Appendix V
Alternative Alignment Analysis
V-4: New York State Department of Transportation Correspondence

NEW YORK STATE | Department of Transportation

KATHY HOCHUL
Governor

MARIE THERESE DOMINGUEZ
Commissioner

JAMES RUSAK, P.E.
Acting Regional Director

October 16, 2025

Amy Kacala
Hudson Highland Fjord Trail
14 Coris Lane
Beacon, NY 12508

Dear Amy Kacala:

The NYS Route 9D Breakneck Tunnel lighting replacement project was initiated by New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) to enhance the lighting within the tunnel. The project objectives include replacement of the lighting with a system that meets current design visibility standards and improve roadway geometric elements to enhance pedestrian safety within the corridor.

To achieve these project objectives, minor structural repairs were completed as well as upgrades to the drainage and utility configuration through the tunnel. Travel lane and shoulder widths were reconfigured and traffic calming measures were installed to enhance pedestrian safety. The above scope was developed in response to the existing conditions of the corridor, specifically high volumes of pedestrians north of the tunnel.

NYSDOT is represented in the Hudson Highland Fjord Trail (HHFT) Steering Committee and has been a supporter of the project. The HHFT project will play a critical role in the development of the NYS Route 9D corridor, enhancing safety by creating an off-road shared use path, formalized parking and distributing visitors by integrating a larger recreational network.

NYSDOT's preferred alternative for the HHFT at Breakneck Ridge, is an alignment that limits pedestrian use of NYS Route 9D through the Breakneck Tunnel. The Breakneck Tunnel width cannot accommodate the large volumes of pedestrian traffic that would be better served on an off-road shared use path.

NYSDOT remains in support of the preferred alternative, to align the HHFT shared use path around Breakneck Ridge along the Hudson River. This alternative aligns with NYSDOT's mission to provide a safe, reliable, equitable, and resilient transportation system that connects communities, enhances quality of life, protects the environment and supports the economic well-being of New York State.

Thank you for your interest in and support for the transportation system. If you have any questions or need additional information, please feel free to contact me at (845) 431-5750.

Sincerely,

James Rusak, P.E.

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Acting Regional Director