

BYWAYS & BACKWAYS RAMBLIN'S

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“Travelers on these roads can look into the heart and soul of America and connect with the stories which have made America today.” “People coalesce around their byway, and their byway ends up being the catalyst for telling the story about what’s special about an area.”

*Rob Draper, Director
 Federal Highway
 Administration’s National
 Scenic Byways Program*

WEST VIRGINIA REQUESTS OVER \$6.5 MILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2002 NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS

June 30, 2001, was the deadline to have grant applications to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for Fiscal Year 2002 funding consideration. The following projects were both requested “on-line” and forwarded to the FHWA for further consideration:

NATIONALLY-DESIGNATED:

? <u>Washington Heritage Trail Seed Grant</u> -----	\$ 20,000
? <u>Midland Trail Scenic Byway Seed Money</u> -----	\$ 25,000
? <u>Washington Heritage Trail—Official Map/Guide and Training Resources</u> -----	\$ 87,160
? <u>Cranberry Mountain Nature Center (Highland Scenic Byway)</u> ----	\$ 99,432
? <u>General Andrew Lewis Park (Midland Trail Scenic Byway)</u> -----	\$ 145,808
? <u>Improvements to Virginia’s Chapel (Midland Trail Scenic Byway)</u>	\$ 8,000
? <u>Booker T. Washington Institute Byways Study Center (Midland Trail Scenic Byway)</u> -----	\$1,596,000

STATE-DESIGNATED:

? <u>West Virginia Byways and Backways Program</u> -----	\$ 115,280
? <u>Promoting Treasures Within the Mountains (Mountain Parkway Byway/Backway)</u> -----	\$ 19,000
? <u>Little Kanawha Byway/Cedar Creek Road Backway Brochure and Historic Markers</u> -----	\$ 8,000
? <u>Beverly Byway Center (Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike)</u> -----	\$ 204,000
? <u>Mountain Waters Byway, Project #1</u> -----	\$ 28,570
? <u>Little Kanawha Byway Rathbone Well Reconstruction, Phase II</u> -----	\$ 96,800
? <u>Staunton-Parkersburg Turnpike Walking Tour</u> -----	\$ 22,640
? <u>Fayette Station Road Improvements (Midland Trail Scenic Byway)</u> -----	\$3,973,244
? <u>Fayette Station Road Interpretation (Midland Trail Scenic Byway)</u> -----	\$ 150,128

TOTAL FEDERAL FUNDS: ----- \$6,599,062

NEWS FLASH!!! CONGRESS TO EARMARK FISCAL YEAR 2002 NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY DISCRETIONARY FUNDS???

This year, for the first time ever, both the House and the Senate "earmarked" spending for Scenic Byways in the 2002 Appropriations Bill. At present, each body has earmarked portions of the \$28.5 million provided for the National Scenic Byways Program in Fiscal Year 2002. While the House version contained no recommendations for West Virginia, the Senate's version contained all of the projects requested by West Virginia, totaling \$6,599,062 in Federal funds (requiring a 20% Sponsor's match).

It is expected that a compromise bill will be finalized by the Congress; but one can reasonably expect that all, or most, of the available \$28.5 million will be "earmarked," rather than selected competitively, as in years past.

"There are currently 15 All-American Roads, 57 National Scenic Byways, and almost 600 scenic and historic routes laid out by State agencies, the Forest Service, and the National Park Service in the United States."

The Byway Traveler



"Roads no longer merely lead to places; they are places."

John Brinckerhoff Jackson

"When we see land as a community to which we belong, we may begin to use it with love and respect."

Aldo Leopold

A NEW PRESIDENT FOR THE WASHINGTON HERITAGE TRAIL BYWAY

At a recent meeting, the George Washington Heritage Trail Association elected Ms. Virginia Bonner Wheeler, of Morgan County, as its President, to serve a one-year term of office.



WEBPAGE NOW AVAILABLE

Information on many of the Division of Highways' reimbursable grant programs is now available on-line. Please visit our webpage(s) at www.wvdot.com (click on "Highways," "DOH Programs," then "Grant Programs").



NEW OFFICERS FOR THE MIDLAND TRAIL BYWAY

Following the resignation of a number of Board members, the Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association met on August 23, 2001, and elected the following officers:

- President: Geoffrey Skaggs
- Vice President: Paul Brewer
- Secretary: Patty Walczak
- Treasurer: Phyllis Gray

Additionally, the Organization's current official mailing address has been changed to:

Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association
P.O. Box 1549
Charleston, WV 25326

FUNDS FOR THE MIDLAND TRAIL BYWAY INCLUDED IN 2001 BUDGET DIGEST AWARDS

The Legislature of the State of West Virginia included \$50,000 for the Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association (MTSHA), to be used for "funding for management activities related to the beneficial use and improvement of those public roads in the State Road System comprising the Midland Trail (Byway), operating expenses of the MTSHA and/or "match" for awarded Federal Highway Administration's Scenic Byway funding."

INTENT-TO-APPLY FORMS FOR BOTH RECREATIONAL TRAILS AND TRANSPORTATION ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMS MAILED

In September, Intent-To-Appl forms were mailed for two of our most popular grant programs. Many of the elements of those programs may prove to be suitable for Byway Organizations. If you need additional information, you may either visit our website at www.wvdot.com (click on "Highways," "DOH Programs," then "Grant Programs"), or telephone (304) 558-3165.

RICHARD HARTMAN IS BACK!

Richard Hartman, as many of you know, headed the Division of Highways' Transportation Enhancement Program effort for many years. More recently, Rich served as Executive Assistant to (then) Secretary of Transportation Samuel Bonasso. Rich is now back with the Planning and Research Division and, along with Karen Ebert Allen, will primarily be working with West Virginia's Byways and Backways Program.

I anticipate that Rich will be calling or meeting with each of you in the weeks to come; please join with us in welcoming Rich to "our" program.



'REAUTHORIZATION' IS JUST AROUND-THE-CORNER

Funding for the National Scenic Byways Program, the Transportation Enhancement Program, the Recreational Trails Program, as well as other grant opportunities, is considered by the Congress each six years. The present programs, under the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21), will be up for reauthorization during 2003.

One thing that the Congress is certain to ask is "why do you 'need' additional monies if those made available have not been spent?" If you have received an award, please make every effort to undertake and complete the project in a timely manner.

Remember, Federal funds can—and do—lapse if not used in a certain time period.

"State byway conferences are a wonderful way to bring all byways together within a state. New information, ideas, federal updates, projects, and genuine networking can take place during such an event."

*VISTAS magazine,
June 2001*

WEST VIRGINIA'S INITIAL BYWAYS/BACKWAYS CONFERENCE A HUGE SUCCESS

As most of you already know, West Virginia had its first Byways/Backways Conference in Martinsburg on April 23—25, 2001. The event was co-sponsored by the West Virginia Division of Highways, the George Washington Heritage Trail Association, and the Federal Highway Administration's West Virginia Division.

A full-page article in the June 2001 issue of "VISTAS," published by America's Byways Resource Center, deemed the conference to be "very successful" and concluded that "West Virginia is to be commended on a fine program and great results for their Byway/Backway community." It is only through the efforts of each of you in West Virginia's Byways community that our program is successful. Keep up the good work!



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NEW LOOK FOR WWW.BYWAYS.ORG

Please take a look: easier to use; improved graphics; better navigation. Anyone contemplating seeking National Designation for their byway should pay particular attention to the continuing series of articles by the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) about the nomination of roads as National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads. As each article is published, FHWA is posting it on the nomination section of www.byways.org.



PERIODICALS DEDICATED TO BYWAYS

VISTAS, the monthly publication from America's Byways Resource Center, is available free of charge each month. If you are not currently receiving it, I urge you to contact Arrowhead Regional Development Commission, 227 West First Street, Suite 610, Duluth, MN 55802 (1-800-4BYWAYS, ext. 5).

The Byways Traveler, a periodical "exploring the beauty and history of America's Premier Driving Routes" is now available. For further information, including cost, please contact: Plymouth Publishing, P.O. Box 3505, McLean, VA 22103 or publisher@bywaystraveler.com.



MARK YOUR CALENDARS!



- ? **September 25—26, 2001:** "Transportation Enhancements Professionals Seminar" in St. Louis, Missouri. For more information, please call (888) 388-6832.
- ? **September 26—29, 2001:** "Trail Link 2001: The 3rd International Trails and Greenways Conference" in St. Louis, Missouri. Sponsored by the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy. For more information, please call Doretha Williams at (202) 974-5152 or www.railstrails.org.
- ? **October 16—21, 2001:** "National Trust For Historic Preservation's National Preservation Conference 2001: Preserving The Spirit of Place" in Providence, Rhode Island. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, please call (800) 944-6847 or www.nthpconference.org.
- ? "Conference Call for Byway Leaders" (America's Byways Resource Center). This monthly conference call has been scheduled for the following dates: **October 3, November 7, and December 5, 2001**. For more information, please call (800) 429-9297, ext. 5 or mjohnson@byways.org.
- ? **April 11—14, 2002:** "Preserving the Historic Road in America" (Third Biennial Conference on Historic Roads) in Omaha, Nebraska. For more information, please call (202) 588-6204 or www.historicroads.org.
- ? **October 8—13, 2002:** "56th National Preservation Conference" in Cleveland, Ohio. Sponsored by the National Trust for Historic Preservation. For more information, visit site www.nationaltrust.org.