

**Short Environmental Assessment Form for Amendments to  
*Greenway Connections: Greenway Compact Program and Guides for  
Dutchess County Communities*  
Part 1 Narrative**

The \_\_\_\_\_ [Name of Municipality] \_\_\_\_\_ adopted *Greenway Connections* on \_\_\_\_\_ [Date] \_\_\_\_\_, consistent with Section 44-0119 of the New York State Environmental Conservation Law. The Local Law adopting *Greenway Connections* and cross-referencing it in zoning and subdivision regulations contained a provision allowing for subsequent amendments to the document by resolution of the local legislative board. The Hudson River Valley Greenway Communities Council (Greenway Council) has approved seven new Greenway Guides to be included in *Greenway Connections*. This action is to amend *Greenway Connections* to incorporate the following Greenway Guides:

- Centers and Greenspaces;
- Slower Safer Streets;
- Rural Roads;
- Building Bicycle Networks;
- Convenience Stores with Gas Pumps;
- Recycling and Waste Collection; and
- Green Infrastructure.

The Greenway Compact program is a voluntary partnership between the Greenway Council and local communities to work toward Greenway goals, help build a network of connecting trails, and use the Greenway Guides to improve their surroundings. *Greenway Connections* features an analysis of landscape patterns in the region, highlighting key planning principles for each natural or settlement pattern. In terms of implementing the program, the document includes a listing of model projects consistent with Greenway goals, ways to work with neighboring communities, and methods for improving the development review process through the use of Greenway Guides.

The Greenway Guides supply good planning advice and illustrate practical solutions on a variety of issues to help local officials with everyday decisions. They highlight some of the best existing examples of successful designs in Dutchess County. The Guides can be used to supplement zoning laws and other regulations, similar to existing comprehensive plans or other planning documents, but they are not required standards. Their use is optional. They can help guide discretionary actions in cases where local boards feel they are appropriate.

By providing highly visual guidance up-front, applicants will better understand what communities want and will be able to propose more compatible projects on the first submittal. Therefore, the Greenway Guides are meant to help streamline the development review process for proposals that generally fit in with locally defined community character and approved guidelines.

The Greenway Compact program is entirely voluntary and relies on incentives and guidelines, not regulations or requirements. The flexibility and hands-on nature of home rule and local decision making is thereby protected, yet strengthened with the mutual support of surrounding Greenway Compact communities.

The standard questions in Part 1 of the Short Environmental Assessment form are generally not applicable to the adoption of amendments to a planning document. This narrative is generic in nature because the adoption of the new Greenway Guides is not related to a specific project site, although it may have widespread applications and potentially affect future land use decisions.

This action may have potential impacts on patterns of land development, water quality, wildlife habitat, agricultural activities, aesthetic qualities, historic resources, open space and recreational opportunities, transportation systems, and long-term public health, safety and general welfare, but no significant negative impacts are anticipated. Any impacts are intended to be entirely beneficial. No mitigation measures are needed for beneficial impacts. Each specific zoning, site plan or land use decision of any significance that may be affected by the adoption of the Greenway Guides will require a subsequent decision and environmental review process.

In summary, the policies, principles, and guides incorporated in *Greenway Connections* are voluntary, advisory, and overwhelmingly positive in nature and will be subject to continued public discussions and decisions for approval or funding before being implemented. These subsequent actions will be subject to environmental review under SEQRA once the specifics of the project or decision is known.