

**VILLAGE OF BUCHANAN**  
**RESOLUTION FOR HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD**  
**NEW YORK SCENIC BYWAY NOMINATION AND**  
**CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN ADOPTION**

Introduced by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Seconded by: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

**WHEREAS**, the historic qualities of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, as described in the corridor management plan, and the surrounding areas have been appreciated and celebrated for over a century by the residents of New York State, as well as tourists, historians, artists, authors, and other visitors to the region; and it is this unique combination of the journeys of Harriet Tubman and those Freedom Seekers who traveled on the Underground Railroad that create the special sense of place that is vital in telling the New York story of the human desire for freedom and the historic sites they created during their journey to emancipation; and

**WHEREAS**, the Steering Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, composed of representatives of 22 municipalities along the proposed scenic byway route, committed to work cooperatively to protect and promote the historic, scenic, recreational, and economic well-being of the 544-mile Corridor throughout the state and agreed to pursue the nomination of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway; and

**WHEREAS**, under the leadership of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee, each of the 22 counties contributed to the development of this corridor management plan by forming local byway groups, encouraging public participation, and leading individual meetings of the Collaborative; and

**WHEREAS**, the Advisory Committee of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway, consisting of relatives of Harriet Tubman, descendants of Freedom Seekers, Harriet Tubman and/or Underground Railroad historians, representatives from state and federal agencies has strengthened the historic integrity, representation, and the principles of the corridor management plan; and

**WHEREAS**, in the process of developing this corridor management plan, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Steering Committee has strengthened the bonds of inter-municipal cooperation, and the involved entities envision further benefit through scenic byway designation including sustained collaborative progress, increased funding opportunities for recommendations identified in the plan, enhanced partnerships with agencies responsible for the stewardship of resources along and adjacent to the byway route, and an improved transportation experience that preserves, interprets, and promotes the corridor's intrinsic qualities and resources; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Village of Buchanan supports the designation of the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway which includes programs for stewardship and enhancement of the scenic byway and guidance to manage future activities along its corridor; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village of Buchanan confirms that they will not approve any requests for new off-premise outdoor advertising signs along the designated Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway route; and

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Village of Buchanan will work in partnership with the other municipalities along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway and local and regional stakeholders in order to support future Byway program development and collaborate with these interested entities to explore opportunities for cooperation and methods to advance the Scenic Byway.

Upon Roll Call Vote:

Mayor Theresa Knickerbocker \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee Awilda Baez \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee Anthony Capicotti \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee Steve Laker \_\_\_\_\_

Trustee Daniel Stewart \_\_\_\_\_

Vote: Resolution carried by a vote of \_\_\_\_to \_\_\_\_.

STATE OF NEW YORK )  
 )ss.:  
COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER )

I, CYNTHIA KEMPTER, Village Clerk of the Village of Buchanan, do hereby certify that the above is a true and exact copy of a Resolution adopted by the Village Board of the Village of Buchanan at a meeting of said Board held August 5, 2025.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Cynthia Kempter, Village Clerk

# Proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway (HTURB)



## Sharing Authentic Stories of Harriet Tubman and Freedom Seekers in New York

**What is a NY State Scenic Byway:** A New York Byway is a self-guided public road recognized by the New York State Department of Transportation (NYS DOT) for its special scenic, historic, cultural, recreational, archaeological, and/or natural qualities recognized through legislation. Byways offer a unique alternative to interstate travel, inviting travelers to explore and enjoy attractions along the designated route. They enhance travel experiences and contribute to the vitality of local economies. In addition, designated New York State Byways have seen a significant economic impact within their local communities.

The Proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Byway offers opportunities to share authentic stories of Harriet Tubman and Freedom Seekers in New York.

As a vehicle for education, perseverance, and economic growth, the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Byway fosters community pride, enhances residents' quality of life, preserves its historic and natural assets, inspires visitors to be agents of change, and elevates the authentic stories of Freedom Seekers on their journey to Freedom by providing exceptional and inclusive experiences along its 550-mile route.

## ECONOMIC IMPACT OF SCENIC BYWAYS SIMILAR IN LENGTH AND SCOPE:

Maryland's  
Harriet Tubman Byway  
(Spans 125 miles)

Contributes **\$23 million** in sales annually to the area;  
supporting **363 jobs** for **\$9.9 million** in earnings.

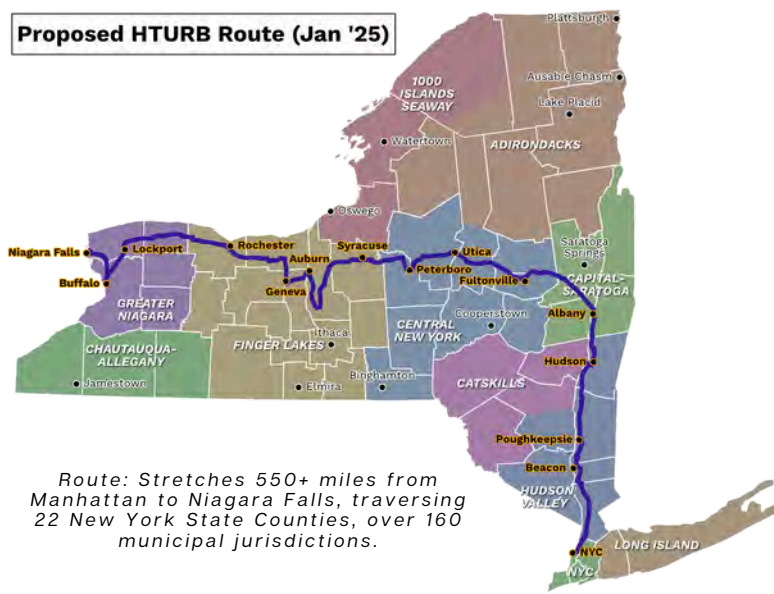
Natchez Trace Parkway  
(444 miles through 41 county and  
municipal jurisdictions in Mississippi,  
Tennessee, and Alabama):

Generates **\$18.4 billion** of direct spending in  
communities within 60 miles of a national park;  
supports **271,544 jobs** in neighboring communities.

Journey Through Hallowed  
Ground National Scenic Byway  
(15-county byway region of Maryland,  
Pennsylvania, Virginia, and West Virginia)

Generates **\$1.06 billion** in total business sales, more  
than **6,500 jobs**, and an increase of approximately  
**\$165.1 million** in earnings.

Proposed HTURB Route (Jan '25)



## TIMELINE FOR COMPLETION

2025

- March: Finalize Municipality Resolutions
- April-June: Public Feedback on CMP
- June- Sept: Submit CMP to NY State DOT
- Sept-Dec: Prepare documentation for legislative bill

2026

- Jan: Introduce Legislation
- March: Host Celebrations on Designated Byway



# Frequently Asked Questions



## What is a Scenic Byway?

The New York Department of Transportation (NYDOT) describes a scenic byway as “a public road having special scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, and/or natural qualities that have been recognized as such through legislation or some other official declaration.”



## Why is designation as a scenic byway important?

The New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT) designates Byways that are of particular statewide interest as “New York State Scenic Byways”. Communities along official Scenic NYS DOT Byways have seen tremendous economic impacts.

The NYSDOT State Scenic Byway program encourages both economic development and resource conservation, recognizing that each of these aspects of a byway must be fostered to ensure the success of the other. There are also Billboard restrictions for New York State Byways. Source:

<https://www.dot.ny.gov/display/programs/scenic-byways/programs>



## What are the local costs for the Corridor, if any?

There are no costs to local municipalities or individuals to apply for the designation. The Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State received a grant to create the Corridor Management Plan.



## What is a Corridor Management Plan?

A Corridor Management Plan (CMP) guides the future promotion, preservation, tourism development, and enhancement of a designated byway. The plan results from local governments, community organizations, and byway residents working together to establish goals and objectives they hope to achieve through designation. These goals may include promoting tourism, preserving historic and natural resources, or interpreting scenic views.

The CMP is not a document of new laws, regulations, or ordinances. Instead, it utilizes existing land use plans plus local stakeholders' recommendations to take care of the byway voluntarily.



## Who will implement and manage the Corridor Management Plan (CMP)?

The Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State is sponsoring the creation of the CMP and leading the designation process. A steering committee of local stakeholders will help create the CMP with assistance from Hargrove International, Inc., a heritage tourism and byway consulting firm. Once designated, the CMP will be implemented by a management entity as described in the final CMP.



## What signage will be put on the byway and who will pay for them?

The NYS DOT will assume the cost of all official signage along the Scenic Byway. There is no financial commitment from the municipalities.



## Regarding Billboards, please explain the resolution to “not approve any new requests for outdoor advertising along the Proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway.

The intent is to prohibit permitting any NEW commercial billboards and refers to any outdoor sign containing advertising unrelated to any use or activity on the premises on which the sign is located. It does not include directional signs.



## How will living on the Scenic Byway affect my property?

The New York Department of Transportation has only one land use restriction – the prohibition of constructing new billboards that accompany the Byway destination. This rule applies to the Interstate, National Highway, or Federal Routes. Living on a Scenic Byway will create a greater sense of pride for landowners and may increase property values.



## Does designation as a Scenic Byway mean that NY DOT will exercise Eminent Domain?

No. Designation as a Scenic Byway does not facilitate NY DOT's ability to “take” your property or increase the likelihood of such an action.

Proposed HTURB Route (Jan '25)

