



New Scenic America banner

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Pennsylvania's Lincoln Highway [looks to limit](#) billboards and promote tourism...

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In case you missed it:

Rhode Island debuts gateway beautification program

Rhode Island Governor Lincoln Chafee has unveiled a new initiative to beautify the state's gateways with enhancements including murals, landscaping and graffiti abatement efforts along Interstate roads.

The first mural has already been completed on the southern abutment of the Wampanoag Overpass Bridge on I-195 in East Providence. The mural, depicting sailboats in a Narragansett Bay waterscape, was designed by renowned local artist Anthony Russo.



"This is another step in beautifying Rhode Island's urban Interstate gateways," said Governor Chafee. "Images such as this one make Rhode Island a better place to live, work, and visit."

"Scenic America commends Governor Chafee and the state's transportation leadership for their bold vision and commitment to beautifying Rhode Island's highways," said Mary Tracy, president of Scenic America.

[Read more about the murals and see additional photos.](#)

Courts poised to order L.A.'s digital billboards turned off

Breaking News: The 2nd District Court of Appeal [says it's leaning](#) toward invalidating permits for over 100 digital billboards in the city of Los Angeles.

The digital billboards went up after a clandestine agreement between then city attorney Rocky Delgadillo and billboard giants Clear Channel and CBS Outdoor was signed in 2006. The agreement was challenged by another billboard company and in 2009 a judge ruled that the agreement indeed violated public process and was "poisonous."

Desperate to keep their digital billboards shining bright over L.A., the industry [drafted regulations](#) that were introduced virtually unchanged before



Chronicle of the Billboard Wars now available on DVD

The new documentary, "Chronicle of the Billboard Wars," is [available for order on DVD](#).

The film shares information and inspiration from citizens around the country who have risen up to say: "Enough is enough!"

The producers visited over 20 American cities to document the work of these individuals and organizations that often face difficult political and financial odds in their battles against the billboard companies.

In the best American tradition, citizens have taken their grass-roots fight to city councils, county boards, zoning commissions and state legislatures.

Their message is simple: "People, not corporations, own the public space."

the City Council. Clear Channel and CBS are working furiously to get the city to legalize the signs before a final ruling condemning them comes down from the Court of Appeal. That ruling is expected in the next 90 days.

The *Los Angeles Times* echoes common sense by saying the [city should wait](#) to get the court's ruling before tackling any new regulations. L.A.-based advocacy group [Ban Billboard Blight](#) says some city councilmembers are brazenly ignoring the desires of residents and instead are kowtowing to the powerful billboard industry.

Follow [Scenic America on Facebook](#) for updates on this situation.

Portland, Ore. project lets citizens see art in place of ads

A group of citizens in Portland, Oregon has unveiled a project they're calling "Free the Billboards." The project encourages people to imagine what their shared public spaces would look like without the commercial messages of outdoor advertising.

The project asks participants to envision billboards and other outdoor ads replaced by works of art, flowers and plants, or other noncommercial uses. Citizens are asked to submit conceptual before-and-after photos through the [Free the Billboards](#) website.

As part of the project, Portland-based artist Nina Montenegro has created a temporary exhibit that allows passerby to experience the theme of "art not ads" first hand. The exhibit, on N Williams Avenue, lets viewers look through a modified View-Master and see different artistic images in place of a nearby billboard. [Click here](#) to view a short film on the exhibit.

