Joint Adoption of Guidelines for the Adirondack Park

Whereas, the New York State Department of Transportation ("DOT") has worked with the Adirondack Park Agency ("APA") and the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation ("DEC") to implement distinctive "Environmental Highway" design within the Adirondack Park since the 1970's; and

Whereas, "Guidelines for the Adirondack Park" (the "Green Book") have been developed through regular interagency consultation and public participation over many years, beginning with the Adirondack Highway Council from 1974-1985, and such consultation now takes place through designated representatives of each agency who meet frequently each year; and

Whereas, DOT, APA and DEC staff have worked cooperatively during the last two years to draft comprehensive revisions to the Green Book ("Draft Revision"); and

Whereas, the DOT issued a Negative Declaration on the Draft Revision on November 27, 2006; and

Whereas, the Draft Revision was noticed for public comment in the Environmental Notice Bulletin on December 13; 2006; and

Whereas, DOT, APA and DEC reviewed public comment on the Draft Revision and made appropriate changes thereto; and

Whereas, the resulting third edition of the New York State Department of Transportation "Guidelines for the Adirondack Park, August, 2008" concludes a process of professional interagency collaboration and public participation, with contributions reflecting the authorities and responsibilities of all three agencies within the Park; and

Whereas, the Green Book provides procedural guidance on necessary permitting and interagency approvals and technical guidance for the design, construction and maintenance of state highways within the Park with emphasis on maintaining the park-like character of the highways;

Therefore, the undersigned hereby adopt as joint guidance the August, 2008 Edition of Guidelines for the Adirondack Park. Further, it is the intention of the agencies to maintain and update this guidance document through the regular consultative meetings of the agencies; to undertake major updates or revisions at approximately five-year intervals including appropriate environmental review and opportunities for public comment and participation in that review and revision; and for the guidance to remain in effect until replaced or superceded by changes to the underlying legal authorities of the respective agencies described therein.

Asfrd C. Glynn, Commissioner
NYS Department of Transportation

Alexander "Pete" B. Grannis, Commissioner
NYS Department of Environmental Conservation

Curtis F. Stiles, Chairman
NYS Adirondack Park Agency