



Nov. 4, 2018

Hello everyone,

Please save the date for a forum scheduled at the Kellner Activities Center in Palatine Park on Saturday, Dec. 15 at 10 a.m. The forum will explore established ways of balancing railroad safety and pedestrian access—which can only help as Amtrak's proposed project for fencing and gates blocking access to the Hudson River still hangs in the balance. This forum is presented by [Scenic Hudson](#), the Town of Germantown and the Town of Rhinebeck. More details about the forum will be released in the weeks ahead.

To briefly update you on the fences, Amtrak and the state Department of Transportation have postponed public meetings regarding the proposal to early next year. The New York State Department of State, which has yet to make its decision on whether the proposed project is consistent with the state's coastal management policy, received comments from 302 people in the spring, as well as petitions against the proposal with more than 2,100 signatures.

The DOS's public comment period is closed and it's unclear whether there will be another comment period after the DOT's public meetings. We think this is unacceptable, and our public officials have been working hard to make sure we all have a voice once we see more details from Amtrak. If and when you see public officials and candidates who have been putting a lot of energy toward staying on top of Amtrak's proposal to limit public access to the Hudson River, please thank them. If you run into candidates or public officials who you haven't heard speak of the issue, ask them where they stand on Amtrak's plan. Send us their response, and we'll include it on gatesgate.org along with all of the other leaders' statements and letters on this issue. Also, take a look at the [recent letter from local supervisors](#) to the DOS, which highlights some of their concerns.

Our Committee is still at work as well! [Results stemming from our Freedom of Information Act request](#) for Amtrak's incident reports of recent years along the Germantown Waterfront suggest the public can and does access the river shoreline safely. We're also preparing alternative solutions and mitigation options to counter Amtrak's fencing proposal. We welcome the help of any artists and/or photoshop pros as we try to present our vision as beautifully as our dear Hudson River.

To keep up to date on the Germantown Waterfront Advisory Committee's plans and actions and on the Amtrak proposal, follow Germantown Waterfront on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) and visit Gatesgate.org. On our GatesGate website you can sign up for our mailing list, find all of the important documents, and links to press coverage.

One last thing - please share this email widely, and encourage your friends to sign up for the mailing list at GatesGate.org.

Thank you.

—The Germantown Waterfront Committee