

**New York State Olympic Trail Scenic Byway  
Corridor Management Plan (CMP)**

**Local Advisory Committee (LAC)  
Organizational Meeting**  
*Location: Dulles State Office Building*  
*Time: 6:30-8:30 P.M.*  
*Date: January 9, 2002*

**Minutes**

Attendees: **Bob Ashodian, Dick Halpin, Rick Novy, Andy Nevil, David Altieri, Dave Cutter, Kate Pickert, Ken Mix, Larry Ambeau, Gary Williams, John Peck, Mike Geiss, Mark Pacilio, Wayne McIlroy, David Zembiec, and Kathy Amyot**

Kathy Amyot, Project Coordinator, opened the meeting at 6:35 P.M. and welcomed both returning and new committee members to the process of developing a “Corridor Management Plan” (CMP) for the Olympic Trail Scenic Byway. Members introduced themselves to the group and their affiliation to local communities along the corridor.

Dave Zembiec, New York State Tug Hill Commission, provided a **brief overview** of the December 5, 2001 meeting as well as status report of the overall progress to date. Dave reviewed key issues and opportunities identified in early discussions regarding the development of the Olympic Trail Scenic Byway “Corridor Management Plan” (CMP) such as the rerouting of the designated Olympic Trail along Route 3A from Deferiet to Fargo. Another key issue and opportunity the group discussed centered on the relevance of the “Olympic” theme. Dave summarized the discussion regarding concerns of committee members questioning how the traveler might identify with the Olympic theme when several of the corridor communities themselves do not identify with the Olympic theme.

As a medium to provide information of regional initiatives relevant to the development and management of local communities, committee members shared information regarding the “**Black River Economic Development Study,**” and the “**Route 3 Corridor Community Design Study: A Community Development Initiative on The Olympic Trail Scenic Byway.**” In addition, attention was drawn to a September 2001 issue of Outdoor Magazine which lists “the ten best towns in America,” emphasizing the individually unique intrinsic qualities that support sustainable economic development and “enhanced quality of life.”

Members of the committee formed two focus groups to begin the process of **plotting corridor resources** on a 1-100,000-scale map and building upon the previously identified comprehensive resource list. Group members discussed the effectiveness of the exercise in identifying resources previously overlooked and agreed a larger scale of multiple segments of the corridor would be helpful in more accurately plotting the resources.

Committee members engaged in a lengthy discussion regarding the **Issues/Opportunities** associated with developing the Olympic Trail Scenic Byway “Corridor Management Plan (CMP).” Committee members agree the importance of developing a plan to successfully entice the traveler to visit the corridor and want to repeat and/or build upon the first experience is a key element to the sustainable economic development of local communities along the corridor. Members of the committee also emphasized the importance of connecting the experience of the traveler and communities along the corridor with the overall theme identified in the name of the designated Olympic Trail Scenic Byway or rename it to something they can identify with.

In addition, a preliminary discussion regarding which communities located just off the corridor but contribute to the overall experience of the traveler may want to be considered as a **spur**. Dexter for example is located along the Black River but is located off Route 3 yet it contributes to the overall experience of the traveler through its scenic beauty and recreational opportunities related to area fishing and boating. Committee members agree that if travelers have to exit Route 3 to access spurs they should be routed back to Route 3 to continue their experience of the corridor.

An additional **list of issues/opportunities** reflect economic development, resource management, community services, and visitor and roadway management are listed as follows:

- Ample and uniform signage;
- Corridor could miss Henderson;
- State and regional marketing, e.g. brochures, improved web site, bus tours;
- Expand the current business season, e.g. multi-dimensional activities & events, entertainment, culture;
- Invent the “product,” i.e. interpretive products (themes);
- Expand interconnected multi-use trail system;
- Establish a unifying theme and a stronger identity;
- “Sell” the small-town experience;
- “Quality Of Life”;
- Share/Learn from one another.

Committee members listed **projections for future development** along the Olympic Trail Scenic Byway corridor ten-years from the present is listed as follows:

- To balance economic growth with the preservation of rural character and scenic beauty;
- 0% unemployment;
- Historic rehabilitation of designated districts and structures significant to the history of the area and significant to development;
- Enhanced contiguous development and expansion of multi-use recreational trail systems linking Lake and river trails with other areas;
- Authentic reproduction of 1812 Warship;
- Adequate development of Water/Sewer system/infrastructure;
- Hottest travel destination by boat or car for vacationers and repeat/regular visitors;
- Maintain the sense of safety and security;
- Strong sense of community pride.

The **preliminary vision** previously identified is as follows: to add an edge to what the product developers are marketing (i.e. greater appreciation and stewardship of the resource), enhance the quality of life, the corridor becomes a desirable route travelers choose, create new and expanded business and economic opportunities, boost local and regional pride/spirit.

The group agreed to re-locating LAC meetings to the 1<sup>st</sup> floor conference room at the Dulles State Office Building, Washington Street, Watertown, New York. Free parking is accessible in the attached parking garage with a side entrance to the building located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor. Committee members agree efforts to incorporate relevant information from the Natural Bridge, Harrisville, and St. Lawrence County communities to the Blue Line are significant to the CMP and suggest follow-up communication explore methods to involve representatives to broaden community support. At this time, members of the Local Advisory Committee (LAC) agreed to meet the first Wednesday of each month until June of 2002 from 6:30-8:30 P.M. at the 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Conference Room in the Dulles State Office Building, Washington Street, Watertown, NY.

Committee members briefly discussed agreed to continue to meet on a monthly basis change the next LAC meeting to the second Wednesday for the month of January. The next meeting will be held on **February 6, 2002** at the **Dulles State Office Building, 317 Washington Street, Watertown, NY. From 6:30-8:30P.M.**

The meeting concluded at 8:30 P.M.