

Project Implementation: Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Shoreline Trail

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PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Shoreline Trail segment of the larger Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail has been identified by the Steering Committee as the next section of trail to move forward for implementation. The prior two segments that have advanced include the installation of sidewalks along Fair Street in the Village of Cold Spring and Town of Philipstown (2015), and the design (2015) and construction (2016) of the Breakneck Connector segment between Metro-North Whistle Stop and the Breakneck Ridge Trailhead. These are the only two segments that can advance before environmental review is conducted on the recently completed preliminary draft master plan for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail.

For the Shoreline Trail to advance, two things are needed. The first is a detailed survey and engineering design that can evaluate route alternatives and select a final design for the Shoreline Trail. This section will connect the existing bridge overpass over the railroad tracks at Little Stony Point north along the shoreline west of the tracks and back over the tracks north of Breakneck tunnel to connect to the trailhead. The Master Plan for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail identified this as the preferred route, with the understanding that a more detailed engineering assessment with full survey detail and a closer examination of environmental and design options would be necessary before a final route could be determined. Discussions of this trail have already involved the DEC, Metro-North, DEP and the DOS. Variables that will need to be considered more closely will involve the role and function of the shoreline trail as it relates to sea level rise, a changing shoreline, and the increased risk of storm surge events on critical infrastructure. Ultimately, it is hoped that final trail design will provide enhanced ADA recreation access to the waterfront in a way that artfully balances environmental, aesthetic, resiliency, safety and accessibility needs and values.

A second, and related, need is the completion of a GEIS for the trail which will facilitate the permitting and construction of this and future trail sections. The NY Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation is submitting a Lead Agency letter this summer for the Generic Environmental Impact Statement for the (Preliminary Draft) Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Master Plan. Because the additional analysis needed on the shoreline trail, it makes sense for that work to be conducted within the GEIS process to ensure the alternatives considered and evaluated are consistent with the GEIS and can be appropriately incorporated into the findings statement. Because its proximity to and potential to actually enter the river, the Shoreline Trail is generally understood as one of the most potentially impactful portions of the longer trail and the project team would like the GEIS to get to a high level of detail. The summary below conveys the scope of work for how the grant proposal will be implemented.

PROJECT READINESS

Over the fall, OPRHP will work with the GEIS subcommittee and project team to further define and refine the scope of work for this effort. In anticipation of the successful award of this grant, the subcommittee will work with project partners to develop an RFP for the GEIS for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail inclusive of the engineering and design services for the shoreline trail so that it is ready to issue upon successful award of a grant.

PROJECT SCOPE AND PHASING

Phase 1: Contract Startup

Completed by: Town of Philipstown, Scenic Hudson

Upon receipt of a notice of award, the project team will work with DOS staff to complete all contract paperwork and related forms, understand the timing for eligible expenditures, and confirm the project scope and deliverables.

Deliverables:

- State Contract Signed and all Paperwork In

Phase 2: Project Kick-off/Consultant Selection

Completed by: Town of Philipstown, Scenic Hudson, Subcommittee

The project subcommittee will meet to review the scope of work and timeline and will then initiate the procurement process, including issuing, scoring, interviewing, and selecting a consultant or team of consultants.

Deliverables:

- RFP for GEIS with Detailed Engineering and Design Services Issued
- Consultant Selected and Under Contract

Phase 3: Draft GEIS Development

Completed by: Town of Philipstown, OPRHP, Scenic Hudson, Consultant, Subcommittee

The contract for the consultant will contain a detailed scope of work that will detail out steps, phases and deliverables for how the GEIS process will unfold, including committee and public meetings. The project timeline below shows the anticipated time of performance and estimated timing of public meetings. General steps will include:

3.1 INVENTORY

Initial drafting of the GEIS document will involve data gathering and analysis, site research, and consultation with experts to better understand conditions in the trail corridor along the preferred route.

3.1a Natural Resources Inventory

Add - see outline

3.1b Shoreline Trail Survey/Geotechnical Investigation

This phase of work will have two primary components – an analysis of conditions on land and then conducting additional conditions assessment of or from the river and river bottom.

i Geotechnical Investigation – Land

This will review all relevant property and topographic documents, including Metro-North and Conrail parcel maps, field survey maps, tax parcel maps and NYSOGS maps. It will also conduct a complete topographic survey to provide accurate ground elevations from edge of water to top of rail as well as mean high water elevations along the river's edge. All utilities in the area will be documented. A boundary survey will also be conducted to locate buildings, easements, fences and encroachments,

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail Scope of Work

driveways and access points. Borings will also be taken to assess sediment and rock conditions as may impact or inform design. All relevant environmental (EAF) and local permitting and fees will be completed by the engineering firm hired to conduct the study in communication with all relevant project partners and agencies.

Deliverables:

- Survey maps and drawings
- Preliminary Geotechnical Investigation Report
- Related Direct Cost: Land Borings

ii Geotechnical Investigation – Marine

This will assemble and review all subsurface information, both marine and upland to identify the quantity and location for marine soil borings and rock cores if bedrock is encountered at shallower depths. This will assess the river floor conditions as will inform feasibility and design for alternatives that may impact the river's edge or enter the river.

Deliverables:

- Final Geotechnical Investigation Report
- Related Direct Cost: Marine Borings

3.2 ANALYSIS OF ALTERNATIVES

The Master Plan identified a number of route alternatives for each segment before the preferred alignment was selected. The consultant will evaluate these alternatives to better understand relative environmental impact and degree to which each achieves project goals.

3.2a Shoreline Trail Design Alternatives

The contracted engineering firm will develop distinct design alternatives for how and where the trail connection can be made. This will include design for a bridge crossing to cross back over the tracks and connect to the Breakneck Connector segment. Rough cost estimates will be provided for each design. These will be evaluated and assessed by a project subcommittee as well as in communication with the general public at an open community workshop. The consultant will work to compare and contrast the alternatives on a cost and performance basis in a way easily understood by a non-technical public audience.

Deliverables:

- Design Alternatives and Comparison
- Public Workshop

3.2b Analysis of Alternatives

The alternative routes for all section of the larger Fjord Trail will be analyzed against the thresholds to clearly convey each option's impacts. This will include the new information and comparison of the possible shoreline trail designs and routes and public input gathered at the workshop on those options.

3.3 PRELIMINARY REPORT AND FINDINGS (DGEIS)

Preliminary findings of the route alternatives analysis will then be synthesized into a report that can be shared with the public.

Deliverable:

- Draft GEIS Document

Phase 4: Public Input and Revision

Completed by: Town of Philipstown, OPRHP, Scenic Hudson, Consultant, Subcommittee

A number of opportunities for public input will be provided over the course of the formal public input including formal hearing, written comment submissions, and by sharing documents through the project website.

Deliverable:

- Public Comments Gathered and Incorporated into DGEIS

Phase 5: Final GEIS and Adoption

Completed by: Town of Philipstown, OPRHP, Scenic Hudson, Consultant

Once public input has been gathered and reflected in the DGEIS, a final GEIS document will be prepared and presented (to whom) for adoption. Is this where final Shoreline Trail design is selected and shared with public?

Deliverable:

- Adopted GEIS document for the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail

Phase 6: Construction Documents and Permitting

Completed by: Consultant Town of Philipstown, Scenic Hudson, full Steering Committee, involved agencies

6.1 FINAL SHORELINE DESIGN

The final design for the shoreline trail, as selected based on public input and the GEIS process, will be developed to construction-level documents and refined cost estimates provided.

Deliverables:

- Final Construction-level Design Documents
- Cost Estimates

6.2 PERMITTING NEEDS ASSESSMENT, AGENCY MEETINGS, PERMIT FILING

The consultant will identify necessary permits, draft consistency applications for relevant agencies, and develop a project narrative to introduce the site characteristics and technical considerations that informed the design. Permit drawings will be provided and a detailed analysis of the waterfront development permit from the perspective of the Coastal Zone Management regulations. Permits will be completed and filed.

Deliverables:

- All necessary permits files

Phase 7: Project Closeout and Reporting

Completed by: Town of Philipstown, Scenic Hudson, Consultant

Once the scope of work for the contract with the consultant is successfully complete, the Town and project manager will process final invoices once any and all reporting data required from the consultant and project deliverables in their final forms are received to facilitate a smooth grant closeout.

Deliverables:

- Successful grant closeout with all obligations to state met

PROJECT SCHEDULE

	2015					2016					2017					2018		
	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J
Pre-Grant Prep																		
Lead Agency Letter Filed																		
Scope and RFP Prep																		
Grant Work Plan																		
Phase 1: Contract Startup																		
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**HUDSON HIGHLANDS FJORD TRAIL COALITION ORGANIZATIONAL
DIAGRAM**