**2020 MN Great River Road All American Road Designation Application**

To receive an All-American Road designation, a road must possess multiple intrinsic qualities that are **nationally significant and contain one-of-a-kind features** that do not exist elsewhere. The road or highway must also be considered a "destination unto itself." That is, it must provide an exceptional traveling experience so recognized by travelers that they would make a drive along the highway a primary reason for their trip.

Key to this is showcasing the byway intrinsic qualities, focusing on eight examples each of two primary types. The ten states are aiming to focus on:

* **Historic Quality** encompasses legacies of the past that are distinctly associated with physical elements of the landscape, whether natural or manmade, that are of such historic significance that they educate the viewer and stir an appreciation for the past. The historic elements reflect the actions of people and may include buildings, settlement patterns, and other examples of human activity. Historic features can be inventoried, mapped, and interpreted. They possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association.
* **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.

**Letter of Support:**

Reviewers find supporting letters that document local support useful as they corroborate statements you make in your application. The most effective documentation is personalized support statements that describe the writer’s relationship to the byway and expected benefits from national designation. It is also useful to see indications of how the writer will continue their support in the future.

We also need to document support from road management authorities responsible for each segment of the road and Federal land management agency(s) through whose lands the byway runs. We’ll be seeking letters from LLBO, NPS, USFWS, and NPS to attach and reference in this section.

FHWA also encourages letters of support from [Senate](https://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm), [House](https://www.congress.gov/sponsors-cosponsors/116th-congress/representatives/A) and state legislatures.

**More information about the application data and materials needed to submit is at**

<https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/nominations/>

 and <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/nominations/2020_nsb_omination_application_questions.pdf>

**TO THE ATTENTION OF SCENIC BYWAYS POINTS OF CONTACT**

The purpose of this email is to announce an upcoming externalwebinar titled FHWA **National Scenic Byways FY2020 Nominations Overview.** This webinar will provide information about the one-time nomination solicitation for designation to America's Byways® (an umbrella term used for the collection of 150 distinct and diverse roads designated as National Scenic Byways or All-American Roads by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation).

Speakers from FHWA’s Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty, Office of Policy, and the Volpe Center will provide an overview of the [FY2020 National Scenic Byways Program](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.fhwa.dot.gov%2Fhep%2Fscenic_byways%2F&data=02%7C01%7Ccarol.zoff%40state.mn.us%7C69a8c3ecab8f480a6c2b08d7a8df739f%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C1%7C637163549990117971&sdata=oJjHYbtg%2Btdi4F1L53%2FcESwjfdeZ%2BgtZs7lPEX4kAsk%3D&reserved=0) and discuss requirements for submitting applications to nominate roads for America's Byways®. Presenters will also discuss the role of Division Offices, State Scenic Byway Coordinators, Federal Land Management Agencies, and Indian Tribes in the nomination process. The webinar will conclude with a live demonstration of the web-based nomination application portal, and a question and answer session.

We encourage Division Office and Federal Lands scenic byways points of contact to participate in the webinar. Please forward this announcement to your partners who may be interested in the scenic byways nomination process.

**WEBINAR LOGISTICS:**

* **Wednesday, February 26, 2020**
* **2:00 - 3:30 p.m. Eastern Standard Time**
* **Registration link:** [https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/dot/fhwa/WC/Lists/Seminars/DispForm.aspx?ID=2242](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcollaboration.fhwa.dot.gov%2Fdot%2Ffhwa%2FWC%2FLists%2FSeminars%2FDispForm.aspx%3FID%3D2242&data=02%7C01%7Ccarol.zoff%40state.mn.us%7C69a8c3ecab8f480a6c2b08d7a8df739f%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C1%7C637163549990127959&sdata=VnvgNyMQgRQBCQEw38PH4GcPtECHPc%2FlVIAs8NX7Myc%3D&reserved=0)

For additional information, contact Danielle Blackshear at danielle.blackshear@dot.gov or (202) 366-2064.

**Webinar Registration Process**

Webinar registration is a two-step process. First, non-DOT users including State DOTs must request access to the FHWA External Portal. Second, non-DOT users including State DOTs must login using the email address used to request access to the site and their requested password. Federal DOT staff and DOT-badged contractors do not need to register for an account. DOT users can click on the registration link and use their DOT credentials to access the site.

In the External SharePoint System, EXTERNAL users (those without a @dot.gov email address) will have to request an account before they can register. Here is the link to request an account:  [https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/FBA/Register.aspx](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fcollaboration.fhwa.dot.gov%2FFBA%2FRegister.aspx&data=02%7C01%7Ccarol.zoff%40state.mn.us%7C69a8c3ecab8f480a6c2b08d7a8df739f%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C1%7C637163549990137953&sdata=NJEuyifWDPtsVewifF4Grm4IHjNgX%2FViIaOzFpx3YHU%3D&reserved=0). Step-by step instructions on how to request an account can be found here: [https://connectdot.connectsolutions.com/espnon-dotstaff/](https://gcc01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fconnectdot.connectsolutions.com%2Fespnon-dotstaff%2F&data=02%7C01%7Ccarol.zoff%40state.mn.us%7C69a8c3ecab8f480a6c2b08d7a8df739f%7Ceb14b04624c445198f26b89c2159828c%7C0%7C1%7C637163549990137953&sdata=r1%2Fp6oaBRjk1oxzQBNBpoS3gmVUFCCtTbmZuoYLSNhQ%3D&reserved=0)

The account issuance takes approximately one business day. Once the user receives their account information, they can access the site by clicking on the registration link to log in.