STATE OF NEW YORK

4416

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

March 11, 2019

Introduced by Sen. KAPLAN -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Corporations, Authorities and Commissions

AN ACT to require the empire state development corporation to create a plan regarding multi-use trails

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. (a) For the purposes of this act, the term "multi-use trail" shall mean an off-street linear facility for recreation and transportation, paved or unpaved, designated to serve multiple types of users, including, but not limited to, bicyclists, pedestrians, in-line skaters, joggers, cross-country skiers or equestrians.

(b) The empire state development corporation shall create a plan for a comprehensive statewide system of multi-use trails consisting of a network of primary corridors linked to and enhanced by regional and local multi-use trails. The draft plan shall be completed one year after this act becomes a law. The empire state development corporation shall consult concurrently with representatives from the office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, the department of environmental conservation, the department of health and the department of transportation to create such plan. A representative of each agency shall be appointed by the commissioner of their respective agency. The empire state development corporation shall meet with the representatives of such agencies at least quarterly. There shall be a sixty-day public comment period on such draft plan and there shall be at least one public hearing on the draft plan during such sixty-day public comment period. The final plan shall be completed and adopted one hundred eighty days after submission of the draft plan. The plan shall be updated no less than every five years. Such plan shall include five major components:

(i) A vision for a statewide network of primary corridors linked to and enhanced by regional and local multi-use trails, which will include

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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trail uses to be addressed in the plan; goals for geographic distribution; goals for universal accessibility; and general goals for new trail acquisition and development.

(ii) A Geographic Information System (GIS) inventory of existing multi-use trails across the state, as well as planned multi-use trails, or undeveloped corridors under consideration for future multi-use trails.

(iii) Identification of new multi-use trail opportunities including, but not limited to, transportation (rail, canal, trolley) corridors - existing, abandoned or under consideration to be abandoned; under-utilized or closed roads; utility corridors and natural corridors such as waterways and waterfronts.

(iv) A comprehensive set of multi-use trail recommendations, including but not limited to acquisition and development priorities; guidelines for design and maintenance of different "tier" (primary, regional, local) multi-use trails; guidelines for wayfinding, marketing and interpretive signs and informational resources, such as statewide and regional maps of existing multi-use trails, to promote the use of such trails and their coordination with other tourism opportunities in New York state.

(v) Recommendations for funding the acquisition, construction, maintenance, and promotion of multi-use trails as well as implementation.

(c) The office of parks, recreation and historic preservation, the department of environmental conservation, the department of health, the department of transportation and any other state agencies, departments, public authorities or programs with relevant expertise or resources shall provide the empire state development corporation with such facilities, assistance, and data as will enable the empire state development corporation to carry out its powers and duties. The empire state development corporation will have primary responsibility for implementation of the plan created pursuant to the provisions of this act, provided the costs of implementation have been appropriated or identified by the chairperson of the empire state development corporation.

§ 2. This act shall take effect immediately.