



# Transportation

New York State Routes 23 and 145 connect the Town of Durham to the New York State Thruway and are the primary access highways to the Durham Valley. Located north of New York State Route 23 and southwest of New York State Route 145, the Scenic Byway Corridor may be accessed from either of these roads.

## Existing Scenic Byway Conditions

- **County Route 20** – This segment of Scenic Byway along County Route 20 extends about 9.5 miles from the Schoharie County line east through the Hamlet of Durham and the Hamlet of Cornwallville to the junction with County Route 20B. The road surface is paved and traffic volumes appear moderate.
- **County Route 10** – This segment of Scenic Byway traverses the west side of the Scenic Byway Corridor for 1.4 miles beginning at County Route 20 (Susquehanna Turnpike) and continuing south to the Town line. The roadway is paved and striped. Traffic volumes appear moderate.
- **Cochrane Road** – The 3-mile Scenic Byway segment descends from County Route 20 (Susquehanna Turnpike) east to rejoin County Route 20 at the southern end of Dugway Road. The road surface is dirt from Prink Hill Lane heading west. Upper elevations of the Scenic Byway segment are lined with a number of old hardwood trees. Traffic volumes appear very low.
- **Prink Hill Lane** – The Scenic Byway segment follows 0.7 mile of Prink Hill Lane from County Route 20 (Susquehanna Turnpike) south to Cochrane Road. This segment was paved by



the Town of Durham in 2008. Traffic volumes appear low.

- **Stonebridge Road** – The 1-mile segment from Shady Glen Road west to County Route 20 provides an entry point from the east into the Scenic Byway Corridor. The segment has an oil and stone surface type. Traffic volumes appear low.
- **Cunningham Road** – This short, 0.4-mile Scenic Byway segment begins at the west side of the Scenic Byway Corridor at the Town of

Durham line and continues east to Sutton Road. The segment has an oil and stone surface type. Traffic volumes appear low.

- **Sutton Road** – This segment of Scenic Byway descends 3.4 miles from west to east into the Durham Valley from Cunningham Road to County Route 20. The upper 1.4 miles of road surface are dirt while the remaining 2 miles are oil and stone. Town residents generally oppose resurfacing the dirt portion. Traffic volumes appear low.
- **Cornwallville Road** – The three, short Scenic Byway segments (0.3 miles from County Route 20 in the Hamlet of Cornwallville south to the Flinn Road junction; 0.8 mile from Fall Creek then continuing to the Hervey Street junction; and 0.4 mile from Throp Creek continuing east to a point beyond the next creek (unnamed)) are oil and stone. Traffic volumes appear moderate because there is easy access to State Route 23 to the south.

## Traffic Volume

Annual Average Daily Traffic (AADT) information for the Scenic Byway is not available because traffic count data are not collected for County or Town roads in the Durham Valley. Based on traffic volumes along state routes between 1989 and 2004, there have been small to moderate increases in traffic adjacent to the Scenic Byway Corridor. For example, in the most recent traffic counts, Route 145 traffic volume through the Town of Durham increased about 4 percent. Compared to other nearby areas, the traffic volume increases of 4 percent are quite moderate.



## Roadway Safety and Maintenance

One of the most important aspects of managing a Scenic Byway is maintaining or improving the road to ensure adequate roadway safety. The Town of Durham Highway Maintenance Department has eight full-time employees and maintains about 77 miles of road. Paved roads comprise about 36 miles, oil and stone comprise about 23 miles, and there are 18 miles of dirt roads. The annual budget for the Highway Maintenance Department is about \$880,000 and there is a 5-year equipment replacement program. The Town of Durham is working to reduce the amount of dirt road by 0.5 mile each year. No formal maintenance agreements with other towns, the County, or the State are in place. Snowplowing is an informally shared service with Greene County.

Eight stone arch bridges are found in the Durham Valley, which the Town of Durham is working to preserve and save from further deterioration. An area of current concern is the Hervey Street Bridge over Thorp Creek near the Scenic Byway. Flooding in April 2005 weakened Hervey Street Bridge. Although necessary funding is not presently available, the Town of Durham is seeking funding for restoration of the Hervey Street Bridge.

## Public Safety

Emergency services in the Durham Valley are provided by E-911, through Greene County as well as through local police, the county sheriff, the New York State Police, and several local volunteer fire and rescue departments (e.g., Town of Durham Ambulance Squad, Oak Hill-Durham Volunteer Fire Company, and East Durham Volunteer Fire Company).

## Management Actions - Transportation

### Promote vehicular safety

- a. Explore with the New York Department of Transportation solutions to mitigate hazardous intersections in the Scenic Byway Corridor.
- b. Some locations in the Scenic Byway Corridor may be potentially hazardous to visitors not familiar with road conditions. 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. The network of scenic roads that make up the Scenic Byway is truly unique. 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. Private vehicular traffic is adequately accommodated on existing roadways. However, areas large enough or designated for short-term parking of tour buses should be considered.
- b. Promote methods of vegetation management (e.g., tree removal) that maintain both road safety and the scenic qualities of the Scenic Byway Corridor.