

7.0 Tourist Amenities

A Scenic Byway, in addition to cultural, historic, and natural resources, also offers amenities that facilitate the visitor's pleasurable and comfortable experience while travelling the corridor. This chapter provides an overview of the existing amenities and their locations along the Harriet Tubman Underground Railroad Byway (HTURB), as well as areas where tourist amenities may be lacking or in need of enhancement.

National Scenic Byway CMP Point #16

A plan to encourage the accommodation of increased tourism, if this is projected. Some demonstration that the roadway, lodging and dining facilities, roadside rest areas, and other tourist necessities will be adequate for the number of visitors induced by the byway's designation as an All-American Road.

7.1 Existing Amenities

Tourist amenities are relatively consistent throughout the length of the HTURB corridor. The traveler journeying along this corridor will find it a short distance between the amenities needed for a comfortable trip. Amenities such as fuel, lodging, and dining are more concentrated in the larger towns such as Dover, Camden, Smyrna, New Castle and Wilmington. But options are still available throughout much of the corridor. The following sections take a closer look at the significant tourist amenity categories, such as lodging, dining, shopping, and automobile services (fuel, rest rooms, and vehicle repair shops).

7.1.1 Lodging



Dover

Along the southern extent of the HTURB corridor, the smaller communities do not offer lodging choices to visitors. Less than twenty (20) miles from the southern extent at Sandtown, the city of Dover provides the most opportunity for lodging. While there are few hotels within the city center, Dover offers a fair selection (approximately 20) of moderately priced lodging found along DuPont Highway (US Highway 13) mostly located near Dover Downs Hotel & Casino to the north of town. Prices range between about \$50 and \$150 (in 2012 dollars). If a bed and breakfast is desirable to the visitor and within their budget, Dover offers a moderately priced bed and breakfast located in the urban core.

Smyrna

Located just a few miles north of Dover, the Town of Smyrna offers a few lodging options (approximately five as of 2012), as well as one (1) bed and breakfast. Most of the lodging in Smyrna is priced in the \$75-\$125 range. If these selections are not to the visitor's liking, they are within a few miles drive of Dover or less than twenty (20) miles of Middletown and Odessa to find alternative options from which to choose.

Middletown / Odessa / Townsend

Middletown currently offers three (3) lodging establishments, Odessa offers one (1) and the neighboring community of Townsend offers another motel from which to choose.

Wilmington

As the visitor approaches Wilmington, lodging options become more abundant. If the lodging selections are not the traveler's taste between Dover and Wilmington, the distance between is around sixty (60) miles. Wilmington, and the areas outside of the city center, offers the highest density of lodging options along the HTURB corridor. Within the city center, the majority of lodging establishments are located along North King Street and between 11th and 12th Street. The Wilmington area offers the traveler a range between moderately priced motels to inns and bed and breakfasts.

7.1.2 Dining*Dover*

Similar to the search for lodging establishments, visitors along the HTURB corridor will find one the largest selections (outside of Wilmington) of dining establishments in and around Dover. Most of these restaurants receive fair to high ratings on many internet review sites. Restaurant offerings range from typical fast-food to local flare restaurants. There's a large variety of food offerings to satisfy even the pickiest eater. Most dining locations seem to close early during non-peak times of the year, so eating a late (10pm and beyond) dinner may not be the best option in Dover.

Delaware City

Delaware City currently offers five (5) restaurants, one (1) general store, and one (1) convenience store. Food choices include three (3) seafood restaurants, one (1) ice cream parlor, and one (1) Italian restaurant.

Smyrna

Smyrna offers a good variety and selection of restaurants offering "mom-and-pop" family restaurants, fast-food, cafés, and diners. Smyrna offers over fifty (50) dining establishments in a variety of price ranges and styles.

Middletown / Odessa / Townsend

Middletown offers over sixty (60) restaurants, diners, cafés and pubs, whereas Odessa offers one (1) restaurant. Of those, the traveler will find "mom-and-pop" cafés that are sure to offer local flavor and fair pricing.

Wilmington

As with lodging establishments, Wilmington has the largest selection of restaurants from which to choose along the HTURB. Located less than sixty (60) miles from Dover, Wilmington is very accessible to the hungry traveler. Offering over 100 restaurants ranging from fast-food to fine dining, local flavor to international foods, Wilmington is worth the short drive if one cannot find something to satisfy their palate along the way. Trolley Square offers a neighborhood feel

with wide shaded sidewalks, lively bars, and great local choices. The Wilmington Riverfront offers a great variety of dining options including local breweries and chain establishments.

7.1.3 Shopping



Shopping in Delaware is a favorite for many travelers seeking cost saving. The tax-free shopping offered by Delaware is a great attraction and lure and should be capitalized upon and promoted by the HTURB where appropriate.

Dover

Dover offers the traveler many opportunities for shopping. From boutiques to large malls, to large retail chains, Dover offers the traveler the opportunity to purchase the basics or go on a shopping spree for the perfect memento. Dover has many of the national large scale retailers in close proximity to the HTURB.

Delaware City

Delaware City offers an array of unique and practical shopping locations including antique shops, boutiques, gift shops, pet stores and other retailers. The shops are well-kept and in close proximity to Delaware City attractions.

Smyrna

Smyrna offers a fairly large selection of shopping outlets, boutiques, and convenience stores. Though not as many venues exist as in Dover, Smyrna is close enough to Dover that the visitor does not have to venture far to find the items they may need.

Middletown and Odessa

Middletown and Odessa offer limited shopping options. For the necessities, the traveler may wish to plan to visit Wilmington or Dover along their journey.

Wilmington

Wilmington offers the largest concentration of shopping outlets, boutiques, and larger retailers along the HTURB. Wilmington offers boutique-style shopping, malls, and retailers offering the basic necessities. Storefront shopping in Wilmington is a favorite activity for many travelers. Market Street offers boutiques and eclectic shops filled with many local offerings and tourist memorabilia.

7.1.4 Traveler Services

Traveler services along the HTURB corridor are classified as restrooms, gas stations, convenience stores, vehicle repair shops, and hospitals/doctors. Aside from the segment of the corridor between Sandtown and Dover, these services are offered consistently along the HTURB corridor with minimal gaps and distance between any types/categories of service. The distances between the major cities and towns along the HTURB are on average less than twenty (20) miles, thereby offering the visitor selection and convenience along their trip. The larger cities of Wilmington and Dover offer more selection than the other smaller towns. But the traveler has to make minimal preparations to enjoy their trip.

7.2 Tourist Amenities Assessment

The area around Sandtown, at the southern extent of the Byway is the only area where amenities such as fuel, lodging, and dining are lacking. Overall, the corridor has all of the amenities that travelers require within a few miles of most points along the Byway.