



Hudson Highlands Fjord
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 26, 2023

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT:

MTA Board of Directors Votes to Approve Easement Agreement with OPRHP

Action moves process forward for permanent usage easement adjacent to MNR rail lines and planned Breakneck bridge over Metro-North Railroad tracks

During its monthly meeting on May 24, 2023, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) approved an agreement to issue a permanent access easement to the NYS Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) in conjunction with the planned Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail project. The easement agreement will allow Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc., through a cooperative agreement with OPRHP, to use the land along the rail line to construct and operate the Breakneck Connector section. Additionally, it will provide air rights for the construction of the Breakneck Bridge over the railroad tracks and grant vehicular access to HHFT, OPRHP, and NYC Department of Environmental Protection (NYC DEP) for routine maintenance and emergency response.

The MTA action is a critical first step in a lengthy process of approval estimated to conclude by the end of 2023.

HHFT, Inc. will continue to update the public on this process in the coming months.

The Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail offers a community-driven solution for managing tourism in the region and will make the beauty that surrounds us more accessible to people of all ages and abilities. HHFT's mission is to create and steward a 7.5-mile linear park along the Hudson River that solves existing safety concerns around visitation, provides welcoming access to people of all abilities, restores and protects natural resources, and enhances quality of life for local communities. The Fjord Trail will add organized parking, public restrooms, trash/recycling collection, and distribute users of the park along a 7.5-mile route with six main access points. Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail is a subsidiary nonprofit of Scenic Hudson, Inc.