



Durham Valley Scenic Byway

Corridor Management Plan

**Open House
May 15, 2010**

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ERO *Consultants in Natural Resources & the Environment*

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Introductions

Scenic Byway Coordinating Committee

- Richard Goldstein
(Durham Valley Land Trust)
- Linda Sutton
(Town of Durham Board & Town of Durham Historic Preservation Commission)
- Alan Beechert
(Town of Durham Deputy Highway Superintendent)
- Barry Garfinkel
(Association for the Preservation of the Durham Valley)
- Gunther Ohm
(Greene County Legislature – retired)
- Daniel Clifton
(Durham Valley Land Trust & Town of Durham Historic Preservation Commission)



Presentation Outline

1. General Background

- National Scenic Byways Program
- New York State
- Benefits of a Scenic Byway

2. Durham Valley Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan

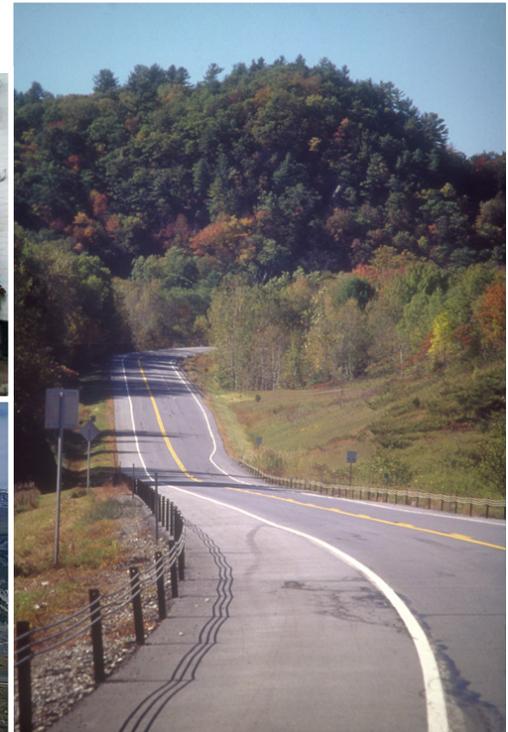
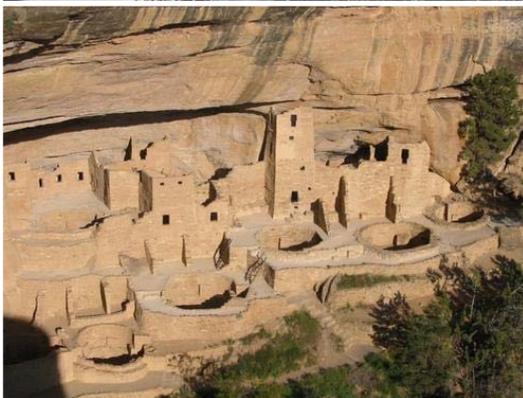
- Purpose
- Corridor Identification
- Defining the Scenic Byway Corridor
- Public Participation Actions
- Inventory and Management Actions



1. General Background

National Scenic Byways Program

- Part of the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration.
- Established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) of 1991; reauthorized in 1998.
- A grass-roots collaborative effort established to help recognize, preserve and enhance selected roads throughout the United States.



National Scenic Byways Program

Vision

"To create a distinctive collection of American roads, their stories and treasured places."

Mission

To provide resources to the byway community in creating a unique travel experience and enhanced local quality of life through efforts to preserve, protect, interpret, and promote the intrinsic qualities of designated byways.



"The program is about recognition, not regulation."



New York's Scenic Byways

Designations

- In New York State, there are several types of types of corridors that fall under the Scenic Byways Program:
- State Scenic Byways are transportation corridors that are of particular statewide interest. They are representative of a region's scenic, recreational, cultural, natural, historic or archaeological significance to the State of New York.
- Corridors can be nominated by local interest groups for designation. When the program was created, some corridors automatically became Scenic Byways. These include:
 - Scenic Roads that were designated by the New York State Department of Conservation prior to the creation of the Scenic Byways Program;
 - Parkways that exhibit statewide scenic, recreational, cultural, natural, historic or archaeological significance;
 - North Country Touring Routes;
 - and the – Seaway Trail

Benefits of a Scenic Byway

- A source of local pride, a chance for citizens to showcase the beauty of their region.
- Provides the community with a “road map to the future.”
- A way for stakeholders to determine what they like about their community and how to preserve these qualities while encouraging economic growth.
- A unique tool, in that it can be used to achieve a wide variety of the Durham Valley community’s goals.



2. Durham Valley Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan



Purpose

Corridor Management Plan

A Corridor Management Plan reflects the value the public places upon a particular resource. It articulates a vision and represents a commitment to conserve and enhance the byway's intrinsic qualities.



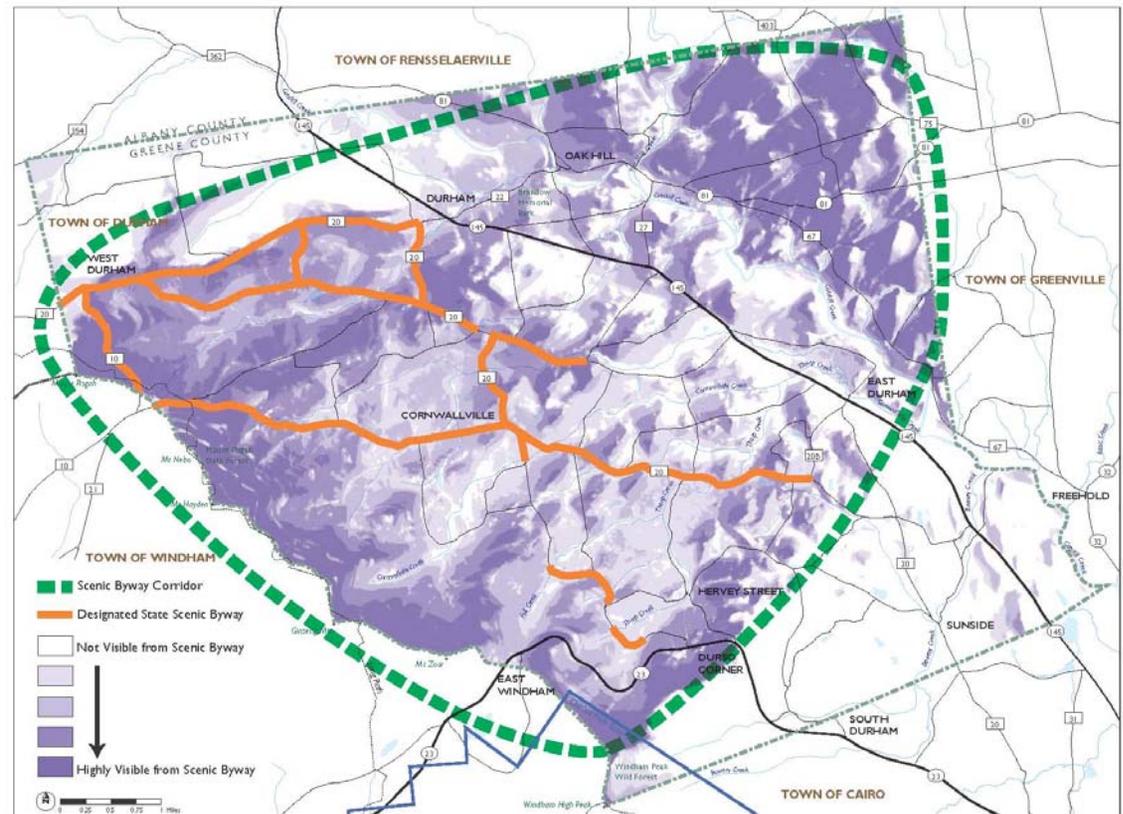
Corridor Identification

- A network of historic corridors that traverses the Durham Valley.
- All of the scenic roads contribute a distinct individual character.
- Forested hillsides of the Catskill Mountains to the west contrast the geometric patterns of the rural agricultural lands surrounding the historic hamlets.



Defining the Scenic Byway Corridor

- “Scenic Byway Corridor” refers to more than just the 21 miles of designated scenic roads and the areas immediately adjacent.
- Each road has an individual character built upon its topography, views, geographic presence, and cultural feature.
- Viewshed mapping captures the extent of the Scenic Byway Corridor.



Public Participation Actions

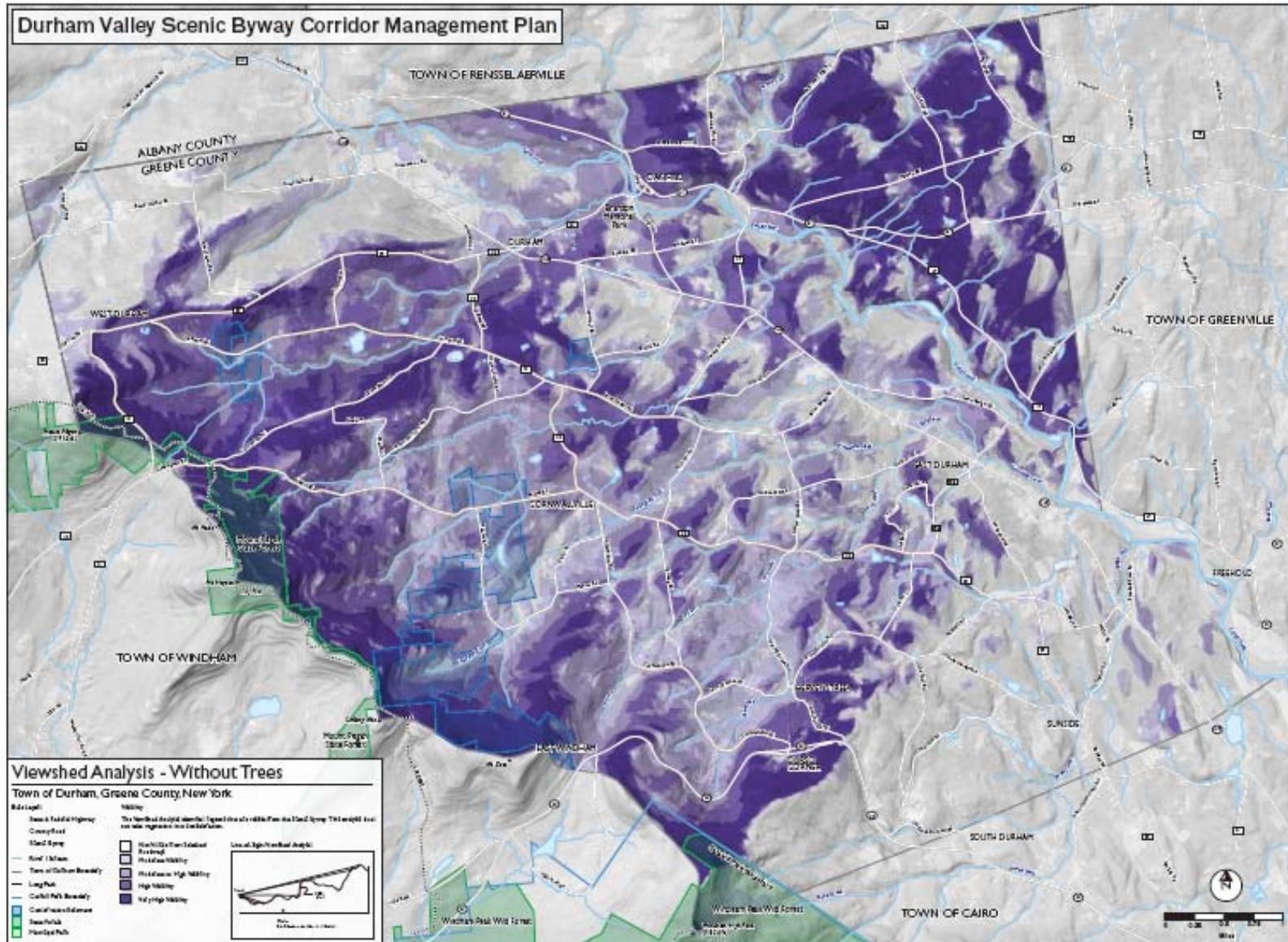
- Creation of a project brochure that introduced goals of the Corridor Management Plan, the Scenic Byway Coordinating Committee, a Scenic Byway Corridor map, and contact information.
- Development and maintenance of a website www.DurhamValley.com.
- Individual meetings and follow up with agencies, organizations, and stakeholders.
- Two public meetings in 2008 in conjunction with regular Town or Durham Board.
- An open house in September 2008 – invitations mailed to 250 residents along the Scenic Byway.



Scenic Resources



Visual Analysis



Management Actions – Scenic Resources

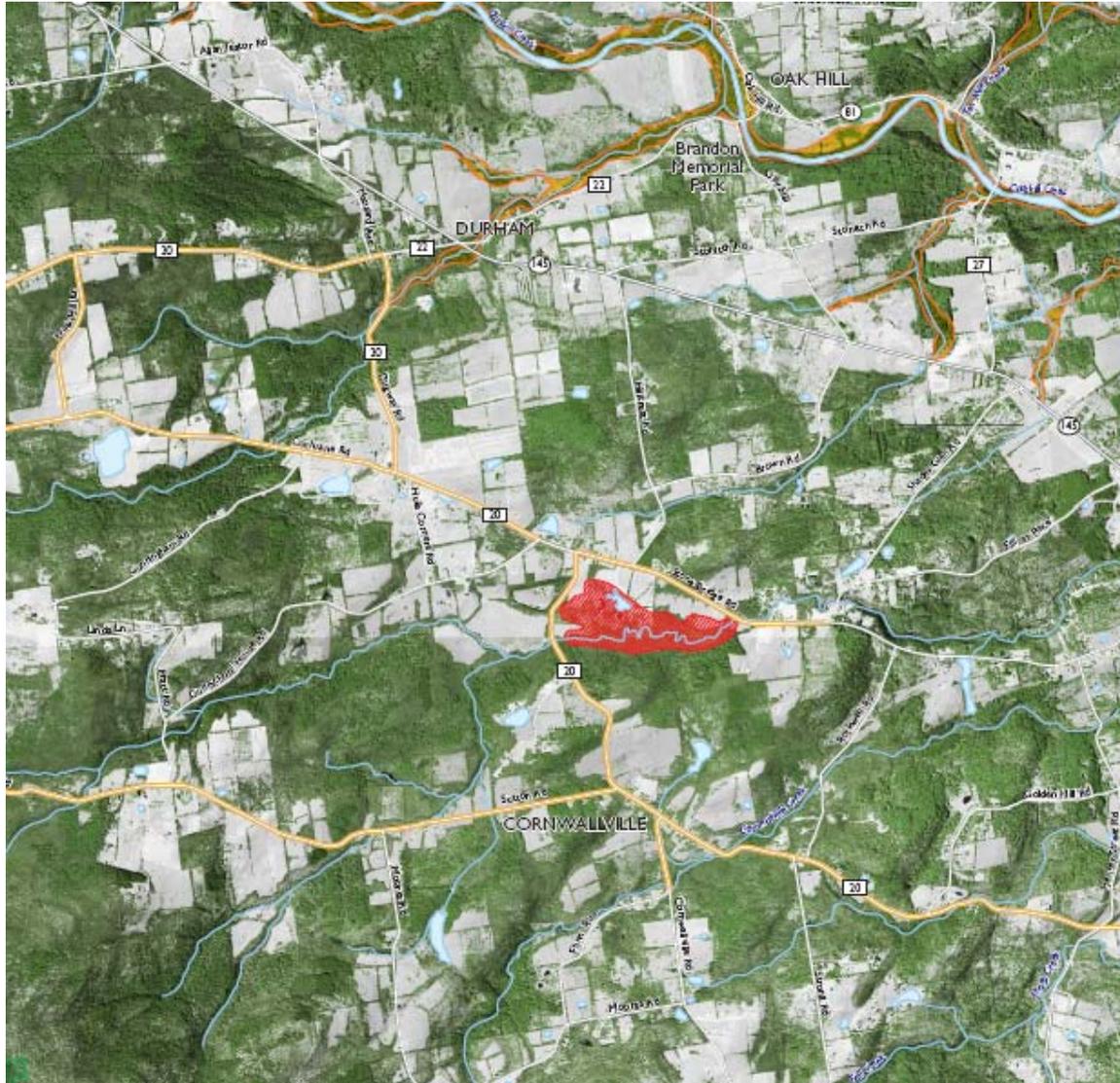
- **Promote the importance of the preservation of the intrinsic qualities that are visible from the Scenic Byway and that create its scenic character. Protect the priority views along the Scenic Byway and throughout the Scenic Byway Corridor.**
 - a. Continue to promote the viewshed analysis as a valuable tool.
 - b. Assist private property owners with significant lands of conservation value to ensure their protection.
 - c. Advocate the protection of the foreground views.
 - d. Advocate for protection against development along ridgelines.



Natural Resources



Natural Resources



Management Actions – Natural Resources

- **Support and advocate responsible development and sustainable land use through the municipal planning processes.**
 - a. Promote the adoption of the Corridor Management Plan by the Town of Durham. Advocate its use as a planning tool.
 - b. Actively assist the Town of Durham, in an advisory role, in reviewing proposed development for consistency with the Corridor Management Plan.
 - c. Promote the Corridor Management Plan so that the Town of Durham, Greene County, and New York State can use it in developing policy and identifying resources.
 - d. Support and advocate policies of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan that protect important resources.

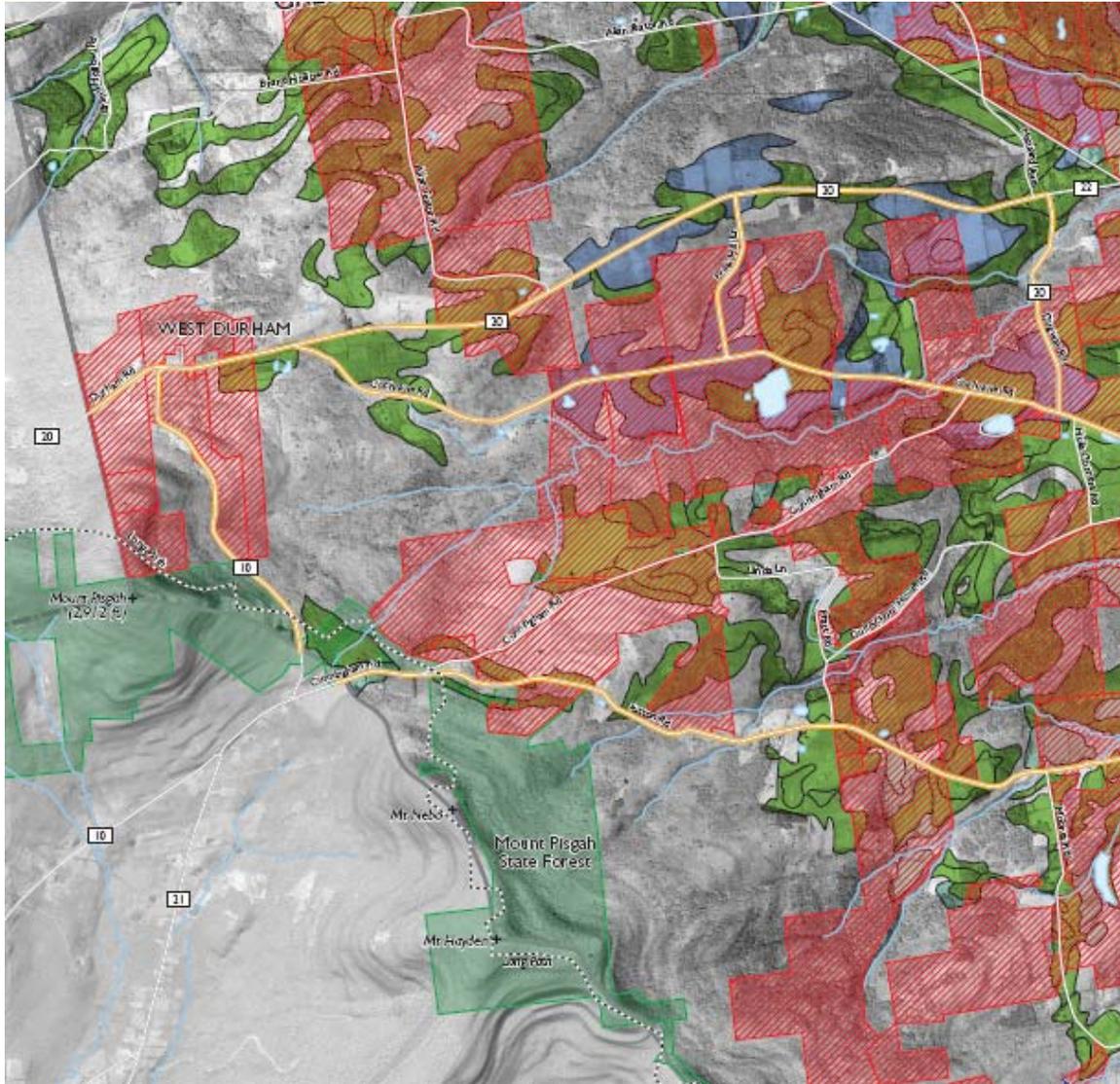


Management Actions – Natural Resources

- **Work with partners to promote land conservation through conservation easements and other tools.**
 - a. Partner with local, state-wide, and national conservation organizations actively working in the Catskill Region to protect important natural areas, agricultural lands, and open space.
 - b. Provide and obtain updates on land conservation activities from the Durham Valley Land Trust, Open Space Institute, The Trust for Public Land, and American Farmland Trust.



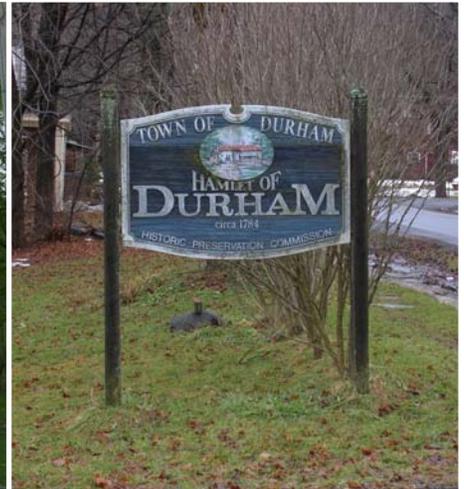
Agricultural Resources



Management Actions – Agricultural Resources

- **Promote the protection of important agricultural lands that contribute to the Scenic Byway Corridor by using tools that provide an economic benefit to the landowner.**
 - a. Identify agricultural resources that also hold important heritage value such as important historic structures, sites, or land uses.
 - b. Actively participate in the Durham Agriculture Community Partnership to support its work in protecting important agricultural lands as working landscapes.
 - c. Partner with land trust organizations to promote conservation tools (i.e., conservation easements and land acquisition) that protect significant private lands and provide a benefit to the owner. Assist with support letters, grant funding, and education of landowners concerning benefits and constraints of these approaches.
 - d. Support the preservation of important lands through services such as grant writing, education, and collaboration.

Historic Resources



Historic Resources



Management Actions – Historic Resources

- **Assist with the county-wide process to document significant historic resources.**
 - a. Encourage the Greene County Historical Society to maintain the historic resource database.
 - b. Coordinate with the Historic Preservation Commission and New York State Historic Preservation Office annually to obtain the most recent listing of inventoried properties.
 - c. Work with the Historic Preservation Commission on a regular basis to obtain information on properties that it is inventorying, surveying, or designating.
 - d. Collaborate with the Historic Preservation Commission to provide their most recent inventories for inclusion in the database.
 - e. If requested, assist the Durham Center Museum with its depository of information on local historic resources.



Management Actions – Historic Resources

- **Encourage local hamlets to recognize historic resources through historic designation (local, state, or national) or through other planning measures.**
 - a. If requested, work with the Oak Hill community to recognize a historic district.
 - b. Support Cornwallville's historic designation through restoration awards.
 - c. Support East Durham's Main Street Project.
 - d. Work with the Town of Durham to ensure adherence to an implementation of Local Law No. 1 of 1989 for Historic Preservation.



Management Actions – Historic Resources

- **Work with the Historic Preservation Commission to craft projects for additional or new inventory, evaluation or designation of historic resources.**
 - a. Work with partners and private property owners including farmers to secure funding and technical support for evaluation and inventory projects.
 - b. Add List of Potential Historic Resources to Greene County Historical Society database as sites needing additional study.
 - c. Assist with the preparation and submittal of grant applications to the New York State Historic Preservation Office to conduct additional survey work.

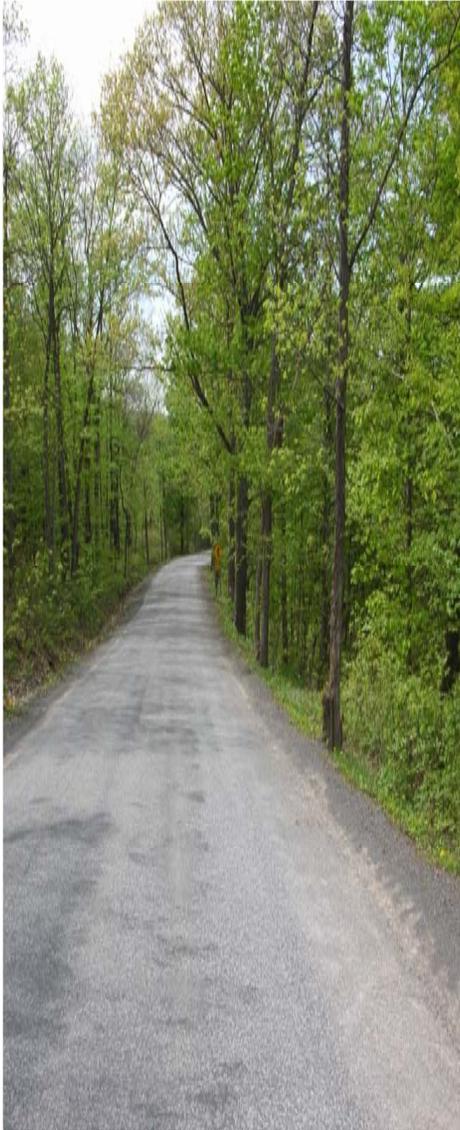


Management Actions – Historic Resources

- **Explain the economic options and benefits of historic preservation, such as gaining eligibility for historic grants for public and community projects and obtaining tax credits for private properties that are designated and rehabilitated as historic properties.**
 - a. Assist partners by providing services such as presentations and participating in grant writing and providing letters of support.
 - b. Work with partners to create publications, brochures and other media to promote the importance and benefits of historic preservation.



Recreation Resources



Management Actions – Recreation Resources

- **Support and advocate protection of public lands that contribute to the recreational values of the Scenic Byway Corridor.**
 - a. Work with Department of Environmental Conservation in reviewing proposed management plans for Mount Pisgah State Forest to ensure consistency with Corridor Management Plan to the extent allowed by Department of Environmental Conservation’s mandates.
 - b. Support Town of Durham efforts via code procedures that discourage inappropriate development adjacent to public lands.
 - c. Promote a partnership with the Department of Environmental Conservation to influence future plans impacting state lands to preserve recreation resources.
 - d. Support and advocate policies of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan that protect important recreation resources.
 - e. Support efforts of public or private partners who may seek to acquire or otherwise protect land adjacent to existing public lands that are considered critical for recreation or other intrinsic qualities.



Transportation

- **Promote vehicular safety**

- a. Explore with the New York Department of Transportation solutions to mitigate hazardous intersections in the Scenic Byway Corridor.

- b. The following locations should be examined and solutions sought to mitigate potential hazards:

- o County Route 22 and State Route 145

- o County Route 20 and Cochrane Road

- c. Develop an informational brochure that clearly informs the visitor of individual road conditions and speed limits.

- **Suggest improvements that will enhance safety and the overall Scenic Byway experience**

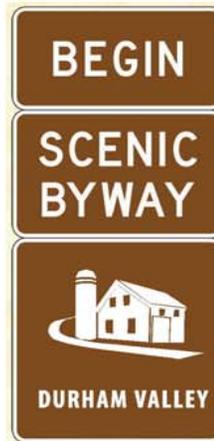
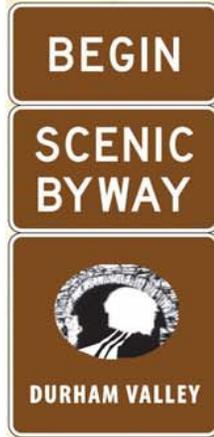
- a. Incorporate multiple modes of transportation within the Scenic Byway Corridor. Consider areas large enough or designated for short-term parking of tour buses.

- b. Promote methods of vegetation management (e.g., tree removal) that maintain both road safety and the scenic qualities of the Scenic Byway Corridor.

Existing Character



Developing Image



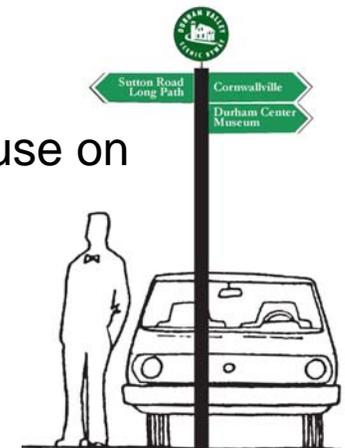
Tourism and Economic Development

- **Work with partners on their existing historic sites to bring the sites up to a high level of service (visitor ready) and authentic quality for interpretation, programming, and events.**
 - a. Work with partners on those sites that are already identified as high priority for improving facilities and interpretation (i.e., getting them visitor ready).
 - b. Work with partners and private property owners to secure funding and technical support for implementation.
- **Develop and enhance tourism to increase the economic base.**
 - a. Educate the community about the Scenic Byway Corridor's resources and tourism benefits.
 - b. Design programs to heighten local familiarity with the Scenic Byway Corridor's assets.
 - c. Continue to catalogue and monitor existing visitor services in the Scenic Byway Corridor, including accommodations, restaurants, and other pertinent businesses.
 - d. Determine priorities for new and/or improved services based on community input.



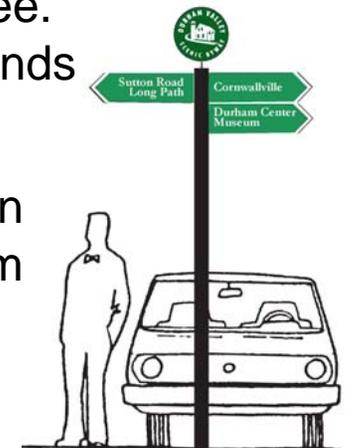
Marketing, Promotion, and Education

- **Implement an interpretive, educational, and marketing program to educate the local community and visitors on the intrinsic values of the Scenic Byway Corridor.**
 - a. Develop a marketing approach and a marketing brochure to promote the Scenic Byway Corridor.
 - b. Create a logo for use in identifying the Scenic Byway Corridor.
 - c. Create a Durham Valley Scenic Byway website.
 - d. Develop and maintain a speaker's bureau (a listing of available experts) to visit schools, organizations, or other groups to promote the Byway Corridor. Develop lecture topics and potential venues.
 - e. Provide information to the State and National Scenic Byway programs for inclusion with marketing materials and web sites. Provide stories to New York State Scenic Byways Program for use on its web site.
 - f. Write items for publication such as press releases, contributions to heritage tourism publications, and articles for other industry publications.



Marketing, Promotion, and Education

- **Create training and outreach programs to engage the community.**
 - a. Work with Scenic Byway partners to develop and provide a training program for business owners and other organizations to educate them on the Scenic Byway, resource protection, benefits, and methods to integrate the Scenic Byway into their business offerings.
 - b. Organize tours of existing businesses and evaluate materials available to travelers.
- **Broaden the participation on the Scenic Byway Committee to include all interested stakeholders.**
 - a. Work to add additional members to the Scenic Byway Committee. Consider adding one stakeholder with interests in agricultural lands and one stakeholder with a local business interest.
 - b. Re-evaluate the composition of the Scenic Byway Committee on a regular basis to ensure that it provides broad participation from all interested stakeholder groups.



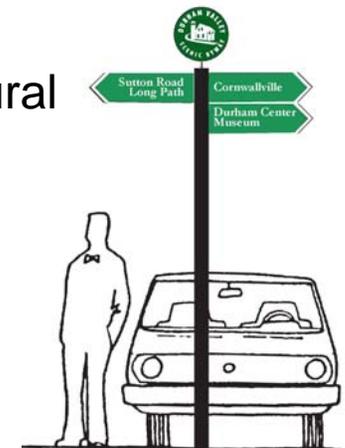
Wayfinding and Resource Interpretation

- **Create three scenic waysides to convey the interpretive stories of the Byway Corridor and provide additional visitor opportunities.**
 - a. Work with NYSDOT to improve the Five-State Overlook site as a pilot project for interpretive wayside development. Provide site improvements, interpretive signs, and visitor amenities.
 - b. Work with NYSDOT to add the logo and interpretive information to the Five-State Overlook
 - c. Develop a typical wayside site plan for use in developing interpretive waysides. Consult NYSDOT and other partners.
 - d. Work with private landowners in evaluating locations along the Susquehanna Turnpike for a potential scenic wayside.
 - e. Work with private landowners in evaluating locations along County Route 10 for a potential scenic wayside.



Wayfinding and Resource Interpretation

- **Create two visitor center/orientation waysides, to convey interpretive, educational, and marketing information.**
 - a. Work with the Town of Durham and other partners to develop visitor center/orientation waysides.
 - b. Work with the Town of Durham in evaluating the Town Hall site as a potential visitor center/orientation wayside.
 - c. Work with the Town of Durham in developing architectural and site plans and interpretive installations for a visitor center/orientation wayside.
 - d. Work with the Durham Center Museum in evaluating the site as a potential visitor center/orientation wayside.
 - e. Work with the Durham Center Museum in developing architectural and site plans and interpretive installations for a visitor center/orientation wayside.



Next Steps

- ✓ ***Data Gathering and GIS Mapping***
 - ✓ ***Inventory and Assessment***
 - ✓ ***Community Open House***
 - ✓ ***Draft Management Plan***
 - ✓ ***Byway Coordinating Committee Review***
 - ✓ ***Community Open House – Today***
- Final Management Plan***



Durham Valley Scenic Byway Coordinating Committee

c/o Durham Valley Land Trust

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