



# BYWAYS 101

## An Introduction To Byways

**Presented To ACME Organization  
by XYZ Grassroots Group**



This material is based upon work supported by the Federal Highway Administration and Arrowhead Regional Development Commission under cooperative agreement No. DTFH61-08-H-00007. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this publication are those of the Author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the view of the Federal Highway Administration and/or Arrowhead Regional Development Commission.

# Welcome



- Name of Byway Group

## XYZ Byway



- Purpose of group
- What you hope to accomplish at this meeting



## What Is A Byway?

### **A byway offers unique driving experiences**

- Encourages visitors to explore special features of an area
- Tells a story about America's treasured places and people—its landscape, history and cultures
- Provides a gateway to memorable adventures



## “Scenic Byway” Definition

...A public road having special scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archaeological, and/or natural qualities that have been recognized as such through legislation or some other official declaration...

– FHWA Interim Policy, May 18, 1995

- The terms “road” and “highway” are synonymous, not functional classifications
- The term “byway” refers to the road or highway and also to the corridor through which it passes



## Do All Scenic Byways Need To Be Scenic?

- Most byways possess some scenic appeal, supporting the visitor's visual experience
- All byways also possess archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, or recreational intrinsic qualities



## What Are Intrinsic Qualities?

Intrinsic qualities are a byway's particular combination of resources that define its character, interest and appeal.

- Special views
- Special places
- Special buildings
- Special sites



## The Six Intrinsic Qualities

1. Archaeological
2. Cultural
3. Historic
4. Natural
5. Recreational
6. Scenic





## Characteristics Of Resources That Contribute To Intrinsic Quality

They are “features considered representative, unique, irreplaceable, or distinctly characteristic of an area”

– FHWA Interim Policy, May 18, 1995



## Examples Of Resources

- Natural resources
  - Gorge
  - Mountain
  - Lake
- Those resulting from human activity
  - Historic building
  - Battle site
  - Well-designed parkway



## What Is The National Scenic Byways Program?

- Established under the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991
- Reauthorized in 1998 under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century
- Reauthorized and amended in the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users in 2005



## The National Scenic Byways Program

- Based on initiatives of voluntary and grassroots byway groups
- Features outstanding roads recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation
- Supports and provides resources to help manage designated byways' intrinsic qualities in partnership with the America's Byways Resource Center



## The FHWA Role

- Manage the National Scenic Byways Program as a community-based program
- Work closely with the FHWA division offices in each State to administer the Program
- Support division office byway contacts who work day-to-day with the State and Indian tribe scenic byway coordinators on all matters affecting grants and nominations

BYWAYS 101



## What Is The America's Byways® Collection?

- Comprised of 126 nationally designated byways in 44 States (as of 2008)
- The collection promoted as a brand by the Federal Highway Administration - National Scenic Byways Program



## Benefits Of Becoming A Designated Byway

- Promotion
- Preservation
- Partnerships
- Pride



## Byway Benefits: Promotion

The National Scenic Byway Program promotes the America's Byways® collection to:

- Increase visitor recognition of the program
- Encourage travelers to include byways in their trip plans

America's Byways® are promoted via:

- Publications
- FHWA's traveler website at [www.byways.org](http://www.byways.org)
- Public and private cooperative projects





## Byway Benefits: Preservation

- Creates a legacy
- Preserves the byway's intrinsic quality(s)
- Develops plans to sustain the resource(s) for generations to come



## Byway Benefits: Partnerships

- Includes informal and formal partnerships, before and after designation
- Engages local citizens and key stakeholders
- Provides opportunities to expand partnerships well beyond local or State boundaries



## Byway Benefits: Pride

- Builds awareness among citizens
- Attracts volunteers who share an interest in the byway and its communities
- Helps connect communities along a route

The byway joins an important collection of stories and treasured places.



## Responsibilities Of Designated Byways

- Respect and protect the integrity of resources and intrinsic qualities
- Offer and promote authentic and diverse experiences to travelers of all ages, abilities and interests
- Create a shared standard of high quality throughout the collection and contribute toward its sustainability
- Demonstrate responsiveness to their local communities and the travelers they welcome
- Be accountable to the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, the byway community and byway travelers

## National Scenic Byway Designation Requirements

- Must significantly meet at least 1 of the 6 intrinsic qualities
- Intrinsic quality resources are distinct and most representative of the region
- Intrinsic quality resources are recognized throughout the region



## All-American Road Designation Requirements

- Must meet the criteria for at least 2 of the 6 intrinsic qualities
- Must be considered a destination unto itself
- Intrinsic quality resources are distinct and most representative the nation
- Intrinsic quality resources are recognized nationally



## What Is The General Designation Process?

- U.S. Secretary of Transportation relays a call for nominations to the NSBP
- The NSBP administers the nomination process
- Byway nominees respond with the necessary documentation, including:
  - Demonstrated voluntary and grassroots support and participation
  - Description of the regional or national significance of the byway's intrinsic qualities
  - A corridor management plan (CMP) that complements other local and regional plans



## Five General Questions Answered By A CMP

1. What are the byway's current conditions?
2. What are the goals for the byway?
3. What concrete objectives and strategies will move you toward achieving those goals?
4. Who will be responsible for carrying out the strategies and objectives?
5. When will each of the strategies and objectives be implemented?





## What A Corridor Management Plan Is NOT

- It is not a top-down land use regulation plan
- It is not a FHWA plan or document
- It is not a plan that restricts private property rights
- It is not a plan that mandates regulations for viewsheds
- It is not a plan that allows the State or Federal government to regulate land use outside the roadway right-of-way
- It is not a plan to supersede State or local land use and transportation plans and requirements
- It is not a list of mandated new taxes

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**Where We're At Now, And Where  
We Want To Go Next**





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**Thank you**



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