



HARRIET TUBMAN UNDERGROUND RAILROAD BYWAY (HTURB PHASE 1 & 2)

*Sharing Authentic Stories of Harriet Tubman, the
Underground Railroad, and Freedom Seekers in New York*

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What is a Scenic Byway?

- ➔ A Scenic Byway is a state (or national) roadway recognized for its intrinsic qualities. Designation helps protect these routes and promotes tourism.

Why is this Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway significant?

- ➔ As a vehicle for education, preservation, 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 eventual border-to-border route.

What are the other benefits of designation?

- ➔ Affords access to grants and funding for byway marketing, tourism development, and stewardship
- ➔ Provides a northern connector to ultimately join from Maryland to Canada.
- ➔ Increased tourism leads to economic growth, improved infrastructure, new experiences and events, and enhanced community pride

Where is the proposed Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway?

- ➔ HTURB PHASE 1 spans 173.17 miles with 22 documented resources demonstrating the significance of Harriet Tubman and the Underground Railroad in New York:
- ➔ A segment of 3.37 miles in Auburn, Harriet Tubman's chosen hometown
- ➔ A segment traversing 169.8 miles through Seneca, Ontario, Wayne, Monroe, Orleans, Erie, and Niagara Counties

Why is this Phase 1 of the Byway designation?

- ➔ Byway designation requires the creation of a corridor management plan (CMP) and resolutions of support from all municipalities involved. Phase 1 of the byway travels through eight counties (incl. corresponding cities, towns, and villages) that passed the required resolutions for the byway.
- ➔ Upon Phase 1 designation, organizers will work to secure resolutions from remaining jurisdictions so the byway will be a contiguous border-to-border route between NYC and Niagara Falls, ending at the location where Freedom Seekers, including Harriet Tubman, crossed the international border to freedom in Canada.

Together, let's celebrate and commemorate New York's distinctive heritage of Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, and Freedom Seekers through the designation of a state byway enjoyed by current and future generations of our state's residents and travelers.