

## ACT 44 - 2025

TO: HONORABLE BOARD OF LEGISLATORS  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER

Your Committee has reviewed the attached Act renaming the “North County Trailway,” a multi-use path which spans 22.1 miles from Eastview in the Town of Mount Pleasant north to Baldwin Place in Somers, and the “South County Trailway,” a multi-use path which spans 14.1 miles from Eastview in the Town of Mount Pleasant south to the New York City border at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, after the late Andrew P. O’Rourke, the former Westchester County Executive. Both paths combined shall be renamed the “Andrew P. O’Rourke Westchester County Trailway.”

Your Committee recognizes that Mr. O’Rourke graduated from Fordham University and served this country in the United States Air Force as a bombardier and navigator, rising to the level of Captain— he was on a response team throughout the Cuban Missile Crisis and flew missions around the world during his eight years on active duty. After receiving his law degree from Fordham Law School, where he attended at night—traveling from McGuire Air Force Base multiple days a week, Mr. O’Rourke began his professional career as a practicing attorney in Yonkers at a leading aviation law firm, while he pursued his Masters of Law from New York University.

Your Committee further recognizes that, having served as a member of two separate Westchester County law firms, Mr. O’Rourke was elected to the first of four terms as a Yonkers City Councilman, before being elected to the first of four terms on the County Board of Legislators. He would eventually be chosen by his peers to replace then County Executive Alfred B. DelBello in 1982. Mr. O’Rourke would go on to become the second-longest serving Westchester County Executive, serving from 1983 to 1997. Applying what the military had taught him about diversity and the chain of command to his administration of county government, Mr. O’Rourke dedicated County land for a Holocaust Memorial in White Plains and he appointed the County’s first African-American and Latino Commissioners and the first women to head the General Services and Law Departments.

Your Committee notes that, during his tenure, Mr. O'Rourke advocated for and oversaw the expansion of the County's infrastructure. He won approval of referenda to rehabilitate the Westchester County Center and County Airport and oversaw the reopening of Rye Playland as a county amusement park. He brought the Croton Point Park back to life, after decades of the property being used as a garbage dump. When homelessness spiked, he partnered with HUD and local officials to build transitional housing for families. He also oversaw the building of the Westchester County Jail and a recycling plant. Through building up of the County's infrastructure, Mr. O'Rourke was able to maintain the County's AAA bond rating, while stabilizing property taxes. After serving 15 years as the Westchester County executive, then-Governor George Pataki appointed Mr. O'Rourke to the New York Court of Claims. In 2000, he was elected to the New York Supreme Court, a position he held until his passing in 2013.

Your Committee further notes that, as a long-time leader of Westchester County, Mr. O'Rourke was an advocate and supporter of the construction of both the North County Trailway and South County Trailway. He was instrumental in the County acquiring multiple parcels of land between the neighborhoods of Eastview at Saw Mill River Road and Lincoln at the New York City border, and also in having the land paved for pedestrian enjoyment. Accordingly, it is appropriate to honor his memory, by naming the North County Trailway and the South County Trailway, collectively, after Mr. O'Rourke, since it would in all likelihood not exist but for his vision for Westchester.

Your Committee further notes that, following his time as County Executive, then-Governor George Pataki appointed Mr. O'Rourke to the New York Court of Claims. In 2000, he was elected to the New York Supreme Court, a position he held until his passing in 2013.



Your Committee is informed that the County Executive will ask the Parks Department to work with the municipalities through which the North County Trailway and South County Trailway run, to install an appropriate memorial and signage to honor Mr. O'Rourke's memory.

As you know, this Honorable Board must comply with the requirements of the State Environmental Quality Review Act ("SEQRA"). The proposed act does not meet the definition of an action under New York State Environmental Quality Review Act and its implementing regulations 6 NYCRR Part 617. Please refer to the memorandum from the Department of Planning dated January 14, 2025, which is on file with the Clerk of the Board of Legislators."

Your Committee, after careful consideration, recommends the adoption of this Act, renaming both the North County Trailway and the South County Trailway, collectively, in the memory of the late Andrew P. O'Rourke.

Dated: March 3, 2025  
White Plains, New York

COMMITTEE ON

 David Quinn Margaret A. Cyro JD DM	 John Walsh DM
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Legislation

Parks & Environment

Dated: March 3, 2025

White Plains, New York

*The following members attended the meeting remotely and approved this item out of Committee with an affirmative vote. Their electronic signature was authorized and is below.*

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Colin J. Smith". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large, stylized "S" at the end.

COMMITTEE ON

Legislation

# FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT

SUBJECT: Renaming No. & So. County Trailway ☒ NO FISCAL IMPACT PROJECTED

## OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT

To Be Completed by Submitting Department and Reviewed by Budget

### SECTION A - FUND

☐ GENERAL FUND

☐ AIRPORT FUND

☐ SPECIAL DISTRICTS FUND

### SECTION B - EXPENSES AND REVENUES

Total Current Year Expense \$ -

Total Current Year Revenue \$ -

Source of Funds (check one): ☐ Current Appropriations ☐ Transfer of Existing Appropriations

☐ Additional Appropriations

☐ Other (explain)

Identify Accounts: \_\_\_\_\_

Potential Related Operating Budget Expenses: Annual Amount \$ -

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Potential Related Operating Budget Revenues: Annual Amount \$ -

Describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Anticipated Savings to County and/or Impact on Department Operations:

Current Year: \_\_\_\_\_

Next Four Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: Debra Ogden

Title: Sr. Budget Analyst

Department: Budget

Date: September 4, 2024

Reviewed By: 

Budget Director

Date: 9/5/2024

**ACT NO. 44 - 2025**

An Act renaming the “North County Trailway” and the “South County Trailway,” collectively, to the “Andrew P. O’Rourke Westchester County Trailway.”

BE IT ENACTED by the County Board of the County of Westchester as follows:

**Section 1.** The “South County Trailway,” that spans 14.1 miles in Westchester County, from Eastview in the Town of Mount Pleasant south to the New York City border at Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, and the “North County Trailway,” that spans 22.1 miles in Westchester County, from Eastview in the Town of Mount Pleasant north to Baldwin Place in Somers, shall be and hereby is renamed “Andrew P. O’Rourke Westchester County Trailway.”

**Section 2.** This Act shall take effect immediately.

STATE OF NEW YORK            )  
  )  
WESTCHESTER COUNTY        )     ss.

**I HEREBY CERTIFY** that I have compared the foregoing Act, Act No. 44 - 2025, with the original on file in my office, and that the same is a correct transcript therefrom, and of the whole, of the said original Act, which was duly adopted by the County Board of Legislators, of the County of Westchester on March 10, 2025, and approved by the County Executive on March 11, 2025.

**IN WITNESS WHEREOF**, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Corporate Seal of said County Board of Legislators on this 11<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2025.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Malika Vanderberg

The Clerk of the Westchester County  
Board of Legislators

County of Westchester, New York

