

MARCUS J. MOLINARO
COUNTY EXECUTIVE



NOEL H.S. KNILLE, AIA, ASLA
COMMISSIONER

ROBERT H. BALKIND, P.E.
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER

COUNTY OF DUTCHESS
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

June 30, 2014

John Merwin, Supervisor & Town Board
Town of North East
19 North Maple Avenue, PO Box 516
Millerton, NY 12546

RE: NOTICE OF PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING AND EMINENT DOMAIN PUBLIC HEARING FOR:

PIN 8758.74 – HARLEM VALLEY RAIL TRAIL, PHASE 4, IN THE VILLAGE OF MILLERTON AND TOWN OF NORTH EAST IN DUTCHESS COUNTY, AND IN THE TOWN OF ANCRAM IN COLUMBIA COUNTY

Dear Supervisor Merwin & Town Board:

Dutchess County is pleased to announce that we have prepared preliminary design plans for our preferred alternative for the above referenced project in the Village of Millerton and Town of North East in Dutchess County, and the Town of Ancram in Columbia County. The plans and the design report have been reviewed by the New York State Department of Transportation, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, and New York State Office of Parks, Recreation, and Historic Preservation, and revised per their comments.

The County has retained the engineering firm of Clough, Harbour and Associates as design engineers and the firm of R.K. Hite & Co., Inc. as property consultants.

It is apparent that not all of the proposed work will be able to be completed within the existing right-of-way boundary, which the County leases from New York State. Therefore, it will be necessary to acquire additional rights to properties within the project corridor.

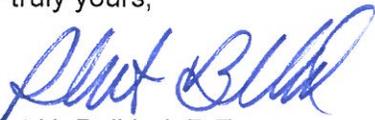
This project is being jointly funded by Dutchess County, Columbia County, the State of New York, and the federal government. As such, any property acquisition must be done in strict adherence with existing rules, regulations and laws. In order to comply with these requirements, Dutchess County will be holding a public hearing pursuant to Article 2 of the New York State Eminent Domain Procedure Law (EDPL). The purpose of this hearing is to outline the project purpose and location, provide an update on the project status and schedule, and to provide other pertinent information, including maps and descriptions of the properties to be acquired for the project. This letter is your official notification of the upcoming public hearing. Attached is a copy of the County's official Notice of Public Hearing Pursuant to The Eminent Domain Procedure Law, as it appears in the local newspapers. As indicated in this notice, the Public Information Meeting will take place at 6:30 P.M. on July 23, 2014, at The North East-Millerton Library Annex, 75 Main Street, Millerton, New York. The public hearing will immediately follow at 7:30 P.M. Representatives of Dutchess County and our consultant team will be available from

6:00 P.M. to 6:30 P.M. prior to the meetings to preview the proposed design. Detailed plans and drawings for the preferred alternative design and the Draft Design Report will be available at this time for your inspection. These documents are also available for public inspection at the Village Clerk's Office, Village of Millerton Village Hall, 21 Dutchess Avenue, Millerton, NY, 12546, or at the address below. Comments on the proposed project and EDPL Public Hearing will be accepted at the Engineering Division address below until 4:00 pm on August 6, 2014.

If you have any questions or comments in advance of this public hearing, please contact the Dutchess County Department of Public Works, Engineering Division, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, or by telephone at (845) 486-2925.

Thank you for your consideration and cooperation in this matter.

Very truly yours,



Robert H. Balkind, P.E.
Deputy Commissioner of Public Works

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Enc.: Notice of Public Hearing
Project Location Map

Dutchess County Department of Public Works
Engineering Division
626 Dutchess Turnpike
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PURSUANT TO THE
EMINENT DOMAIN PROCEDURE LAW**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that, in accordance with Article 2, Section 202 of the New York State Eminent Domain Procedure Law, notice is hereby given of a public hearing for PIN 8758.74 – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, Phase 4, in the Village of Millerton and Town of North East in Dutchess County, and in the Town of Ancram in Columbia County, on Wednesday, July 23, 2014 at 7:30 P.M. at The North East-Millerton Library Annex, 75 Main Street, Millerton, New York. An open house on the project will begin at 6:00 P.M. and a public information meeting will take place from 6:30 P.M. to 7:30 P.M. The public hearing pursuant to Eminent Domain Procedure Law will commence at 7:30 P.M.

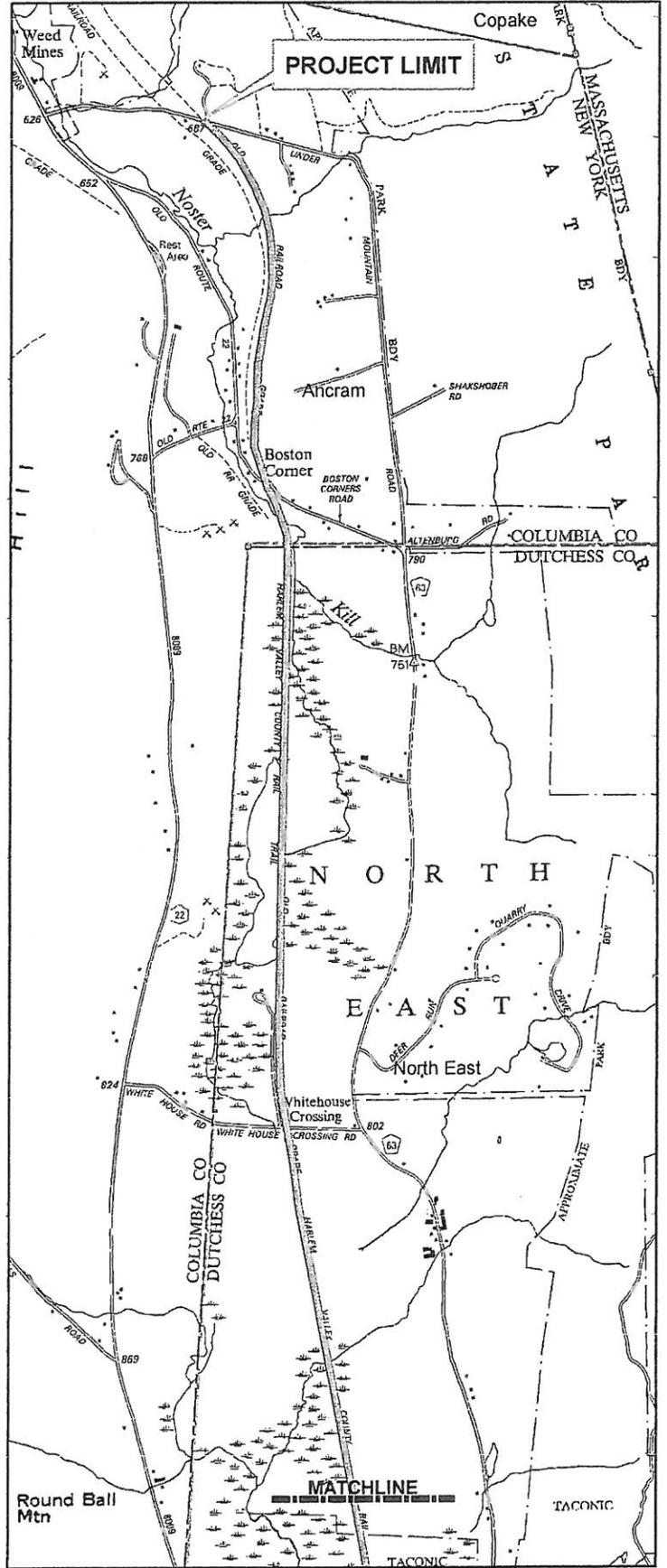
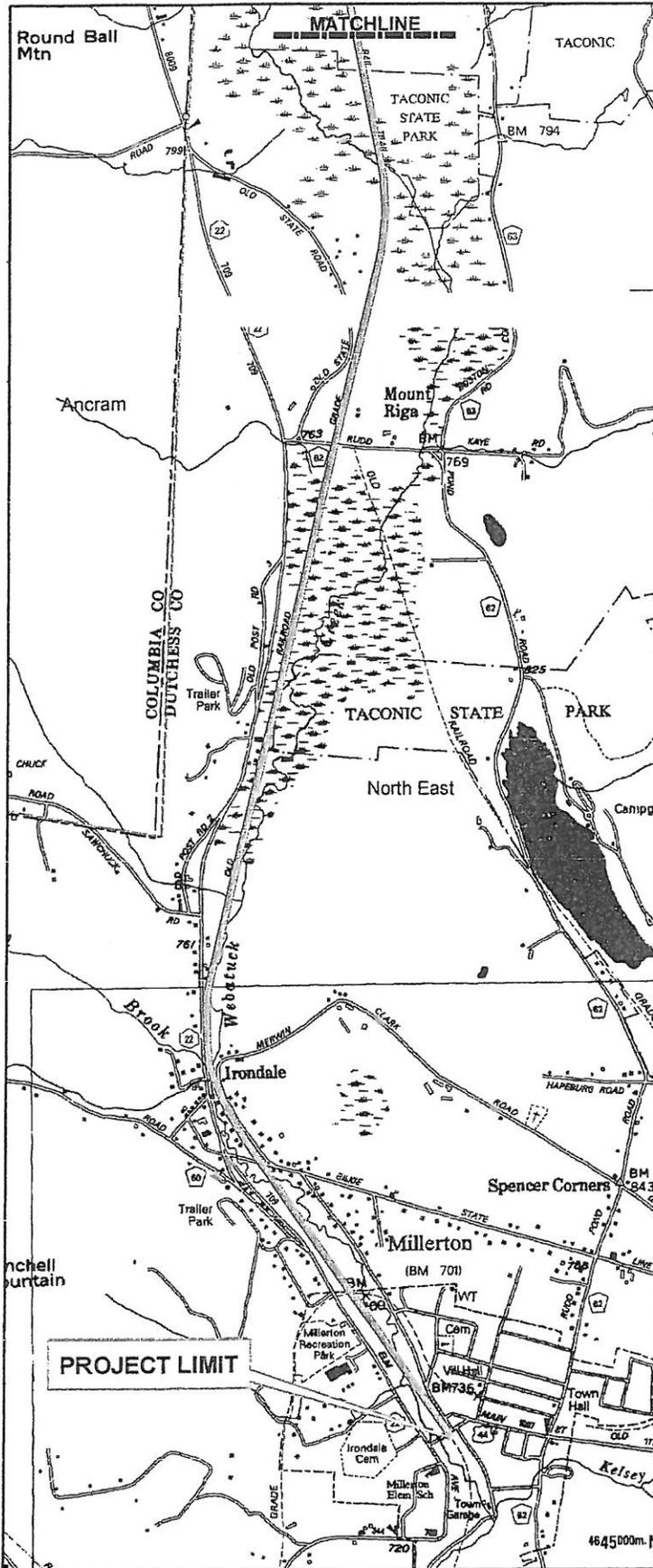
The purpose of this meeting is to outline the project purpose, its proposed location, provide an update of the project status, and to provide other pertinent information, including maps and property descriptions of adjacent parcels and the properties to be acquired. This project proposes to develop a 13.2 km (8 mile) section of shared-use path, referred to as Phase 4 of the greater Harlem Valley Rail Trail (HVRT). The trail will originate at Main Street in the Village of Millerton (Route 44) and terminate at Under Mountain Road in the Town of Ancram. The project will include placement of a paved and unpaved 2.4m - 3.0 m (8' -10') wide shared use path with a 0.6 m (2 feet) clear area beyond each trail edge where space is available.

Persons may appear in person or by agent and will be given the opportunity to present oral or written statements and to submit other documents concerning PIN 8758.74 – Harlem Valley Rail Trail, Phase 4, in the Village of Millerton and Town of North East in Dutchess County, and in the Town of Ancram in Columbia County.

The project will require public acquisition of property. This public hearing is being held to comply with the requirements of the Federal Highway Administration and Sections 201 and 202 of the New York State Eminent Domain Procedure Law. Dutchess County will attempt to acquire the necessary property through offers of Fair Market Value. In the event that this process is unsuccessful, acquisition of property by Eminent Domain may be necessary to complete the project. Any property owners who may subsequently wish to challenge the condemnation of their property by judicial review may do so only on the basis of issues, facts, and objections raised at the hearing.

Please advise this office if a sign language interpreter, assistive listening system or any other accommodation will be required to facilitate your participation in this public hearing no later than Monday, July 7, 2014.

Further information on the project may be obtained from the Dutchess County Department of Public Works Engineering Division, 626 Dutchess Turnpike, Poughkeepsie, NY 12603, (845) 486-2925.



Harlem Valley Rail Trail Section IV
 Figure I - Project Location Map
 Dutchess County, New York

