



New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643

www.nysparks.com

February 9, 2009

Holly Frey
Senior Landscape Architect
State of New York, Department of Transportation
Hunters Point Plaza
47-20 21st Street
Long Island City, NY 11101

Re: FHWA/DOT
Henry Hudson Parkway, Resigning
Bronx and New York Counties
09PR00196

Dear Ms. Frey:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the New York State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO). We have reviewed the submitted finding document and Cultural Resources Report for the proposed resigning along the Henry Hudson Parkway (HHP). We have reviewed the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to the Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

In the fall of 2007, Commissioner Ash received a letter from Hilary Kitasei of the Henry Hudson Parkway Task Force requesting consideration of the HHP for listing to the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Kathy Howe and Kathleen LaFrank of our National Register Unit began evaluating this historic transportation resource based on the National Register Criteria. In addition to reviewing the HAER report on the HHP and discussing the historic resource with HAER project leader Christopher Marston, our NR staff reviewed additional historic documentation submitted by Ms. Kitasei, including historic site plans, maps, planting schemes, and photographs, to gain an understanding of the significance of the HHP. The current Resigning Project has brought our review of the HHP to the fore. After extensive review and study, it is the opinion of the SHPO that the HHP meets the criteria for listing to the National Register. Ms. Howe's Resource Evaluation and the boundary map of the HHP are enclosed for your use. Please let us know if you have any corrections.

Based upon our review of the proposed resigning, we concur that the project will have No Adverse Effect upon the HHP. We note that the emphasis for this project is on replacement in-kind in an effort for better clarity and to reduce visual clutter along the Parkway. Historically, Moses was reluctant to have signage placed on the highway and we hope that the proposed signage is the minimum required for safety and way finding along the HHP. If further reductions in signage are possible, we encourage such changes particularly in regards to the bridge mounted signs which obscure the historic stonework of these bridges.


David A. Paterson
Governor

Carol Ash
Commissioner

Since the Parkway has been determined eligible for listing, we propose working together to develop a holistic approach to the entire HHP. As you know, this has been done successfully with a Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the Taconic State Parkway. We also encourage the NYS DOT Scenic Advisory Board and the various HHP stakeholders to continue to build upon the outstanding work done by HAER and move toward the implementation of a Corridor Management Plan and New York Scenic Byway designation. Both approaches – a PA and a CMP -- provide design guidelines that would ensure the preservation of the character-defining features of the Parkway they represent.

Thank you for your request. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (518) 237-8643, ext. 3282. Please refer to the Project Review (PR) number in any future correspondences regarding this project.

Sincerely,



Beth A. Cumming
Historic Site Restoration Coordinator
Beth.cumming@oprhp.state.ny.us

cc: Gina Santucci, NYC Landmarks Preservation Commission (via e-mail)
Dave Hart, FHWA (via e-mail)
Hilary Kitasei, Henry Hudson Parkway Task Force (via e-mail)
Ellen Macnow, NYC Department of Parks and Recreation (via e-mail)
Christopher Marston, HAER (via e-mail)

Enc: Resource Evaluation