



**Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Proposed Byway**  
825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls, NY 14305  
[www. TubmanBywayNY.org](http://www.TubmanBywayNY.org)

March 2026

Dear **Onondaga County Board of Legislators,**

My name is Ally Spongr DeGon and I am the administrator for the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Proposed Byway, the President of the Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State (URCNYS), and the Director of the Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center, and our organizations are in the process of getting resolutions passed throughout New York State in support of the proposed **550-mile Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway (HTURB)**.

The Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway's Phase 1 (Auburn to Niagara Falls) was recently completed. Our Byway team and local stakeholders secured resolutions from all municipalities within the Phase 1 jurisdictions, and have submitted a Corridor Management Plan to the New York State Department of Transportation (NYSDOT). Bills are currently in the Senate (S9057) and Assembly (A10194) for Phase 1 with the objective of having the Byway Phase 1 signed into law by June 2026. We are now securing resolutions from municipalities in Phase 2, which spans from Manhattan to Albany (through Onondaga County) and on to Auburn - connecting Phase 1 and Phase 2 to establish the full 550-mile route.

We kindly request your assistance in reviewing and signing the draft resolution (found in this packet), which is needed for each municipality/jurisdiction along the route, including Onondaga County. We are requesting the resolution be presented and passed at your next Legislature meeting in the month of April. I kindly request that your office returns the adopted, signed, and notarized Resolution to me either by email or by mail (825 Depot Avenue West, Niagara Falls, NY 14305). NYSDOT requires all resolutions to be notarized.

Here's a link to a Google Map version of the route (the route is the purple line): <http://bit.ly/40L67hi>

Designated byways from the New York State Department of Transportation have demonstrated a significant economic impact on local communities. It is another tourism product that can be promoted to help the local economy. The HTURB will cover 550 miles, stretching from New York City to Niagara Falls and passing through 22 counties and hundreds of communities, including Onondaga County.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me directly. Thank you for your consideration.

Kind Regards,

Ally Spongr DeGon

*Byway Administration, Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Proposed Byway  
& President, Underground Railroad Consortium of New York State  
& Director, Niagara Falls Underground Railroad Heritage Center*

Resolution for Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad New York Scenic Byway Nomination  
and Corridor Management Plan Adoption

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 utilized 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 working cooperatively to protect and promote the historic, scenic, recreational, and economic well-being of the 550-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 encouraging public participation, confirming the vision and goals, and leading individual meetings of the Collaborative; and

WHEREAS, the Steering 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 visitor experience that interprets and promotes the corridor's intrinsic qualities and resources; and

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

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of ABC 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 Town of ABC confirms that they will abide by and follow all existing New York State and Federal laws and regulations that are applicable to this resolution and..."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of ABC 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 programs, economic development, marketing, and collaborate with these interested entities to explore opportunities for cooperation to realize the Scenic Byway goals.