



Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
701 East Washington Avenue, Suite 202  
Madison, WI 53703



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**Mississippi River Parkway Commission  
Transportation Committee Teleconference Meeting  
October 28 | 1:30 PM-2:30 PM**

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**MINUTES**

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**I. Introductions:** Mary Stahlhut, IA; Brenda Harris, MO; Lindsey Killebrew, MS; Sharron Calcote, LA; Liat Bonneville, WI; Francis Schelfhout, WI; Mark Kross, MO; Lisa Walsh, IA; Terri McCullough, AR; Anne Lewis, MN

**II. Approve 2019 Annual Meeting Minutes** – Not attached to meeting materials so tabled until the next meeting/teleconference.

**III. Great River Road Ten-State Corridor Management Plan Implementation**

**a. GRR alignment:** Determine which states alignment has been revised since 2016, when they were last provided to MRPC by the DOTs.

Yes, there has been a route revision: MN, IA, AR (confirm with Jeff Ingram)

No, there has not been a route revision: WI, LA, MO, MS

Yet to confirm: IL, KY, TN

**b. GRR wayshowing:** Determine which states have GIS data for their GRR wayshowing. Consider how to view and assess the data, either by individual state or as a combined database map.

Yes: IA, MO, LA?

No: MS

Partial: MN

Yet to confirm: IL, KY, TN, AR, WI

Special request regarding MRT wayshowing signage: Francis Schelfhout, WIDOT requested MRT sign images or specs, plus info on how it was approved. All states are asked to send pictures or detail of MRT in each state.

**IV. Transportation Committee Leadership Succession**

Discuss who might be interested in serving as Transportation chair and vice-chair. One state is looking into it. Please be prepared to help identify at least one other person who can too. Per the Bylaws the selection must be made with representatives of all 10 states voting. Selection may be made via conference call or e-mail.

Interest expressed:

- Francis is working with leadership to get approval. Out of State Travel needs to be approved prior to offering.
- Liat is interested in possibly serving as co-chair. Supervisor is tentatively supportive but requests more information about the time required and responsibilities.



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Follow up:

- Carol to write up past activities and send to both.
- The Committee suggested that Terri to write to WiDOT,
- Sherry Quamme to provide a recommendation and describe the importance of the work and benefits to WiDOT.
- Mark Kross noted that the inter-agency coordination and cooperation is a big benefit to the DOTs.

## V. All American Road Designation

a. Report out from Wednesday, October 16, 2019 FHWA Byway Coordinators' Teleconference  
Carol reviewed the notes she sent to the Committee, with Sharon and Mary adding what they heard. We confirmed there will be a solicitation; FHWA guidance is expected Mid-Nov to Mid-Dec; the FHWA call indicated it was uncertain that AAR would be included, but the Committee's consensus was to prepare for seeking AAR designation.

b. Discussion on if states are interested and state DOT/byway coordinator support

- Liat asked Danielle Blackshear, FHWA, about AAR and learned it will be a part of the solicitation.
- Anne attended the Scenic America symposium where they indicated both will be open.
- Designation by Sept 2020.
- Francis recommended MRPC plan for a short turn around for nominations.
- Brenda said most of MO scenic byways are on low priority. She will pose the questions to the MRPC of MO. Past Governors' support for the MRPC was withdrawn. Brenda will also reach out to the Highways Commission:
- Terri will be happy to share MO contacts from along the GRR who are interested in the GRR and can provide local support and funding to apply.
- Sharon suggested AAR application preparation should cost less than NSB designation as much of the work is done in the NSB nomination.
- Mary recalled that Danielle at FHWA said that AAR requires intrinsic resources of National Significance.
- In addition to the individual state CMPs and other plans, the 10-state CMP is ready to go, as is the Interpretive Plan and Toolkit, an established network of interpretive centers, website, maps, app, etc.
- Action Items:
  - ✓ The Committee agreed MRPC states are well positioned due to our past National Scenic Byway application and CMPs, which each State Commission should review to prepare and use as models for the current AAR solicitation.
  - ✓ The Committee recommends the BOD amend the CMP to include a strategy that each state seek AAR designation.
  - ✓ State Commissions should work with their DOT Scenic Byway Coordinators as they are key to the application process.
  - ✓ With the Byway Coordinator State Commissions should reach out to FHWA Division Offices so they are aware of the interest, support it and can provide advice.

c. Second intrinsic resource – required for AAR designation (to be shared with BOD and other standing committees for their consideration)

Phone: 866-763-8310 • Fax: 608-242-8896

Web Site: [ExperienceMississippiRiver.com](http://ExperienceMississippiRiver.com) • E-mail: [info@experiencemississippiriver.com](mailto:info@experiencemississippiriver.com)



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According to the FHWA All-American Roads must possess characteristics of national significance in at least two of the following intrinsic qualities.

Historic was #1 for all ten states when they applied for NSB designation.

After discussion about Natural, Scenic, Recreational, Archeological, and Cultural intrinsic resources in all ten states, Transportation recommends Cultural as #2.

According to the FHWA “Cultural Quality is evidence and expressions of the customs or traditions of a distinct group of people. Cultural features including, but not limited to, crafts, music, dance, rituals, festivals, speech, food, special events, vernacular architecture, etc., are currently practiced. The cultural qualities of the corridor could highlight one or more significant communities and/or ethnic traditions.”

Transportation committee suggests that the Great River Road in all ten states has unquestionably strong cultural intrinsic qualities that reflect both the common threads Mississippi River communities share, but as important, cultural also allows the diversity of each state’s culture along the Mississippi River to be highlighted for its uniqueness. It is the cumulative richness of the ten state’s culture that is of national importance.

- Action Items:
  - ✓ The BOD and all standing committees should review and provide concurrence regarding the second intrinsic quality.
  - ✓ State MRPC’s should start to document their cultural intrinsic resources.