

## National Scenic Byways Program

### Byway Nomination Form



#### Background

[Download](#)

**Byway Name:** Great River Road - Tennessee

**Identify Your State  
(choose one):** Tennessee

**Byway Location:** Does your byway traverse **more than one state**? If yes, select all states the byway traverses, **including your state**.

Arkansas

Illinois

Iowa

Kentucky

Louisiana

Minnesota

Mississippi

Missouri

Tennessee

Wisconsin

Does your byway traverse **Tribal lands**? If yes, identify the land or lands in the text box.

No

Does your byway traverse **federal lands**? If yes, identify the land or lands in the text box.

No

**If you answered yes to any of the questions above, then your byway traverses more than one jurisdiction (i.e., state, Indian tribe, or federal land). This constitutes a multi-jurisdiction nomination. For a multi-jurisdiction nomination, applicants in each jurisdiction are required to submit individual nomination applications.**

**Submission Agency  
(or individual):** Michael McClanahan - Tennessee Department of Transportation

**Desired Designation:** all-american road

**Change in  
Designation:** Are you seeking to nominate an existing National Scenic Byway as an All-American Road? Yes

If yes, you are required to identify two (2) intrinsic qualities that are nationally significant. One of these may be the same intrinsic quality used to justify previous designation as a National Scenic Byway. However, in Section 1 your application will need to describe the national significance of that intrinsic quality.

**Extension:** Is this an extension to an existing National Scenic Byway or All-American Road? No

If yes, you are required to submit the nomination application for the proposed extension in context of the existing National Scenic Byway or All-American Road and identify the same primary intrinsic quality(s) that can be found along the previously designated portion of the byway. Applicants are required to identify the same primary intrinsic quality(s) that can be found along the designated portion of the byway, and how the proposed extension relates to and enhances the designated byway.

#### Section 1

**Location:** **1-1:** Provide a description of the location of the byway within the State. Use cardinal directions (e.g., north) and reference major cities, regions, and/or landmarks. (Limit 150 words.)  
The Great River Road in Tennessee encompasses the entire western coast from the Kentucky border at Reelfoot Lake in the north, to Memphis connecting with Mississippi in the south. The route is 185.5 miles long and is bordered by the Mississippi River on the west and the Chickasaw bluffs landform or county boundary lines on the east. The Great River Road passes through five counties in west Tennessee: Lake, Dyer, Lauderdale, Tipton and Shelby. Adjacent Obion County is a major gateway and provides hospital services and other major attractions to support travel in northwest Tennessee.

**Date of Local Designation:** **1-2:** Any road submitted for designation under the National Scenic Byways Program must first be designated, through legislation or some other official declaration, a State, Indian tribe or Federal land management agency scenic byway. List the designating agency(s) and date(s) of designation.

Designating Agency(s): Tennessee Department of Transportation

**Intrinsic Qualities:**

**1-3:** For the All-American Road designation, select the **two (2)** Intrinsic Qualities that are most evident along the road and that you will demonstrate are nationally significant and contribute to the byway being considered a “destination unto itself.” (Hold the Ctrl button and click on two Intrinsic Qualities.)

For multi-jurisdiction nomination applicants seeking designation as an All-American Road, at least one of the two primary intrinsic qualities cited must match the qualities submitted by the other jurisdictions seeking designation. The applicant may cite the second intrinsic quality as specific to their segment of the byway: Archaeological, Cultural, Historic, Natural, Recreational, or Scenic.

Cultural

Historic

**Primary Photo:**

**1-4:** Provide a single image that you feel best represents the experience along your byway. Please select this image carefully as it will introduce the reviewers to your byway. Also, if designated, your byway will be included in the marketing efforts of the National Scenic Byways Program and this image will be used on the traveler website.

Please provide an alternative text description of the image that describes what the image depicts. This text will be used by those who cannot see the photo, and should thoroughly describe what is depicted in the image. For guidelines on submitting images and composing alternative text descriptions, please see our [Image Style Guide](#). (Limit 50 words.)

Alternative text for image: Evening along the Great River Road is special. This image of the famous 'M' bridge at twilight is south of Memphis, and crosses the Mississippi River between Tennessee and Arkansas. The Great River Road is all about connecting to the river, which is stylistically symbolized in this picture.

Image name: 'M' Bridge at Twilight

Image owner: Tennessee Department of Tourism Development

Photo release? Yes

Upload Image: 1-4 Overall 2.jpg

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 1-4. For example, rename your file RiverBend.png to 1-4RiverBend.png.

**Section 2**

2-1: This section will introduce the reviewers to your byway. Provide a description of your byway from the "big picture" point of view, and within the context of your description, include information on the items below. For more information on developing a strong statement of qualification, please reference the [Nominations Guide](#). (Limit 750 words.)

- Theme that reflects the central focus of the byway's nomination story and promotes the Byway.
- An overview of the Traveler Experience navigating the byway. Provide a sense of how the experience unfolds as visible features, byway stories, or important resources form the core quality of your corridor.
- Regional Significance (National Scenic Byway) – explain and justify what is special, significant or unique about your byway in relation to the primary Intrinsic Quality
- National Significance (All-American Road) – explain and justify what is special, significant or unique about your byway in relation to the two (2) primary Intrinsic Qualities, and why the road is considered a destination unto itself.

**Statement of Qualification:**

The Mississippi River in west Tennessee is home to the ebb and flow of American history across hundreds of years and cultural pillars that continue to influence and inspire its modern-day visitors. This section of America has a mythical quality that springs from its one of a kind historic, cultural and natural attributes. Not simply a body of water, the Mississippi River in Tennessee churns with robust stories and legends known and beloved throughout the world. Thoughts of this windy, rugged section of the Mississippi conjure images of barefoot boys floating downriver on rafts, riverboats full of hopeful settlers looking for a new home in a New World, the haunting notes of Blues musicians, distant reverberations of Civil War cannon, paddle-wheelers and barges transporting goods to a nation, and an ongoing struggle for freedom and human rights. These experiences are the lifeblood of our river's unique charm and the legendary waters are part of America's national story – the story of the Great River Road. The Great River Road in Tennessee is a 185.5 mile collection of roads that meanders south, between the Mississippi River immediately west and the Chickasaw Bluffs to the east. When entering Tennessee from Kentucky, the byway cuts through a lush rural landscape in northwest Tennessee, an area complete with multiple tributary rivers and thousands of acres of cotton fields. Travelers on this byway are joined by 40% of all North American birds migrating through the corridor twice a year – a testament to the region's natural abundance. As byway-goers move south through sloping, cycling-friendly terrain, they arrive in the City of Memphis, a destination rich with sites and traditions of the past and the vibrant tastes and sounds of today. Travelers continue their Great River Road experience as they enter Mississippi on Tennessee's southern border. The Great River Road in Tennessee is a byway of unparalleled historic and cultural abundance. The 14 features highlighted in this application speak to the significance of the Great River Road, and to its place in the history of the country. One feature is the location of the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. From that traumatic day, the site has been transformed into the National Civil Rights Museum, a powerful place of reflection and remembrance. Another feature is a collection of well-preserved sites like Sun Studios, Graceland Mansion and Stax Records. These sites are closely tied to names that continue to influence generations of music and musicians today. Names like Elvis Presley, B.B. King, Carl Perkins, Jerry Lee Lewis, Roy Orbison and more. A third feature is Reelfoot Lake in northwest Tennessee. This area was forever changed when shifting waters from the Mississippi River flooded forestland thanks to the New Madrid Earthquake of 1811, the country's first great natural disaster. Today, Reelfoot Lake is a visitor friendly natural area, with significant ecological diversity and quite a story to tell. All 14 route features in the application relate to either the Civil War and its aftermath, the nation's struggle for Civil Rights, or how residents of centuries past and present live and experience the river. The story of the Great River Road in Tennessee is undoubtedly tied to that of the country. The waters in this section of the Mississippi River reflect the challenges and events being seen elsewhere in America, from human struggle in the Civil War and Civil Rights movement to musical innovation and many bold cultural advances. The Great River Road in Tennessee is deserving of the designation 'All American Road'.

**Section 3****Byway Length:**

3-1: Enter the total byway length (in miles) from end to end (including road gaps that aren't included in the nomination but

must be traveled).  
185.5

**Route Description:**

3-2: Please provide a complete, sequential route description that documents all road segments including any gaps and/or intrusions. Include all of the road segments which, when linked together, match the legal description used by your State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency to officially designate the road. Please work with your State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency Scenic Byway Coordinator to develop this section so that you accurately reflect State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency records for the designated route. Please also specify road names and route numbers for all road segments. (Limit 750 words.)

The Tennessee Great River Road goes from the Tennessee/Kentucky state line, through Phillippy, Tiptonville, Ridgely, Hales Point, Halls, Ripley, Covington and Millington. It ends at the Tennessee/Mississippi state line. Tennessee-Kentucky State Line to Tiptonville • Start at the state line, at the intersection of TN-78 and Tennessee Rd. • Drive southwest on TN 78 until you get to Tiptonville. • In Tiptonville, turn west (right) onto TN 21/Church St. • Continue to the end of Church St. Tiptonville to Golddust • Turn south and continue on Tiptonville-Obion Levee Rd. • Continue to TN 181 in Cottonwood Grove just past the intersection with TN-79. • Follow TN 181 past to Boothspoint and Moss Island State Wildlife Management Area. • Turn east onto TN 88 towards Halls. • Just before Halls, turn south onto US 51. • Follow US 51 to Ripley. • North of Ripley, turn west onto TN 19. • Follow TN 19 through Arp and past Johnson Lake to its intersection with Four Mile Ln. Four Mile Lane to Richardson Landing • Go south on Four Mile Lane for 3.2 miles. • Turn southeast on Crutcher Lake Rd. • Turn east on SR 87 and head for Henning. • At Henning turn south on US 51. • Take US 51 south to Covington. • In Covington, turn west onto TN 59. • Continue on SR 59 west to its intersection with Richardson Landing Rd. Richardson Landing to Locke to Whitney Avenue in Memphis • Go south on Richardson Landing Rd. to Tower Heights. • Turn right onto Pryor Rd, which becomes Herring Hill Road. • Continue on Herring Hill Rd., which becomes Cuba Millington Rd., then Woodstock Cuba Rd., then Locke Cuba Rd. • Continue on Locke Cuba Rd. to its intersection with TN 388/Watkins Rd. • Take TN 388/Watkins Rd. south toward Memphis. • Continue south on past Firestone Park on the left. • Turn south on US 51/Thomas St. and continue to its intersection with Whitney Ave. Whitney Ave. in Memphis to the Tennessee-Mississippi State Line • Turn west on Whitney Ave., which becomes 2nd St. • At the airport, continue south on 2nd St. • Follow 2nd St. passing under I-40. • Continue on Island Dr. south along the riverside. • Turn east on East G E Patterson Ave./ US 64 and immediately turn south on 3rd St./US 64/ TN 14. • Turn south onto TN 14/US 64. • Continue south on TN 14 as it merges with US 61. • The Tennessee Great River Road ends at the Tennessee-Mississippi state line.

**Route Address:**

3-3: To assist review of your nomination, please provide the addresses/intersections and the GPS coordinates for the beginning and end points of the byway. You will provide the GPS coordinates for other key points/features in Section 5: Traveler Experience.

**Beginning** addresses/intersections and the GPS coordinates of the byway.  
Northern Termini: S.R. 78 at the Kentucky/Tennessee state line. 36°30'08.4"N 89°21'24.8"W

**Ending** addresses/intersections and the GPS coordinates of the byway.  
Southern Termini: S.R. 61 at the Tennessee/Mississippi state line. 34°59'40.9"N 90°07'39.1"W

If available, please submit a GIS shapefile of the route.

Uploaded GIS file: 3-3 GRR Shapefile.zip

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 3-3. For example, rename your file RiverBend.png to 3-3RiverBend.png."

**Federal Lands:**

3-4: Check the boxes for agencies whose lands occur along the byway or select Not Applicable.

FishandWildLifeService Other (please specify):

**Route Map:**

3-5: Please provide the following information on a single PDF map which will be used as a central reference point with the other materials you include in your nomination application. The scale and size of the map will be relative to the location and length of your nominated byway. In some cases, this may require two or more pages. The map and supporting legend should clearly show:

- Location of the byway within the State, Indian lands, or Federal lands
- The location of the byway in relation to other State, Indian tribe, and Federal land management agency byways; and America's Byways in your region
- Each end point of the byway
- Location of gaps and/or intrusions
- The location of each community along the route
- Boundaries and/or management areas of major entities (e.g., parks, forests, reserves)
- Locations of critical directional signage, if any
- Locations of existing interpretive panels/information
- Locations of public visitor centers and/or other visitor amenities (e.g., public restroom facilities)
- Locations of the features detailed in the Visitor/Traveler Experience section of this nomination form (Section 5).

Uploaded Map: 3-5 GRR Map.pdf

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 3-5. For example, rename your file RiverBend.png to 3-5RiverBend.png.

**Continuity of the Route:**

3-6: The continuity of your byway route is an essential requirement for designation as it directly impacts the travel experience and can reflect community support. If you have included a list of gaps and/or intrusions in your official route description, please use this section to provide explanations for any gaps and/or intrusions in your route that interrupt the continuity of the traveler experience (e.g., local zoning decisions, lack of community support, etc.) (Limit 250 words.)  
N/A

**Nomination by Indian Tribes:**

3-7: If this nomination is being submitted for consideration by an Indian tribe, please answer the following questions:

1. Title 23, United States Code (USC), Section 162(a)(3)(B) allows nomination by Indian tribes only if a Federal land management agency (other than the Bureau of Indian Affairs), a State, or a political subdivision of a State does not have jurisdiction over the road or responsibility for managing the road. Briefly discuss who has jurisdiction over the road and who manages the road. (Limit 200 words.)  
N/A
2. Section 162(a)(3)(C) requires that Indian tribes maintain the safety and quality of roads nominated. Discuss how the tribe will maintain the safety and quality of the road. (Limit 200 words.)  
N/A

## Section 4

- Vehicle Accommodation:**
- 4-1: Confirm that two-wheel-drive passenger vehicles are accommodated along the entire route, and describe how this is facilitated if segments of the road are not paved. (Limit 150 words.)  
All segments of the Great River Road have hard-surface pavement and are accessible year-round. A majority of the route is either state or federal highway, so two-wheel drive passenger vehicles and motorcycles are easily accommodated. Travelers are likely to encounter a variety of driving conditions while navigating the route. Urban and heavily travelled areas in Memphis can have an abundance of traffic, while sections of the Great River Road in northwest Tennessee may be sparsely travelled.
- 4-2: Describe the accommodation of bicycle and pedestrian travel, including crossings, along the byway. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (Limit 150 words.)  
Planning for the Great River Road has always focused on connecting the travelling public to the river. Bicycle and pedestrian travel along the Great River Road is one way to accomplish this connection, and the Mississippi River Corridor – Tennessee, Inc. has linked the byway with the Mississippi River Trail. This trail is a 10-state bike path that follows along the path of the Great River Road. Additionally, TDOT led planning will advise on where bicycle and pedestrian crossings, lane improvements and other facilities can be made.
- 4-3: For the All-American Roads designation, discuss the accommodation of conventional tour buses along the route. (Limit 150 words.)  
The Great River Road in Tennessee is well suited to accommodate commercial level coach tour buses. Collector and arterial roads have 12-foot lane widths, and other favorable factors such as: shoulder width, minimum stopping sight distance, minimum and maximum grade, and super-elevation all make tour bus accommodation along the route easy.
- Travel Restrictions**
- 4-4: Describe any restrictions to the types of vehicles that are allowed along the route. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (Limit 150 words.)  
N/A
- 4-5: Describe any seasonal closures or other restrictions along the route. If non-applicable, indicate N/A. (Limit 150 words.)  
All portions of the Great River Road in Tennessee are accessible throughout the year. Two notable exceptions occasionally occur when seasonal flood waters can cover portions of the route in Tipton or Lauderdale counties, and during the 'Memphis in May International Festival' when traffic on Riverside Drive can be temporarily diverted. In both cases, alternative routes are planned and clearly communicated to the travelling public.
- Seasons:**
- 4-6: Describe the best time during the year to drive the byway and experience the Intrinsic Qualities identified in this application (Limit 150 words.)  
There's never a wrong time to visit the Great River Road in Tennessee, but there seems to be an extra buzz about the river valley in springtime. The 'Memphis in May International Festival' brings thousands of music revelers, foodies and art critics to the valley. Throughout the route, spring blossoms from azalea bushes and redbud trees make every trip more vibrant and colorful. Additionally, birders flock to the Great River Road in springtime as 40% of all North American birds migrate along the 10-state route each spring.
- 4-7: Describe any travel concentrations or high seasons when byway visitors might be more likely to encounter crowds or extra traffic (Limit 150 words.)  
Two annual events attract large groups of travelers to the Great River Road each year. First, crowds of birders and spectators line the shores of Reelfoot Lake National Wildlife Refuge during the first weekend in February for the annual 'Eagle Festival'. Second, the 'Memphis in May International Festival' brings throngs of music-lovers, foodies and other travelers to downtown Memphis for a series of events as part of the monthlong Festival. Components of 'Memphis in May' include: the Beale Street Music Festival, International Week, the World Championship Barbeque Cooking Contest, the Great American River Run and 901 Fest.
- Safety:**
- 4-8: Describe the key factors of your roadway that contribute to its safety for travelers (e.g. rumble strips, low speeds, lighting, guard rails, high friction surface treatments). (Limit 150 words.)  
The majority of roadways that comprise the Great River Road in Tennessee are state and federal highways. All traffic control devices along the route are governed by the manual on uniform traffic control devices. The route has hard surface pavement on all 185.5 miles and route features such as pavement markings, low speeds, lighting, guard rails and rumble strips are present. All portions of the route occur on public rights of way and are enforced and maintained by the appropriate levels of government including the bridge crossings of the Mississippi River. Traffic regulations are enforced through the route, and emergency services are available through local and state response procedures.

## Section 5

- Getting to the Byway:**
- 5-1: Using the table below, provide distance and driving time to the byway from at least two nearby large cities, gateway communities, airports, major roadways, or other locations that would be pertinent to the traveler (limit 5).

Location	Distance (miles)	Avg Driving Time (hours)
Memphis, TN	185.5 miles (from Hickman, KY)	2 hours, 23 mins (from Hickman, KY)
St. Louis, MO	185 miles (from Hickman, KY)	3 hours, 12 mins (from Hickman, KY)
Nashville, TN	212 miles (from Memphis)	3 hours, 2 mins (to Memphis)
Little Rock, AR	135 miles (from Memphis)	1 hour, 56 mins (to Memphis)

- Traveler Services:**
- 5-2: Provide a short description of services and hours of operation at each public visitor/welcome center. (Limit 150 words.)

Gateways to the Great River Road in Tennessee include three Tennessee Welcome Centers and one Memphis Welcome Center. All centers have operational hours seven days a week. Tennessee Welcome Centers are open 24 hours a day, and the Memphis Welcome Center is open between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. All locations offer restrooms, picnic facilities, vending machines, on-site staff, public Wi-Fi, traffic and weather monitors, interpretive signage and free brochures of nearby attractions. A fourth Tennessee Welcome Center at Reelfoot Lake State Park is slated to open in September 2020 with an expanded interpretive display.

5-3: Describe any universal access accommodations to assist travelers of varying abilities. (Limit 150 words.) All three Tennessee Welcome Centers and four Tennessee State Parks building, and interpretive displays are built to the standards of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

5-4: Describe any gaps on the byway of 50 miles or more where no traveler services (food, fuel or restrooms) are available. (Limit 150 words.)

No gaps in visitor services exist of 50 miles or more. Food, fuel and restrooms are frequently available along the route through public and private providers, with the longest gap being no more than 20 miles.

5-5: Does your byway include alternative fuel corridors, as defined under [FHWA's Alternative Fuels Corridor Program](#)?

no If yes, please list the corridor(s) and date(s) of designation, and discuss the fuel(s) accommodated. (Limit 150 words.)  
N/A

#### Wayfinding:

5-6: Describe how travelers will know they are on the byway and list tools such as maps, signs and brochures. (Limit 150 words.)

Effective byway 'wayshowing', in the form of both consistent collateral (brochures and maps found at welcome center, and digital resources found online) and roadside signage clearly mark the Great River Road in Tennessee. The Mississippi River Parkway Commission also hosts a mobile app for each of the 10-states along the byway route. These elements provide directions to various intrinsic resource stops and are an important component of assuring a positive visitor experience.

5-7: Please describe directional signage that currently exists that would help travelers access and navigate the byway as well as find their way back to major routes. If non-applicable, indicate N/A (Limit 150 words.)

Since a majority of the Great River Road in Tennessee is either state or federal highway, roadside signage is maintained by TDOT and meets all requirements of the manual on uniform traffic control devices. Green and white roadside 'mockingbird' signs denote to the public that they are on a Tennessee scenic route, while the brown and white Great River Road logo signs let the travelling public know they are on a specific national scenic byway route. These signs are placed both at all Great River Road gateways and intermittently along the route as well.

#### Evidence of Intrinsic Qualities:

5-8: Identify up to 8 features (i.e., points of interest, sites or events) in sequential order along your byway that support the Intrinsic Qualities you have identified for nomination. Please keep in mind that the quality of your points of interest, sites or events and their connection to the byway's Intrinsic Quality(s) are more important than citing a large quantity of sites that aren't connected. If using events to support your byway's Intrinsic Quality(s), they must be particularly related to the byway travel experience or connect the byway traveler to the Intrinsic Quality(s) for which the byway is being nominated. For each feature, please include the following (Limit 500 words per feature):

- Name of the feature
- A description of what is found at the feature, and how the feature supports the Intrinsic Quality(s)
- Dates and/or times on which the feature is available for traveler visits
- Driving distance to the feature, and existing signage if the feature is not immediately adjacent to the road. Please ensure the feature is included in the Route Description and on the Route Map in Section 3: Route Information.
- If hiking, cycling, or walking is involved, the distance and degree of difficulty
- A photo highlighting how the feature supports the Intrinsic Quality. **Before uploading photos, rename the file to begin with the Feature Number. For example, for Feature 1, rename your file RiverBend.png to Feature1RiverBend.png.** For guidelines on submitting images and composing alternative text descriptions, please see our [Image Style Guide](#).

#### Feature 1

Feature name:

Island Number 10 & Jones Chapel Church of Christ

GPS coordinates:

36.444687, -89.497728

Describe the feature:

With the surrender of Forts Henry and Donelson in Tennessee during the Civil War, and the evacuation of Columbus, Kentucky, Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard, chose New Madrid, Missouri and Island No. 10, about 50 river miles below Columbus, to be the strongpoint for defending the Mississippi River. Beauregard had only 7,000 Confederate soldiers at New Madrid and Island No. 10. to defend the river and prevent a Union thrust deep into West Tennessee and Arkansas. The stronghold was located in a hairpin turn in the river that created the New Madrid Bend, a peninsula that controlled long reaches of the waterway. The strong Confederate position on Island No. 10 blocked Union General John Pope's access to a nearby Union fleet, who were jointly attempting to invade down river. Deciding to bombard Island No. 10, six ironclads and 10 mortar scows unsuccessfully shelled the island day after day. For three weeks, Pope's engineers, assisted by local contraband, dug a canal that connected the bends in the Mississippi River through two bayous. On April 4, 1862, the Union navy sent light-draft steamboats down the canal, and the Union navy was able to bypass Island No. 10. During storms on the nights of April 6th and 7th, two ironclads slipped past Island No. 10 and assisted Union troops crossing the river at Tiptonville. Realizing they were outmaneuvered, the Confederates surrendered, and terms were formalized the next day. Following the Confederate evacuation of Island No. 10, approximately 1,000 African American freedmen were settled there by the Federal commander at Columbus. The island was to function as an agricultural colony. A series of floods have destroyed Island No. 10, but some rifle and artillery emplacements remain on the banks.

Interpretive panels are at the cemetery and along the shore of the Mississippi River. The National Register Jones Chapel Church of Christ cemetery is the resting place for the mass burial of 75 Confederate soldiers from the battle for Island No. 10. Just as important, many grave markers are associated with settlement history in the region, when this area was known as 'Madrid's Bend'. The oldest identified marker dates to 1838. Access to the cemetery is available year-round.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

4.2 miles. Directional signage and navigational markings are found along the State Highway.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
Low difficulty. Flat terrain with wide shoulders. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Island No 10 1.JPG	Google Maps	This roadside Tennessee Historical Society marker interprets the battle for Island No. 10 and related historical sites that still exist today.	Island No. 10 Marker	Yes
Island No 10 2.jpg	Tennessee State Library and Archives	This wintertime scene depicts the Daughters of the Confederacy marker and Tennessee Historical Society marker of the Battle for Island Number 10.	Historical Marker	Yes

## Feature 2

Feature name:  
Reelfoot Lake State Park

GPS coordinates:  
36.362963, -89.433358

Describe the feature:

Reelfoot Lake is in Lake and Obion counties in northwest Tennessee. A portion of the lake extends into southwestern Kentucky near the town of Fulton, and the lake lies approximately 3 miles east of the Mississippi River. It is the largest natural lake in Tennessee encompassing more than 10,000 acres of water and another 5,000 acres in marshes and hardwood wetlands. It is estimated that more than 40% of the lake has a depth of 3 feet or less. Approximately 30,000 acres of the lake and the surrounding marshes and watersheds are protected. Management of the lake is vested with 3 primary agencies, Tennessee Wildlife Resource Agency, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Tennessee Department of Environment and Conservation. Late in 1811, the New Madrid Earthquake caused huge spasms and convulsions that rocked much of North America. The major force of these shocks were centered in the Reelfoot Lake area, which was then a huge cypress forest. On December 16th, the earth's surface rose and sank and the Mississippi River actually turned and flowed backward, pouring into a hissing abyss. This mighty quake created the awesome Reelfoot Lake when more than 15,000 acres of forest land sank beneath the level of the river. Naked trunks remained and one of the world's greatest natural fish hatcheries was created. Historical records show that Davy Crockett hunted in the "land of the shakes" during the early 1830's. Hungry animals and a huge variety of waterfowl moved into this area and make Reelfoot a significant wildlife preserve. Crockett stated in his autobiography that he killed 108 bears in a single year at the lake and frequently made camp at the Bluebank Bayou. Crockett is well remembered in the area, and his hunting cabin still stands south of the lake on State Route 45W. Reelfoot Lake State Park preserves one of the region's most unique environments and has a rich Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) history. In 1934, a company of 200 men began building well-crafted Government Rustic style check-in buildings for hunters and fishermen. The CCC continued its work on the park until 1938 when it turned its attention to building two wildlife refuges. The area is a winter home to a large number of waterfowl, such as coots, mallards and Canada geese. It is also famous for nesting eagles who feed on the abundant of fish in these waters. Reelfoot Lake became a Tennessee State Park in 1956. Most of the facilities today date to the 1960's and 1970's, although the Blue Pond area has a restored CCC check-in building and picnic shelter. A new visitor's center, complete with an aviary, natural displays, and interpretive signage is slated to open in September 2020. The lake is a popular year-round destination and robust directional signage guides visitors to the area from state routes 21 and 78.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 12/1/2020 End date: 2/15/2021

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
2.6 miles

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Low difficulty. Flat terrain and wide shoulders along the county highway. Some sidewalks exist in Tiptonville. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Reelfoot 1.jpg	Tennessee State Parks	This image is of a bald eagle perched and hunting atop a dead bald cypress tree in the lake. Eagles and other raptors are prevalent in the lake area	Eagle on Lake	Yes
Reelfoot 2.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This picture is of Reelfoot Lake in evening. Reelfoot Lake is a flooded forest, and boasts many tall bald cypress trees with roots raised above the lake level.	Reelfoot at Twilight	Yes
Reelfoot 3.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image is of a boardwalk extending between trees along the shore of Reelfoot Lake.	Reelfoot Boardwalk	Yes

## Feature 3

Feature name:  
Heloise

GPS coordinates:  
36.052475, -89.674302

Describe the feature:

This Mississippi River port was once a prominent stop for agricultural trade between the Civil War era and World War II. The landing is still extant and provides immediate access to the river. The port is located along Heloise-Midway Road, one of the state's outstanding roads to explore the Mississippi River up close. It hugs the riverbank and provides great vantage points to the river. Along the road you can also discover representative types of farms and tenant houses associated with agricultural life in this region. The historic cemetery at Chic, near the Free Church of God at Chic, contains burials dating back to the 1850's and documents the number of people who once lived and worked along the river in Dyer County. Heloise is accessible daily, year-round, as weather conditions permit. Visitors are guided by TDOT maintained directional signage from State Route 181. They should bring appropriate shoes for a brief hike and binoculars for sightseeing passing birds, wildlife and boats.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
2.7 miles. Limited directional and interpretive signage.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
Low difficulty. Flat terrain with some shoulder and limited local traffic. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Heloise 1.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This is a view of the Mississippi River at historic Heloise, TN, looking across to Cottonwood Point, MO.	Mississippi River at Heloise	No
Heloise 2.jpg	Tennessee State Library and Archives	Historic photo of the Cottonwood, MO to Heloise, TN ferry.	Heloise Ferry	Yes
Heloise 3.JPG	Tennessee Department of Transportation	Current day roadside view of the Heloise Loop in Finley, TN	Roadside Picture	No

#### Feature 4

Feature name:  
Alex Haley State Historic Site

GPS coordinates:  
35.673404, -89.576158

Describe the feature:

This 1.5 story weatherboard bungalow was the house of Alex Haley's grandfather, Will Palmer, who operated a respected and profitable lumber mill in Henning. Between 1918 and 1919, Palmer and his wife Cynthia built the ten-room house, complete with a music room and library, that rated among the most modern and fashionable in this rural West Tennessee town. Two years later, in 1921, their daughter Bertha Palmer Haley brought her infant son Alex back home to Henning to stay with her parents while her husband, Simon Haley pursued graduate studies at Cornell University. Haley lived here from 1921 to 1929 and afterward visited the home during many summers. As he later recounted in his popular book "Roots: The Saga of an American Family" (1976) and in many interviews afterward, his Grandmother Palmer was an immense influence on Alex's telling of the family history. Especially as she told her colorful and compelling stories of past, but not forgotten family members. Haley heard those stories and began to develop his own sense of imagination and place while living at this bungalow dwelling. His writings and lectures inspired millions to search for their family history and to learn how their families have played a role in the drama of the American past. The Alex Haley Boyhood Home was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1978 and was opened as the first state historic site devoted to African American History later that decade. After his death in 1992, Haley was buried in the front yard of the home he recalled so fondly. TDOT maintains directional signage to guide visitors to the site from state routes 209 and 87, and US-51. The house, as well as the museum and interpretive center is open between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
0.9 miles from the route. Directional signage is present.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
Low difficulty. Flat terrain and wide shoulder along local roads. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Alex Haley Home.jpg	Tennessee Department of Transportation	This is a picture of the Alex Haley home and property.	Alex Haley 1	Yes
Alex Haley Museum.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This is a picture of the on-site interpretive center at Alex Haley State Historic Site.	Alex Haley 2	Yes
Alex Henning 3.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This is a picture of the Tennessee Historical Society roadside marker at the Alex Haley site. The home is in the background.	Alex Haley 3	Yes

#### Feature 5

Feature name:  
Canaan Baptist Church

GPS coordinates:  
35.566261, -89.646268

Describe the feature:

Built from 1916 to 1917, the Canaan Baptist Church in Covington is listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Its Criterion A listing signifies its role in the social history, religious history, and ethnic heritage of African Americans in the area. As the oldest and primary African American Missionary Baptist church in the area, Canaan is still a significant social, political and religious center of the Africa-American community. The Canaan Baptist Church was organized in 1868 two miles northwest of Covington by a former slave, the Reverend Jupiter Williams. Williams served as pastor until 1871 when he resigned due to ill health from his time under slavery. Reverend William Adams brought the congregation into Covington in the 1880's and built a small frame church on North Main Street. In 1916-1917, the frame church was torn down and replaced by the current brick structure under the direction of Reverend William J. Clark. Just north of the southeast entrance is a dedication stone which reads, "Canaan Bapt. Church, organized 1868..." Canaan's pivotal church leader of the twentieth century was Reverend John Henry Seward, a dentist by profession, who served the congregation from 1931 to 1966. During his pastorage the church renovated its interior, added a balcony and electricity. The congregation began many programs that brought the church to statewide, nationwide and international involvement. Visitors can view the church's interior features and detailing, original stained-glass windows and learn of the congregation's importance to the West Tennessee African American community daily between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.



Services are conducted Wednesday evenings and Sunday mornings. Brown (historic) state and local directional signage to the site is present throughout downtown Covington along State Route 51.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
0.1 miles. No directional signage present.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
Low difficulty. Flat terrain and sidewalks available along the local street. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Canaan 1.JPG	Tennessee Department of Transportation	This is the road-front view of the Canaan Baptist Church, including front entrance and stained glass window.	Canaan 1	Yes
Canaan 2.png	Tipton County Historical Society	This historic photo features the inside of the church, including pews and the pulpit.	Canaan 2	Yes
Canaan 3.JPG	Tennessee Department of Transportation	This is the keystone dedication to the church, dating back to the 1916.	Canaan 3	Yes

#### Feature 6

Feature name:  
Fort Pillow State Historic Park

GPS coordinates:  
35.632342, -89.852532

Describe the feature:  
The Civil War earthwork and battleground, listed as a National Historic Landmark, occupies a Mississippi River bluff in Lauderdale County. Late in the spring of 1861, Confederate troops from Arkansas built a battery at the site to control a bend in the river. Major General Gideon Pillow subsequently ordered the construction of a thirty-acre enclosure with numerous batteries below, in, and atop the bluff. It soon took on his name. After the Union Army took control of the fort, it was manned with U.S. Colored Troops. In 1864, Confederates retook the fort, killing hundreds of the African American soldiers. Participants, and later historians, have described the battle as a massacre, making the fort and the battle among the most infamous of the war. The controversial battle at Fort Pillow shaped the legacy of how prisoners of war were treated, even in modern day conflicts. Visitors can walk the earthworks, learn from the displays and artifacts in the Ft. Pillow Museum Center and view the 2008 interpretive film "The Fort Pillow Story". The facility is open daily, from 8:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. State maintained interpretative and directional signage is present from State Route 187 and along Crutcher Lake Road.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
Along the route. Directional and interpretive signage is present.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
Low difficulty. Flat terrain with a wide shoulder and low traffic volume. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Fort Pillow 2.png	Tennessee State Parks	This is a picture of the interpretive center at the Ft. Pillow State Historic Site	Ft Pillow 2	Yes
Fort Pillow 3.jpg	Tennessee State Parks	This is the entry sign to Ft. Pillow State Historic Park.	Ft Pillow 1	Yes
Ft Pillow.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image is from inside Ft. Pillow and includes replica cannon and fort walls.	Ft Pillow 1	Yes

#### Feature 7

Feature name:  
Memphis in May International Festival

GPS coordinates:  
35°08'38.7"N, 90°03'16.9"W

Describe the feature:  
The Memphis in May International Festival is a month-long collection of events held throughout the city that promotes Memphis' culture, fosters economic growth and enhances international awareness through education. Events held during the month include the Beale Street Music Festival, '901 Fest', the World Championship Barbeque Cooking Contest, the Great American River Run. Each year, festival organizers select a country to feature while honoring emissaries of that country. Events are themed to that country's culture, Memphis' economic ties to that country are recognized and educational exhibits are developed. Local culture is also a tremendous part of the festival. The World Championship Barbeque Cookoff has been part of the festival since 1977 and has grown to become one of the largest such events in the country. Special theatrical performances are put on by competing barbeque teams, and special judging categories exist to recognize exemplary meats and rubs, unique to the Memphis area. The Beale Street Music Festival also pays homage to the area's music legacy by featuring local and blues acts as part of the weekend long event. Memphis in May activities are held temporarily, with times and days advertised widely to visitors ahead of time. The occurrence is the largest annual event in the Tennessee section of the Great River Road.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 4/15/2020 End date: 5/31/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
Along the route. Directional and temporary traffic control signage is present.



If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Low difficulty. Sidewalks are widely available and streets are temporarily closed to motorized traffic. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Memphis in May 1.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image is the Beale Street Music Festival main stage and crowd during the Memphis in May festival	Memphis in May 1	Yes
Memphis in May 2.JPG	Memphis in May International Festival	This image is an overhead view of the Beale Street Music Festival during evening. The Mississippi River, Memphis skyline and Pyramid are all in the distance.	Memphis in May 2	Yes
Memphis in May 3.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image is of beef brisket being chopped and prepared for judging at the World Championship BBQ Competition.	Memphis in May 3	Yes

#### Feature 8

Feature name:

South Main Arts District (Memphis)

GPS coordinates:

35.132819, -90.058964

Describe the feature:

The South Main Arts District in Memphis begins at Beale Street and continues south to Crump Boulevard. The neighborhood is an eclectic mixture of historic buildings, restaurants, night clubs, and has a high concentration of art galleries and theatres. The area is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and includes notable Memphis locations such as the National Civil Rights Museum, Central Station, the Arcade Restaurant and Earnestine and Hazel's. On the last Friday of each month, an event called "Trolley Night" is put on by the South Main Association, as well as owners of the South Main businesses and art galleries. For three hours that evening, free trolley service up and down Main Street shuttles visitors to open art galleries, and area shops and restaurants. The South Main Arts District is walkable and well lit, with directional signage from downtown Memphis.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

Along the route. Directional and interpretive signage is well maintained.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Low difficulty. Sidewalks widely available. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Memphis Art 1.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image is of the façade and marquis for the Arcade Restaurant in Memphis.	South Main 1	Yes
Memphis Art 2.jpg	Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce	This image depicts the famous Memphis trolley embarking down South Main Street.	South Main 2	Yes
Memphis Art 3.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image depicts a sidewalk art sale at a storefront along South Main in Memphis.	South Main 3	Yes

#### Feature 9

Feature name:

Mud Island River Park & Museum

GPS coordinates:

35.169996, -90.053422

Describe the feature:

Mud Island River Park is a unique 52 acre recreational, educational and entertainment facility dedicated to telling the story of the mighty Mississippi River and its people. It houses the 18-gallery Mississippi River Museum; which contains a permanent collection of over 5,000 artifacts in support of its mission to preserve and promote the natural and cultural history of the Lower Mississippi River Valley. Museum exhibits detail the valley's creation and settlement from the Native American inhabitants to European explorers; the Civil War on the river, complete with a full scale Union gunboat engaged in battle with Confederate land troops; and the development of Delta Music from early Blues to today's Rock-n-Roll. Other attractions at Mud Island River Park include the Riverwalk, a half mile long scale model of the lower Mississippi River complete with 20 scale model replica river cities and 68 free standing text panels; The Adventure Center which offers canoe, kayak, pedal boat and bike rentals; a 5,000 seat Amphitheatre which offers seasonal concerts; gift shops; food concessions and banquet facilities and marina. Mud Island River Park is open during daylight hours daily and is well marked on directional signage maintained by both TDOT and the City of Memphis. The Mississippi River Museum is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Non-rigorous hiking and outdoor exploration of the island and surrounding river is encouraged.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

2.0 miles. Flat terrain with directional signage along the local streets.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Low difficulty. Urban travel with sidewalks and pedestrian bridge available. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
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File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Mud Island 1.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image depicts the artistic 'Memphis' sculpture facing the Mississippi River. It announces arrival to the city to those boating.	Mud Island 1	Yes
Mud Island 2.jpg	Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce	This image depicts the Mud Island river walk and Mississippi River Museum entrance.	Mud Island 2	Yes
Mud Island 3.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image depicts the Mud Island river park during evening.	Mud Island 3	Yes

### Feature 10

Feature name:

National Civil Rights Museum at the Lorraine Hotel

GPS coordinates:

35.134904, -90.057614

Describe the feature:

The inspirational "I have a dream" speech delivered by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. in 1963 during the March on Washington, has been a long-time anthem of hope for generations of citizens and immigrants into the region. The struggle for civil rights and dignity for all continues to play a major role in our society as showcased at the National Civil Rights Museum in downtown Memphis. Cut down by an assassin's bullet on April 4, 1968 as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel in Memphis, Dr. King had years earlier become the leader of the movement for freedom for the disenfranchised across America and beyond. In order to fully acknowledge the legacy and historical contributions of Dr. King, his early advocacy is noted in the museum. This includes 1950's calls for world disarmament, the end of apartheid in South Africa, a global war on poverty, and his rallying cry for assistance to American blacks to overcome centuries of racism and discrimination. Forty years later, as Dr. King is remembered and honored at the museum, it is imperative to place him in context of the movement for equality, freedom and justice that he helped to make and that made him. Dr. King was not static but rather flowed with the dynamics of the movement, not unlike our mighty Mississippi River as it carves a path despite human efforts to manipulate its flow. Through his sermons and speeches, the gifted orator offered his people a construct that explained their status, urged unity and conveyed with conviction that they would succeed in their quest to secure the rights of equality, liberty and justice. The museum exhibits tell the story of the struggle for civil rights from the arrival of the first Africans in the British colonies in 1619 to the assassination of Dr. King in 1968. The museum is open daily between 10:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. The museum and free parking are well marked by directional signage from I-140 and throughout downtown Memphis.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 4/29/2020 End date: 4/29/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

0.1 mile. Flat terrain with directional and interpretive signage along the local street.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Low difficulty. Sidewalks widely available. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Civil Right 1.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image shows the Lorraine Motel and marquis, with the National Civil Rights Museum and Memphis skyline in the background.	Civil Rights 1	Yes
Civil Right 2.jpg	National Civil Rights Museum	This image depicts an exhibit of the Montgomery Bus Boycott inside the National Civil Rights Museum.	Civil Rights 2	Yes
Civil Right 3.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image depicts the front of the National Civil Rights Museum, with the Lorraine Hotel immediately to the right of the picture.	Civil Rights 3	Yes

### Feature 11

Feature name:

Chucalissa and the C. H. Nash Museum

GPS coordinates:

35.062514, -90.129971

Describe the feature:

Chucalissa, administered by the University of Memphis, allows visitors to step back in time to explore the culture of a people that flourished before the first Europeans landed in America. Chucalissa is a Choctaw word for "abandoned house". The archaeological remains tell us that the site was occupied, abandoned and reoccupied several times between 1000 and 1500 A.D. This site was part of a large political system called the Mississippian culture. At its height in the 15th century, Chucalissa was home to between 800 to 1000 residents. The interpretive C.H. Nash Museum curates an extensive collection of artifacts recovered from excavations of the site. The exhibitions discuss the history of the Native Americans in the southeastern United States and their life on the Mississippi River. The museum includes an expansive outdoor archeological display and is open daily from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

4.5 miles. Directional signage available along the state highway and local street.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Low difficulty. Flat terrain, but not full sidewalks along the route. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Chucalissa 1.jpg	University of Memphis	This image depicts the C.H. Nash museum at Chucalissa.	Chucalissa	Yes
Chucalissa 2.jpg	University of Memphis	This image depicts the replica mound-top Native American dwellings which at one time inhabited Chucalissa.	Chucalissa 2	Yes
Chucalissa 3.jpg	University of Memphis	This image depicts a large replica Native American meeting house atop a mound at Chucalissa.	Chucalissa 3	Yes

## Feature 12

Feature name:  
National Ornamental Metal Museum

GPS coordinates:  
35.123461, -90.074894

Describe the feature:

The first European structure built on these grounds was a cabin put up by French explorers looking for a lost crew member in 1682. Several forts were to follow, but by far the most long lasting and significant was Fort Pickering. The site was named for Thomas Pickering, George Washington's Secretary of War, however, it became less significant after the country purchased the Louisiana Territory from France. During the Civil War a newer, more sophisticated fort was built after the fall of Memphis and garrisoned with U.S. Colored Troops. Federal engineers hallowed out the tallest Indian mound on the site and installed an underground powder magazine, which converted the strategic site into a formidable redoubt commanding the north entrance to the Tennessee Chute of the Mississippi River. After the war, the fort became the site of Jackson Mounds amusement park. The park had a three-story dance pavilion constructed atop the hallowed Indian mound. A shooting gallery, bowling alley and other entertainments were later added onsite. Most of these operations were closed and removed around 1900. An existing complex of buildings at the Fort Pickering site, became known as the United States Marine Hospital, and the hospital site was selected in 1881. The hospital's origin dates to July 16, 1798, when President John Adams signed an act of Congress creating the Marine Hospital Service. This act was designed to administer aid to sick and disabled seamen and was the forerunner to the U.S. Public Health Service. The site of the Marine Hospital was selected in 1881 out of what was then known as the Fort Pickering site, a separate town eighteen years older and, at one time, larger than Memphis. Six buildings comprised the original hospital district: the surgeon's house, a stable, the executive building, two wards and a laundry-dining room. The two surviving buildings from 1884 are on the National Register of Historic Places. Although the hospital was originally intended to serve the needs of seamen, it was used at various times by the Coast Guard, cadets of the state maritime academies, members of the Coast and Geodetic Survey, Public Health fieldmen, the Army Corps of Engineers, and employees and federal workers injured on duty. In 1951, this expanded program was reflected in the change of the official name of the facility to the United States Public Health Service Hospital. The hospital was closed in 1965. In 1970, the property was divided. The Federal government retained the eastern end of the site, and the City of Memphis acquired the western end, which it has leased to the National Ornamental Metal Museum, a one-of-a-kind attraction. The museum is open daily between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. Displays explain the history of the buildings and the site, while expansive metal creations show the skill of ornamental metal craftsmen from around the world.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
Along the route. Directional signage available on the state highway.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
low difficulty. Flat terrain and some sidewalks available with wide shoulders. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Metal Museum 1.jpg	National Ornamental Metal Museum	This image depicts the ornate rod-iron gate entrance to the National Ornamental Metal Museum property.	Metal 1	Yes
Metal Museum 2.jpg	National Ornamental Metal Museum	This image depicts the metal gazebo overlooking the Mississippi River at the National Ornamental Metal Museum.	Metal 2	Yes
Metal Museum 3.jpg	National Ornamental Metal Museum	This image is of the main building and museum hall at the National Ornamental Metal Museum	Metal 3	Yes

## Feature 13

Feature name:  
Memphis Area Music Sites (Graceland, Beale St., Stax Records,

GPS coordinates:  
35.140002, -90.052722

Describe the feature:

Memphis is a legendary music destination. Artists like Elvis Presley, B.B. King, Roy Orbison, Carl Perkins, Tina Turner, Jerry Lee Lewis and Issac Hayes have all passed through and credited the inspiration they found in Memphis. Not only do these artists continue to be popular, but they also continue to inspire new generations of artists. While in Memphis, the following culturally significant sites help to better explain Memphis' music legend: - Graceland: Elvis Presley's home and burial place, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is a magnet for music fans and visitors to the area. A large museum and artifact warehouse is also found on-site. - Beale Street: From the 1870's through the 1960's Beale Street was known for blues and jazz clubs and music halls, predominately owned by African Americans. The street is now closed to motorized traffic, is recognized as a world-famous entertainment district and plays host to numerous large-scale music events annually. - Sun Studios: This recording studio was opened by rock-n-roll pioneer Sam Phillips in 1950. Reputedly the first rock-n-roll single "Rocket 88" was recorded on site in 1951 by Jackie Brenston and his Delta Cats. - Stax Records / Stax Museum of America Soul Music: Dubbed 'Soulsville USA', this museum pays homage to soul music and the artists that recorded at Stax Records. Artists such as: Issac Hayer, Otis Redding, Albert King and Booker T. and the MGs, and many more. This feature is unique in that it encompasses a number of culturally significant sites. Graceland and Beale

Street are clearly marked by directional signage maintained by TDOT on local state highway and interstate routes. Interpretive panels are maintained by the Tennessee Historical Commission for all sites. Generally, sites are all open daily.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 5/1/2020 End date: 5/1/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
Multiple sites. Directional signage is present along state highways and local streets.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
Low difficulty. Generally flat terrain in an urban setting. Public transit and sidewalks generally available. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Music 1.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image depicts a Beale Street Steppers looking down Beale Street as evening approaches. Colorful marquis and storefronts adorn the street.	Music 1	Yes
Music 2.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image depicts the front of Graceland Mansion in springtime.	Music 2	Yes
Music 3.jpg	Tennessee Department of Tourism Development	This image depicts the neon lit marquis as Stax Records with the message "The Museum of American Soul Music".	Music 3	Yes

#### Feature 14

Feature name:  
Cotton Exchange Museum

GPS coordinates:  
35.143486, -90.054724

Describe the feature:  
Occupying the first floor of the 1910 Exchange Building in downtown Memphis, the Memphis Cotton Museum is a renovated space offering a glimpse into the importance of cotton on the history of the Mississippi Delta, the story of those who depend on cotton as a revenue source and the significance of the crop in today's marketplace. Interpretive displays show how cotton is farmed and brought to market, the history of cotton in America, and how it is used in modern products. A children's exhibit provides horticultural insights and lets children 'score' cotton samples as if it was just received from a riverboat at the nearby Memphis public landing. The most impressive feature of the museum is a life-sized trading board showing how the commodity was priced and then sold down river to suppliers at the turn of the twentieth century. The Memphis Cotton Museum is open Monday through Saturday, 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. Directional signage is only available in downtown Memphis.

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 4/29/2020 End date: 4/29/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.  
0.4 miles. Directional signage is present along the local street.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
Low difficulty. Urban environment and public transportation is available. Selected photo file name

File Name	Image owner	Alternative text	Image name	Photo release
Cotton Museum 1.jpg	Cotton Museum at the Cotton Exchnage	This image depicts the large cotton exchange trading board used on-site in the early 1900's.	Cotton 1	Yes
Cotton Museum 2.png	Cotton Museum at the Cotton Exchnage	This image depicts the main exhibit hall of the Cotton Museum. Cotton products, agricultural implements and interpretive panels are present.	Cotton 2	Yes
Cotton Museum 3.jpg	Cotton Museum at the Cotton Exchnage	This image is of a visitor enjoying an interpretive panel at the Cotton Museum.	Cotton 3	Yes

#### Feature 15

Feature name:

GPS coordinates:

Describe the feature:

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 4/29/2020 End date: 4/29/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.  
Selected photo file name

#### Feature 16

Feature name:

GPS coordinates:

Describe the feature:

What is the best time to visit, please provide the start and end dates.

Start date: 4/29/2020 End date: 4/29/2020

Describe the driving distance and signage related to the feature.

If hiking, walking, or cycling are involved, describe the difficulty.

Selected photo file name

### Telling Your Story:

An important part of supporting the America's Byways brand is providing travelers with information about the Intrinsic Qualities that form the essence of your byway.

5-9: Describe the materials you use to tell your byway story and interpret its Intrinsic Qualities, (e.g., maps, brochures, DVDs, etc.) (Limit 150 words.)

Public information about the Great River Road and the features that are encountered on the byway are disseminated through printed materials such as mailers, maps, brochures and inserts. Promotion of the byway is also coordinated through a 10-state byway website and active social media channels on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. The Great River Road is also marketed in publications by the National Scenic Byway Foundation. Additionally, the network of more than 80 museums and historic sites showcase fascinating stories of the Mississippi River so Great River Road explorers can experience and learn about this All-American river and find useful byway travel information.

5-10: Provide the website(s) and/or social media sites where travelers and media can find information specific to your byway (other than byways.org).

[www.experiencemississippiriver.com](http://www.experiencemississippiriver.com) <https://nsbfoundation.com/the-great-river-road/>

<https://www.facebook.com/GreatRiverRoad/> <https://twitter.com/SByways> <https://www.instagram.com/greatriverroad/>

<https://www.tn.gov/tdot/environmental-home/environmental-highway-beautification-office/beautification-national-scenic-byways.html> <https://www.tnvacation.com/trails-and-byways>

## Section 6

### Community Support:

Community support and the openness of the planning process are considered important components in both the designation and determination of the sustainability of a byway.

6-1: Provide a list of key participants/organizations in the planning and development of the Corridor Management Plan (CMP), and describe critical coordination efforts with these organizations. (Limit 150 words.)

Corridor planning efforts for the Tennessee section of the Great River Road were coordinated by the Mississippi River Corridor – Tennessee, Inc. with significant technical and advisory assistance from the University of Memphis. Three State of Tennessee departments were central to the facilitation of public outreach events and in engaging local stakeholders. These were the Tennessee departments of Tourism Development, Transportation and Environment and Conservation. Others engaged in the planning process included non-profits and local partners such as: Center for Historic Preservation, Tennessee Civil War Heritage Area, TN Parks & Greenways Foundation, Memphis Regional Chamber, Tennessee Wildlife Federation, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. District Court Judge Mark Norris, and County Mayor's and representatives of the six county governments in the Great River Road corridor.

6-2: Identify any significant objections to the CMP and describe actions taken to resolve them. (Limit 150 words.)

No significant objections occurred in the development of the CMP. One interesting factor, present throughout the 2007-2008 development process, was the future of I-69, or the "NAFTA Superhighway." The future interstate is, in part, to run concurrent with Tennessee sections of the Great River Road. Funding was withheld and construction has since been suspended on the project.

6-3: Describe how you have addressed the control of outdoor advertising with your stakeholders. (Limit 150 words.)

Multiple resources help preserve viewsheds and limit outdoor advertising along the Great River Road. First, 'The Land Trust for Tennessee' guides property owners through the process and legalities in establishing conservation and scenic easements on their properties. This service has been used by several property owners in the Great River Road corridor area. Next, counties government have enacted signage and billboard policies that both restrict and manage the installation and maintenance of outdoor advertising on local and otherwise unregulated routes. Assistance programs with the University of Tennessee also offer interested communities technical assistance in protecting against those planning uncontrolled or insensitive development. Lastly, the Great River Road in Tennessee is also designated as either a Tennessee Scenic Highway or Tennessee Parkway, depending on segment. Both preservation programs are established through state legislation to restrict encroaching outdoor advertising devices, junkyards and the height of new construction along designated routes.

6-4: Describe how this byway nomination was developed and who was involved, including critical coordination efforts with key industries and organizations along the corridor and any significant objections to the nomination of the road. (Limit 200 words.)

This nomination was authored by the Tennessee Department of Transportation, as part of a multi-year effort involving public, private and non-profit partners. The application advanced in coordination with the non-profit Mississippi River Parkway Commission and is to be filed as part of a long-term 10-state effort to elevate the Great River Road National Scenic Byway to an All American Road. Throughout the application process, engagement with local government partners was arranged through the West Tennessee Rural Planning Organization via the Memphis Area Association of Governments. Byway intrinsic features and qualities were painstakingly detailed in the Great River Road's Corridor Management and Environmental Systems plans, developed in concert with the Memphis Area Chamber of Commerce and University of Memphis.

6-5: Document that you have received support from road management authorities responsible for each segment of the road and Federal land management agency(s) through whose lands the byway runs. (Limit 150 words.)

The Tennessee Department of Transportation and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are responsible for all segments of the Great River Road in Tennessee. Both agencies are enthusiastic about the application and have supplied letters of support.

6-6: List actions the byway leader or organization will take to assure ongoing community involvement and citizen participation. (Limit 150 words.)

Leadership of projects and interests for the Tennessee section of the Great River Road had historically been led by the non-profit 'Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee, Inc.' Last year, that group disbanded and surrendered their non-profit status in the wake of controversial audit findings and the filing of criminal charges. Since that time, the Tennessee

Department of Transportation (TDOT) has taken the lead in completing byway projects, such as this filing and the completion of the Reelfoot Lake Visitor Center. In the next 5 years, TDOT will need to update the 2008 CMP and conduct additional public events on components of the byway.

**Supporting Documentation:** You must include an electronic PDF copy of the Corridor Management Plan and a single PDF document combining any letters documenting support. Applicants are limited to providing these two forms of supporting documentation along with the Route Map (and optional GIS file) and the photos referenced within the body of the nomination application. Additional documentation/attachments will not be considered.

6-7: **Corridor Management Plan** – Your application must be supported by a Corridor Management Plan that addresses the required points of corridor management planning detailed in [the Interim Policy](#).

6-7 CMPs.pdf

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 6-7. For example, rename your file RiverBend.pdf to 6-7RiverBend.pdf.

6-8: **Letters Documenting 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.

6-8 Letters of Support.pdf

Before uploading, rename the file to begin with 6-8. For example, rename your file RiverBend.pdf to 6-8RiverBend.pdf.

**CMP Information:**

6-9: Name of CMP: Great River Road - Tennessee Corridor Master Plan

6-10: Date CMP was adopted: 12/8/2008

6-11: Does your State/Indian tribe/Federal land management agency require that CMPs be regularly updated to reflect current policies?

No

If yes, how often?

If no, in a few concise bullet points, describe your byway priorities for the next five (5) years. (Limit 150 words.)

The State of Tennessee does not have a state-level scenic byway program that requires routes to have central planning document. As such, TDOT does not require regular updating of CMP inputs or action items. Throughout the Great River Road corridor, the State of Tennessee is teaming with area local and non-profit leaders to prioritize: (1) greater access to rural communities and attractions, particularly in Lake and Lauderdale counties, (2) safer routes for the travelling public, and (3) planning for the future of the I-69 project.

6-12: Your byway's CMP must address each of the following points. Using the table below, identify the principal pages in your document that discuss each point.

Item that the CMP Addresses	Discussed on Page Number(s)
1. A map identifying the corridor boundaries, location, intrinsic qualities, and land uses in the corridor.	22
2. An assessment of the intrinsic qualities and their "context" (the areas surrounding them).	25
3. A strategy for maintaining and enhancing each of those intrinsic qualities.	42
4. The agencies, groups, and individuals who are part of the team that will carry out the plan, including a list of their specific, individual responsibilities. Also, a schedule of when and how you'll review the degree to which those responsibilities are being met.	45
5. A strategy of how existing development might be enhanced and new development accommodated to preserve the intrinsic qualities of your byway.	50
6. A plan for on-going public participation.	60
7. A general review of the road's safety record to locate hazards and poor design, and identify possible corrections.	61
8. A plan to accommodate commercial traffic while ensuring the safety of sightseers in smaller vehicles, as well as bicyclists, joggers, and pedestrians.	63
9. A listing and discussion of efforts to minimize anomalous intrusions on the visitor's experience of the byway.	64
10. Documentation of compliance with all existing local, state, and federal laws about the control of outdoor advertising.	66
11. A plan to make sure that the number and placement of highway signs will not get in the way of the scenery, but still be sufficient to help tourists find their way. This includes, where appropriate, signs for international tourists who may not speak English fluently.	68
12. Plans of how the byway will be marketed and publicized.	68
13. Any proposals for modifying the roadway, including an evaluation about design standards and how proposed changes may affect the byway's intrinsic qualities.	70
14. A description of what you plan to do to explain and interpret your byway's significant resources to visitors.	72
15. A narrative on how the All-American Road would be promoted, interpreted, and marketed in order to attract travelers, especially those from other countries. The agencies responsible for	69

these activities should be identified.	
16. A plan to encourage the accommodation of increased tourism, if this is projected. Some demonstration that the roadway, lodging and dining facilities, roadside rest areas, and other tourist necessities will be adequate for the number of visitors induced by the byway's designation as an All-American Road.	8-10 (10 State CMP)
17. A plan for addressing multi-lingual information needs.	12 (10 State CMP)
18. A demonstration of the extent to which enforcement mechanisms are being implemented in accordance with the corridor management plan.	9 (10 State CMP)

### Byway Organization

6-13: Describe the structure of any byway organization that currently exists. (Limit 100 words.)  
Nationally, the Great River Road is led by the Mississippi River Parkway Commission. This group is a non-profit with multiple active committees who all host regular meetings, increase resources and engage with the public on behalf of the byway. Local leadership for the Tennessee section of the Great River Road had historically been led by the non-profit 'Mississippi River Corridor - Tennessee, Inc.' In 2019, that group disbanded and surrendered their non-profit status in the wake of audit findings and criminal charges. Since that time, the Tennessee Department of Transportation (TDOT) has taken the lead in completing byway projects. <https://www.bizjournals.com/memphis/news/2019/02/20/investigators-allege-memphis-nonprofit-got-1m-in.html>

6-14: Describe plans to strengthen the organization over the next five years. (Limit 100 words.)  
Since TDOT assumed the lead on Great River Road activities, there has been a focus on completing this All American Road application and the new Reelfoot Lake Visitors Center. Over the next five years, TDOT will update the byway's CMP, sustain public interest and investment in the byway, and identify and complete projects using an array of state and local funding sources.

6-15: Provide a description of the stewardship actions and practices your byway organization intends to follow so that your Intrinsic Quality(s) remains evident or available to travelers along the byway. (Limit 100 words.)  
TDOT has led a collaboration of state agencies (Department of Environment & Conservation and the State Building Commission) to restore funding and complete the Reelfoot Lake Visitors Center. The center is slated to open in Sept. 2020 and TDOT is coordinating the site's interpretation with established Great River Road interpretive plans. An "Environmental Systems Enhancement Plan" has been completed. TDOT is also working closely with the West Tennessee Rural Planning Organizations to identify rural access, corridor safety and historic preservation opportunities. In the coming years, TDOT will conduct a CMP update and review of scenic features.

### Contacts

FHWA will use these contacts to obtain additional information during the nomination process and after designation, if it occurs. It is important for you to assure the individuals you list in your nomination are available for such contacts and will maintain up-to-date knowledge about byway activities.

#### Role

##### 7-1: Signatory for State, Indian Tribe, or Federal Land Management Agency

Name:	Michael McClanahan	Agency:	Tennessee Department of Transportation	Title:	Transportation Manager
Work Email:	michael.mcclanahan@tn.gov	Work Phone:	(615) 741-0803		

##### 7-2: Principal Point of Contact for Byway

Name:	Michael McClanahan	Agency:	Tennessee Department of Transportation	Title:	Transportation Manager
Work Email:	michael.mcclanahan@tn.gov	Work Phone:	(615) 741-0803		

##### 7-3: Nomination Form Preparer

Name:	Michael McClanahan	Agency:	Tennessee Department of Transportation	Title:	Transportation Manager
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### Signatory Review

**Status:** submitted

**Comments:**

