

Roadway Safety and Improvements



Providing safe travel along Henry Hudson Drive on the Palisades Parkway is imperative while preserving the rustic parkway character and scenic views.

Roadway Safety

Even though a corridor is designated as a byway, it is important to understand its function as part of the transportation network. Those that travel along the byway corridor might be visitors enjoying a scenic ride or residents who use it to make local or regional trips. Visitors to the byway are also not limited to those who travel in a vehicle. Byways are often multi-modal, providing for and balancing the needs of various travel options including bicycling, walking, public transportation, horseback riding, and boating, among others. When designing, constructing and maintaining the byway, improvements should emphasize road safety that accommodates all users, not just motorists.

The challenge for the byway sponsor will be how to make improvements to the byway that will incorporate roadway safety for all users while still protecting byway features and character. One way to address the challenge is to measure the benefits of the improvement project in terms of roadway safety. Making your byway safer will not only enhance the visitor experience but it can also serve to reduce the number of crashes that happen along the byway corridor. In addition to its use as a scenic ride, visitors will enjoy using it because they feel safe doing so.

Transportation safety is a vital component to the overall well-being and enjoyment of visitors to New Jersey's scenic byways.



Bicycling on the High Peaks Byway along NYS Route 73 in the Adirondacks

Resources

- NJDOT Division of Local Aid and Economic Development
www.nj.gov/transportation/business/localaid/
- NJDOT Roadway Information and Traffic Counts
www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/roadway/
- TMS2Go
www.state.nj.us/transportation/refdata/roadway/tms2go.shtm
- Plan4Safety
cait.rutgers.edu/tsrc/plan4safety
- FHWA Safety Program
www.safety.fhwa.dot.gov
- National Highway Traffic Safety Administration
www.nhtsa.dot.gov
- Official U.S. Government Website for Distracted Driving
distraction.gov

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Project Identification

Your Corridor Management Plan (CMP) should be used as a reference for any improvements along your byway. The CMP already includes a safety assessment of the byway including hazards, poor design and recommendations for improvements. The priorities outlined in the CMP should be reflected when proposing new projects or addressing new issues which:



Enhance the experience of the byway visitor and user.



Maintain the byway's character.



Preserve the byway's features.

Outreach and Partnerships

Given the nature of byway jurisdiction, roadway safety is the responsibility of numerous agencies within the State. Use your CMP to identify the respective agency that has jurisdictional rights along your byway and begin to cultivate an active relationship. The goal is to create a line of communication with these agencies to ensure an active role in the planning, design, construction and maintenance of any enhancements made along your byway.

Construction of pedestrian improvements along the Connecticut River Scenic Farm Byway in Millers Falls, CT.

Bicycle and pedestrian projects are eligible for many Federal and State funding sources particularly the major Federal-aid highway, transit & safety programs -- Recreational Trails, Surface Transportation, Transportation Enhancements, Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ).



Did you know you can use Federal and State funds to pay for the installation of bicycle lanes along the byway or the creation of hiking trails?

Data Collection and Analysis

When competing for limited financial resources, you'll need to have data that substantiates the request for improvements or funding. By keeping accurate statistics on a year to year basis, you can begin to see the impacts that improvements are making on the roadway. This information will include traffic count data that clearly shows the annual average daily traffic (AADT) on each segment of the roadways that make up your byway. Depending on the jurisdiction of the roads along your byway corridor, you will need to request this information from New Jersey Department of Transportation (NJDOT), and/or your municipal or County Engineering Department. NJDOT's Traffic Monitoring System (TMS) takes traffic counts at 3,000 sites on all types of public roads throughout New Jersey and 1,000 sites a year over a 48 hour period, every three years. Using the TMS2Go application, available on the NJDOT website, byway users can search and map available traffic counts in New Jersey by county and municipality.

The most important data to be gathered about your byway is the crash data. This information can be used to identify locations along the byway with safety issues. All municipalities in New Jersey have access to Plan4Safety which is a free, web-based comprehensive crash analysis tool developed by the Transportation Safety Resource Center at Rutgers' Center for Advanced Infrastructure and Technology (CAIT). CAIT also offers free Road Safety Audits (RSAs) conducted by engineers, planners, and law enforcement officers to help municipalities and counties make cost-effective safety improvements. See other side for website addresses.