April 20th, 2026

Peter Barber, Supervisor
Town of Guilderland
PO Box 339
5209 Western Turnpike
Guilderland, NY 12084

**Re: Letter of Support for the Altamont Trails Master Plan**

Supervisor Barber,

The New York–New Jersey Trail Conference is pleased to offer this letter in strong support of the Altamont Trails Master Plan. This plan represents the culmination of more than two years of collaboration among community members and partner organizations working to enhance trail connectivity, recreation, and conservation in and around the Village of Altamont.

The Altamont Trails Master Plan outlines the development of a cohesive network of pedestrian and multi-use trails benefiting the Village. It identifies eight initiatives designed to improve safety, accessibility, and connectivity of the Village's local trail network, reinforcing its identity as a destination for outdoor recreation and heritage tourism. The Plan also highlights the Village's association with the Long Path; a long-distance hiking trail connecting New York City to the Adirondack Park and builds upon recent efforts to establish Altamont as a Long Path Trail Town. As one of New York's premier long-distance trails, the Long Path brings regional and statewide visibility to communities along its route, attracting hikers, supporting local businesses, and fostering stewardship of the surrounding landscape. Altamont is uniquely positioned to benefit from and contribute to this legacy through continued investment in trail connectivity and visitor experience. Together, these initiatives position the community to expand eco-tourism, strengthen connections between local and regional trail systems, and enhance access to surrounding conserved lands.

The Plan was developed through a collaborative process that included representatives from the Albany County Legislature, the Altamont Fair, the Mohawk Hudson Land Conservancy, and the Trail Conference. This inclusive approach ensured alignment with regional priorities and long-term community goals. The planning committee worked in close coordination with LaBella Associates, whose technical expertise helped translate shared priorities into clear, implementable recommendations. This effort was supported by funding through the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

The Altamont Trails Master Plan has already demonstrated strong public and institutional support. It was well received at a public open house in June 2025 and is referenced in the Town of Guilderland 2026 Comprehensive Plan. It also aligns with multiple adopted planning initiatives, including:

• Village of Altamont 2006 Master Plan
• Village of Altamont 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Master Plan
• Town of Guilderland 2005 Pathways Master Plan
• Town of Guilderland 2020 Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Study
• Capital Region Transportation Council 2019 Capital District Trails Plan

This consistency across planning efforts underscores the Plan's value as a practical, implementation-ready framework for advancing shared goals related to expanding the outdoor recreation opportunities in the region.

The Trail Conference has a long-standing partnership with the Altamont community, through the leadership and coordination of Historic Altamont, Inc., and the local Long Path North Hiking Club, who together with the Trail Conference, lead the extension of the Long Path from John Boyd Thacher State Park into the Village. We continue to collaborate on improving this section of the Long Path, and the next phase of the trail's route to the Bozen Kill and Wolf Creek Preserves and beyond. These ongoing efforts demonstrate the Long Path's role as both a recreational asset and a unifying framework for regional trail planning and conservation. We consider this Plan a valuable resource that will support coordinated investment, strengthen grant competitiveness, and guide thoughtful trail development that reflects both community character and environmental stewardship.

For these reasons, the Trail Conference strongly supports the Altamont Trails Master Plan and respectfully encourages the Town Board's continued endorsement and advancement of its recommendations. We appreciate your leadership in expanding recreational opportunities and look forward to continued collaboration.

Sincerely,



Joshua Howard
Executive Director

**CC:**
Andy Garrison, Volunteer Long Path Regional Trail Chair
Steve Siegard, Volunteer Long Path Local Trail Chair, Northern Region
Zachary Cole, Long-Distance Trails Program Coordinator