020) but are not currently included in the Proposed Action, including the ‘Destination’ elements. If these additional project elements become active proposals in the future, supplemental environmental review would be required.

Per 6 NYCRR Part 617.10(a) of the regulations implementing SEQRA, “Generic EISs may be broader, and more general than site or project specific EISs. They may also include an assessment of specific impacts if such details are available. They may be based on conceptual information in some cases.”

While this DGEIS contains general assessments of the design phase of the Proposed Action, it also contains a more detailed review of the southern section of the Fjord Trail (i.e., Fjord Trail South) informed by detailed surveys, engineering feasibility studies, and constructability assessments, as discussed in Chapter I, “Introduction and Background.”

Following acceptance of the Final GEIS (FGEIS) and issuance of written findings, it is possible that no further SEQR review will be required provided that the necessary property acquisitions and arrangements have been completed and final approved design and construction plans conform to the trail alignment, designs, and conditions established in the FGEIS.

**B. SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

This DGEIS evaluates potential impacts from the Proposed Action and describes certain conditions that should be followed during any subsequent construction phase of the Proposed Action to ensure continued compliance with SEQRA. For example, as discussed in Chapters III.E, “Biological Resources – Fjord Trail North” and Chapters IV.E, “Biological Resources – Fjord Trail South,” wildlife and flora surveys would be conducted in certain circumstances to further inform planning and design of certain trail sections to help avoid and minimize potential impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. If these additional surveys show that the Proposed Action would have impacts not identified and adequately evaluated in the FGEIS, supplemental environmental review would be required. Similarly, as discussed in Chapter III.F, “Historical and

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Archeological Resources – Fjord Trail North,” depending on the ultimate trail alignment, further consultation with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) may be required to confirm whether there would be any impacts to archaeological resources that have not already been evaluated in the FGEIS. In addition, as design of the Proposed Action advances further and the permitting process proceeds, HHFT, Inc. will continue to consult with OPRHP including submitting design drawings of trail reaches or trail sections at regular intervals (e.g., 30 percent, 50 percent, 80 percent) for OPRHP’s review. A decision regarding construction of Main Trail Option 1 or Option 2 for Fjord Trail North will be made after further design analysis and coordination with OPRHP and all applicable regulatory agencies.

OPRHP would determine whether any design modifications would warrant supplemental environmental review, such as a substantial change in the trail alignment or the footprint of the trail or its ancillary components beyond those areas studied in the FGEIS or the addition of project components that are not included in the Proposed Action. Another circumstance requiring supplemental review would be newly discovered information or changed circumstances not considered in the FGEIS, such as the identification of newly protected species.

In the event of these various circumstances that may require supplemental environmental review, i.e., “project modifications”, HHFT, Inc. will submit to OPRHP technical memoranda and/or updated design drawings with sufficient information to allow OPRHP, as Lead Agency, to consider whether the project modifications will have significant adverse environmental impacts that are not addressed, or inadequately addressed, in the FGEIS.

If OPRHP determines the project modification is consistent with the FGEIS’s conditions and findings, it will issue a consistency determination. Alternatively, if OPRHP determines the project modification may result in significant adverse environmental impacts that have not been addressed, or adequately addressed, in the FGEIS or SEQRA findings, OPRHP may undertake supplemental environmental review. This supplemental review may include completion of supplemental environmental assessment forms, supplemental significance determinations, supplemental environmental impact statements, or amended or supplemental findings, as necessary. \*