



## ERIE COUNTY LEGISLATURE MAJORITY CAUCUS

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# Legislator Mills announces funding for Scenic Byway, WNY Railway Historical Society

**(ERIE COUNTY, NY)** – Erie County Legislator John Mills announces that the Legislature has approved his requests to allocate funding for the WNY Southtowns Scenic Byway (WNYSSB) and the WNY Railway Historical Society in the 2018 budget.

“The WNY Southtowns Scenic Byway and the WNY Railway Historical Society have done so much to promote local tourism and truly care about preserving our history and celebrating our future. I am proud to partner with them to support their continued efforts to bring visitors to our region and educate everyone on our rich history,” said Legislator Mills.

The WNYSSB will receive \$3,000 next year. The organization received funding in 2017 for a new informational sign in the Village of Springville and Legislator Mills is pleased to announce that the sign was recently installed and dedicated. It can be found at the Springville Rail Trail Head on West Main Street.

“The WNY Southtowns Scenic Byway wishes to thank Erie County Legislature Chairman John Mills and Erie County for this latest show of financial support. John Mills and the county have supported the Byway since its inception. The funds will be used towards ongoing projects as we work to promote tourism in the southtowns,” said Bob Lennartz, President of the WNYSSB.

The WNY Railway Historical Society will receive \$5,000 to support its efforts to preserve railway heritage.

“The Orchard Park Depot Committee of the Western New York Railway Historical Society wishes to thank Erie County Legislature Chairman John ‘Jack’ Mills for his assistance in obtaining funding for the ongoing restoration of the Orchard Park Train Depot. The funding will be used in the Society’s planned reconstruction of the Depot’s trackside platform, particularly its structurally compromised support columns. The Society has been working on the Depot for almost 35 years and has put both thousands of dollars, and thousands of volunteer labor hours, in its efforts to save and restore the Depot,” said Robert Snyder, OP Depot Chairman, WNYRHS. “In 2007, the Depot and its surrounding grounds were placed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places. Later, it became a stop on the Southtowns Scenic Byway, and soon, will serve as a trail head for the Erie Cattaraugus Rail Trail. With all of this activity, the Society very much wants to make the Depot site a safe and beautiful destination. Chairman Mills’ help in obtaining the county funding will assist the Society in its efforts to do so.”

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The additional funding was added into the 2018 budget while also decreasing the property tax rate for the fourth consecutive year.

For information or assistance, please contact Legislator Mills' Legislative Office at (716) 858-8850 or email [john.mills@erie.gov](mailto:john.mills@erie.gov).

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