

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

What characteristics qualify a road to become a scenic byway?

Any public road - rural, suburban or urban – can be nominated for scenic byway designation. Scenic byways can be roads that carry visitors to state and local parks or other recreation areas, or to sites of historical, cultural or archaeological significance. Scenic byways can also be roads that local communities feel are important to their identity.

How can I nominate a road for scenic byway designation?

Anyone can nominate a road for scenic byway designation. Application guidelines can be obtained from the Missouri Department of Transportation by calling toll-free 1-888-257-6636.

What opportunity will I have to comment on a scenic byway application affecting a roadway in or around my area?

Applicants are strongly urged to meet early and often with property owners and other concerned citizens to help develop their application for scenic byway designation. Scenic byway designation cannot be granted without input from the local community. If a roadway in your area has been nominated and approved by the Scenic Byway Advisory Committee, the Missouri Department of Transportation will provide written notice of its intent to designate the road or highway as a scenic byway to newspapers of general circulation in the area(s) affected. The governing body of each county or municipality shall conduct a public hearing on the matter. Scenic byway designation cannot be granted without the approval of your local government.

What is a Corridor Management Plan (CMP)?

A corridor management plan is a required element of the scenic byways application and outlines how the applicant plans to involve the local community and maintain, improve and promote the scenic byway. It simply states a vision and a set of local strategies for the scenic byway.

Does “corridor” refer to private property along the proposed scenic byway?

“Corridor” commonly refers to the road right-of-way and the area adjacent to the roadway that possesses any of the intrinsic qualities. This may or may not include everything that can be seen from the roadway. The community and the local government define the corridor that best fits their byway’s important features. The Corridor Management Plan contains vision statements on ways to maintain, enhance or develop the intrinsic qualities of the roadway corridor. However, existing laws cannot be changed without local government approval.

If a roadway becomes a scenic byway, does its Corridor Management Plan become law?

No. The Corridor Management Plan does not supercede local land use or zoning requirements. No changes can be made to existing laws. Land use restrictions and zoning regulations without approval by the local government, nor does the plan impose these restrictions if none currently exist.

Will scenic byway designation lead to changes in zoning or property rights in areas adjacent to the roadway?

Corridor management plans may suggest certain measures to maintain, enhance or develop the intrinsic qualities of the roadway, however, no changes can be made to existing laws, nor can new laws be established, without approval by the local government.

Will my city/county have to implement zoning or overlay districts in order to comply with a scenic byway corridor management plan?

Corridor management plans do not hold the force of law. It is up to local communities to decide how they will maintain their scenic byways. Zoning laws or overlay districts are strictly a local issue and cannot be developed without local government approval.

How will scenic byway designation affect my property values?

Scenic byways designation, coupled with a corridor management plan that contains an aggressive marketing component, can be an effective way to draw tourism dollars to a participating community. In addition to expanding the community's economy, it is believed that property values of land adjacent to scenic byways will increase.

Will scenic byway designation enable someone to take my land, or restrict my ability to manage my property?

No. Scenic byway designation is a voluntary program that is developed and managed on the local level and the locally approved corridor management plans do not hold the force of law. There is no provision for zoning restrictions or the force of eminent domain in the scenic byways program.

Will I be forced to comply with new rules and regulations if a roadway near my property is designated as a scenic byway?

No. Your participation in the scenic byway program is voluntary and will be up to you and other local property owners and volunteers. Private property owners may "opt out" of the Corridor Management Plan if they choose.

Will the additional traffic generated by scenic byway designation create a safety problem for me, and my family?

Many corridor management plans include provisions to construct safety features such as turnouts or shoulder improvements to ensure that our roads are safe. Each CMP is established on a case-by-case basis in an effort to best serve the desires of each community.

How are scenic byway programs funded?

Scenic byways are eligible for federal funding through grants from the Federal Highway Administration. These grants are “passed through” the Missouri Department of Transportation. The federal share cannot exceed 80 percent of the program’s total cost. Private funds, including cash contributions, in-kind services and donated property, may also be used to fund a local scenic byways initiative. Grant applications do require the applicants to specify how the money will be used. If a community chooses to discontinue its involvement in the program, they do not have to give the money back.

How does my community get out of the scenic byways program?

The local government may request that the Missouri Highways and Transportation Commission remove your community from the scenic byways program at any time following a public hearing, provided that the community is provided with an 80 day notice of the hearing.