



**CITY OF BEACON
CITY COUNCIL**

RESOLUTION NO. 124 OF 2022

**ENDORING A STUDY OF THE BEACON RAIL LINE AS A MULTI-USE RAIL TRAIL
(a.k.a. BEACON HOPEWELL RAIL TRAIL)**

WHEREAS, Walking and bicycling facilities serve a vital role in our transportation system. They provide a healthy, economical, and pollution-free alternative to driving and help create walkable, bikeable places that are vibrant and attractive to residents and visitors alike; and

WHEREAS, the City of Beacon (“the City”) desires to enhance local and regional walkability and bike-ability by finding ways to improve the area’s pedestrian and bicycle system with safer routes to parks, residences, businesses, and other destinations; and

WHEREAS, the Dutchess County Transportation Council (“DCTC”), the designated Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) for Dutchess County, identified the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail as a transformative project in its long-range transportation plan, Moving Dutchess Forward; and

WHEREAS, Moving Dutchess Forward recommends the construction of a 13-mile rail trail along the abandoned Beacon rail line from the City of Beacon’s waterfront to Hopewell Junction in the Town of East Fishkill, where it would connect to the Dutchess Rail Trail and the statewide Empire State Trail; and

WHEREAS, this rail trail would provide a safe walking and bicycling alternative to NYS Route 52, which is a high-crash corridor for pedestrians and bicyclists and has limited sidewalks, and NYS Route 82, which also has limited sidewalks; and

WHEREAS, the rail trail would fill an important gap in the rail trail network by connecting the Beacon and Fishkill areas to the regional and statewide trail network; and

WHEREAS, the rail trail would serve several communities identified by the DCTC as Focus Equity Areas and by the U.S. Department of Transportation as Transportation Disadvantaged Communities; and

WHEREAS, the DCTC, in coordination with Dutchess County, seeks to progress the recommended Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail, knowing that constructing such a trail presents a range of safety, operational, and constructability challenges that require more in-depth analysis; and

WHEREAS, the DCTC receives federal transportation planning funds that can be used to complete these types of analyses and recognizes that studying the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail is an eligible and appropriate task for these funds; and

WHEREAS, the City desires to work with the DCTC, Dutchess County, and surrounding communities to complete a study (‘Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Plan’) to determine the feasibility of developing a multi-use trail on the Beacon Line, and to further develop one or more conceptual designs for the trail; and

WHEREAS, the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Plan will also identify priority actions, responsible agencies, and needed funding to implement the design concepts; and

WHEREAS, the City seeks to involve residents, major property owners, and other stakeholders in the planning process, and will do so in coordination with the DCTC and Dutchess County; and

WHEREAS, the City, in coordination with the DCTC and Dutchess County, may also appoint local elected officials, residents, business owners, and other stakeholders to participate on the advisory or steering committee formed to support the planning process.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the City fully endorses and supports the DCTC’s intent to complete a Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Plan and will actively participate in the planning process; and,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City will assist the DCTC, as requested, by dedicating staff hours, providing data, engaging the public, and providing other non-monetary assistance to complete the Beacon-Hopewell Rail Trail Plan; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the City Administrator of the City is authorized to apply for and execute any documents relating to the DCTC’s funding of this transportation planning project through its Unified Planning Work Program.

Resolution No. 124 of 2022			Date: October 3, 2022				
<input type="checkbox"/> Amendments			<input type="checkbox"/> On roll call			<input type="checkbox"/> 2/3 Required	
<input type="checkbox"/> Not on roll call.			<input type="checkbox"/> On roll call			<input type="checkbox"/> 3/4 Required	
Motion	Second	Council Member	Yes	No	Abstain	Reason	Absent
		Paloma Wake	x				
	x	Justice McCray	x				
		George Mansfield	x				
		Wren Longno	x				
x		Molly Rhodes	x				
		Dan Aymar-Blair	x				
		Mayor Lee Kyriacou	x				
		Motion Carried	x				