SEVEN COUNTY EXECS SIT ON PANEL FOR PRESIDENT’S DAY BREAKFAST FEB. 22
Discussing "Planning for the Realities of the New Decade", the panel of county heads for the 2010 Breakfast will expand by two over last year's panel, as Dutchess, Orange, Putnam, Sullivan and Ulster execs are joined by Rockland and Westchester, February 22 at the Poughkeepsie Grand. Gold Sponsor Riverside Bank and Silver Sponsor Local 17 LECET are joined by Bronze Sponsors Advance Testing, Construction Contractors Association, Frontier Communications, Marshall & Sterling Insurance, Mid-Hudson Valley Federal Credit Union, Mohonk Preserve and the Poughkeepsie Journal. This “Hudson Valley Leadership Discussion” is expected to sell out quickly as it did last year; click here for sponsorship opportunities, registration and other information.

ULSTER ANNOUNCES INITIAL RESULTS OF SHARED SERVICES STUDY
Introducing a new, decentralized highway services plan aimed at generating overall efficiency and taxpayer savings, Pattern for Progress joined Ulster County Executive Michael Hein in a January 4 press event that described the first results of a year-long study led by Pattern’s team of experts. “This is nothing short of a total overhaul of how we deliver highway services in Ulster County,” Hein said (more).

SEQRA REVIEW GROUP TO PRODUCE FIRST DRAFT OF RECOMMENDATIONS
The first output of the core work group co-chaired by DEC’s Hudson Valley district, Pattern for Progress and Scenic Hudson to review the state’s environmental review process is a draft of recommendations to be released for review and comment. “Education of local governments and proper implementation of SEQRA are at the core of many of these first draft recommendations,” says Pattern VP Charlie Murphy. “That’s an area where Pattern can play a unique role.” Several weeks of panel discussions, emails and phone calls have collected ideas from a cross-section of developers, consultants, public officials, environmental advocates and land use attorneys on how to make the SEQRA process more efficient and timely. Your input continues to be welcome; email Pattern here.

DUTCHESS SUPERVISORS & MAYORS ASK HELP IN TACKLING SHARED SERVICES
Supervisor Jon Wagner of the Town of LaGrange announced this month that the Dutchess County Supervisors and Mayors Association will seek help in analyzing how sharing services between municipalities can cut spending and save taxpayers money. Pattern is examining ways to support their efforts, which will begin shortly with meetings between municipal and county leaders (more).

PATTERN ON THE ROAD
... Pattern President Jonathan Drapkin participated in the Sullivan County meeting January 15 that marked U. S. Senator Kirstin Gillibrand’s first visit to the county (more).

PATTERN BOARD MEMBERS AND FELLOWS IN THE NEWS ...
Board Member Dr. William Richards, president of SUNY Orange, was honored with the 2009 Leadership Award given annually by Leadership Orange’s board of directors, at the Orange County Partnership's annual networking event in December (more) ... The Boys & Girls Club of the Town of Wallkill, Pinebush and Sullivan County announced Fellows alumna Alexis Eggleton is their new Executive Director (more) ... Board Member Barry Rothfeld, publisher of The Poughkeepsie Journal, was honorary co-chair of the annual Martin Luther King Jr. breakfast, the annual fundraiser for the Catherine Street Community Center, which drew 650 supporters to the Mid-Hudson Civic Center January 22 (more) ... Charles Petersheim, president of Catskill Farms and a Pattern Fellow, was voted “Best Green Developer” by the readers of Sullivan County's The River Reporter ... Fellows Alumna Andrea Reynolds will join the board of the Dutchess County Economic Development Corporation this month; she is president of the Community Foundation of Dutchess County, which received the Nonprofit Excellence Award from DCEDC in December ... Pattern Board Vice-Chair Howard Hellman earned recognition in the media for a special donation to the troops in Afghanistan (more). Congratulations!