



Hudson River Valley Greenway

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Dutchess County Mayors and Supervisors:

On March 8, 2000 the [Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council](#) approved [Greenway Connections: Greenway Compact Program and Guides for Dutchess County Communities](#) as Dutchess County's Greenway Compact strategy, establishing it as the model for the rest of the Hudson Valley. In the following years, 29 out of the county's 30 municipalities adopted *Greenway Connections* as a voluntary set of principles and guidelines and began to receive the additional advantages of belonging to the Greenway Compact. Among the multiple benefits, Dutchess County and local governments have been awarded over \$2 million in Greenway-related grants.

Greenway Connections was always intended to be a living document with new Greenway Guides to be added to the three-ring binder at the request of local representatives and agencies. After previews of draft guides in the Dutchess County Planning Federation newsletter and at various presentations for public comments, the following seven new Greenway Guides have been approved by the Greenway Council for adoption by Greenway Compact communities: [Centers and Greenspaces](#); [Slower, Safer Streets](#); [Rural Roads](#); [Building Bicycle Networks](#); [Convenience Stores with Gas Pumps](#); and [Recycling and Waste Collection; Green Infrastructure](#).

The Greenway Guides have proven to be useful planning tools for municipal board members. This success is predicated on the fact that the Guides simply provide options and can be used in discretionary decisions when local officials deem appropriate. It should be reinforced that neither the Greenway Guides nor the Greenway Compact limit home rule, supersede local regulations, or impose any requirements.

The local laws adopting *Greenway Connections* contained a provision for amendments to the document by resolution of the local legislative body within 90 days of receipt of any proposed changes. Included in this packet are copies of the seven new Guides, a draft adoption resolution, and a draft Short Environmental Assessment Form with descriptive narrative under the State Environmental Quality Review Act to help simplify the process. Officials should coordinate the adoption procedures with their local attorneys.

Additional copies of *Greenway Connections*, including the seven new Guides, are available from the Dutchess County Department of Planning and Development online at: <http://www.co.dutchess.ny.us/CountyGov/Departments/Planning/17329.htm>

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me or Dutchess County Planning and Development at (845) 486-3600.

Sincerely,

Mark A. Castiglione, AICP
Acting Executive Director