

April 19, 2012

Re: Catskill Mountains Scenic Byway Proposal

Dear Elected Officials:

In 2011 the Central Catskills Collaborative completed the draft corridor management plan (CMP) for the scenic byway nomination and presented it to you for review and approval. This followed cooperative efforts on the part of all seven municipalities to form the Central Catskills Collaborative and pursue funding from the Catskill Watershed Corporation to undertake the CMP – with the town of Olive administered the funding on behalf of the corridor municipalities. Since the completion of the draft CMP, several members of the involved governing boards have offered suggestions and have asked questions. The Collaborative has responded by explaining the project in further detail, answering questions at public meetings, drafting written materials in reply to questions, and by organizing a meeting focused on the topic of signs, where experts from state agencies provided more information and answered questions.

The attached document, Scenic Byway Proposal – Responses and Revisions, continues the process of completing the draft CMP by addressing remaining questions, concerns, and suggestions, and by outlining revisions to the draft CMP. The proposed revisions to the CMP focus on reinforcing existing language for clarity, removing superfluous or confusing language, and addressing specific questions, concerns, or suggestions. The nature of the proposed revisions to the CMP are minor and supplemental and do not necessitate reconsideration of the nominating resolution by the governing boards who have already adopted this resolution; this guidance has been provided by Nancy Alexander, manager of the New York State Scenic Byways Program. In responding to all the comments received by elected officials, the document presents responses and, as needed, by putting forth proposed revisions to the CMP.

Because several of the remaining questions and concerns focus on topics that have been previously raised by elected officials and the public, and addressed by the Collaborative, I'm also attaching Scenic Byway Proposal – Supplemental Information, which was distributed to elected officials and the public in January.

Thank you for your ongoing attention to this important project which is designed to enhance economic opportunities in the Central Catskills. Your questions, concerns, and suggestions are critical in advancing the cooperative efforts that have driven this proposal. I look forward to our continued progress.

Sincerely,

Peter Manning