



Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail  
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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. Announces Formation of Community Visitation Data Committee**

*New Committee, composed of resident representatives from each project area community, will inform the gathering and analysis of Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail's visitation management and traffic study data under the guidance of an independent technical consultant.*

**POUGHKEEPSIE, NY** – Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT) announced today the formation of an independent Visitation Data Committee. The eight-member committee includes Village of Nelsonville Mayor Chris Winward and Trustee Thomas Campanile; Village of Cold Spring residents James Labate and Henry Feldman; Town of Philipstown residents Mary Kate Ephraim and Jeffrey Robins; City of Beacon resident Sarah Mencher; and Town of Fishkill Assistant to the Supervisor Greg Totino.

The Visitation Data Committee will review and assess the work of HHFT's visitation management and environmental review consultants to ensure that the traffic count and pedestrian visitation pattern data is adequate to determine the potential impacts of the Fjord Trail on local communities. The group will also have early review and discussion of visitation projections and the methodology used to determine them. Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. will provide a stipend for the committee to hire an independent consultant to provide technical assistance to the committee in reviewing methodology and interpreting results.

"Advisory in nature, the Visitation Data Committee has an opportunity to proactively and meaningfully inform the data collection process and visitor projections to ensure that we are receiving robust analysis in keeping with established industry best practices," said HHFT Executive Director Amy Kacala.

Committee members, who are all volunteers, were appointed by the elected leadership of each municipality. They are expected to keep their respective municipal boards informed of key decisions and developments throughout the process. All Visitation Data Committee meeting minutes will be made public.

A kickoff meeting of the Visitation Data Committee was held on August 18, 2023, at the Little Stony Point Volunteer Center, in Cold Spring. The committee's next task will be to identify and engage a consultant to provide them with technical expertise through a public Request for Proposal process.

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### About HHFT

Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, Inc. (HHFT) is a subsidiary nonprofit of Scenic Hudson, Inc., an organization devoted to protecting the natural beauty of the Hudson Valley. HHFT oversees the direct planning and construction of the Fjord Trail, which is slated for completion in 2031. 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, envisioned by locals nearly two decades ago, aims to address safety, manage visitation, and respect the landscape. It 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. For more information, news, and timely announcements on the Hudson Highlands Fjord Trail, [please visit hhft.org/news](https://www.hhft.org/news).