



**Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Transportation Committee Teleconference Meeting
February 5 | 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM**

MINUTES

I. Introductions

Terri McCullough – Pilot
Susanne Thiede-Barnet - MRPC

Tommy Hodges – KY
Jackie Jones – KY
Jim LeFevre – KY

Carol Zoff – Chair – MN
Holly Slagle – MN

Lisa Walsh – IA
Mary Stahlhut – IA

Francis Schelfhout – WI
Liat Bonneville – WI

Sharon Calcotte – LA
Jessica DeVille – LA

Jeff Ingram – AR

Brenda Harris – MO

Roger Carmack – IL
Holly Cain – IL

Lindsey Killebrew – MS

Brittany Morris (representing Shawn Bible and Mike McClendon) – TN

II. Approve 2019 Annual Meeting and Oct. Teleconference Minutes

Terry Motioned, Francis Seconded – motion approved

III. Transportation Committee Chair election – Francis Schelfhout

Carol/Francis introduced Francis as a candidate for Committee Chair
Motion approved unanimously by ten states.

IV. Transportation Committee Vice-Chair solicitation of interest

Carol will fill the position until the Vice-Chair position is filled, but due to new job duties will be unable to serve in this role after the Spring Semi-Annual Meeting in Baton Rouge. Consideration of this leadership opportunity by our southern state members is highly encouraged.

Please submit emails of interest to Carol and Francis. We will coordinate letters of support and information necessary to make a successful consideration by the candidates and their agencies.

V. All American Road Designation 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



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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.

Questions regarding matching 2 intrinsic qualities or primary intrinsic qualities — can states have 1 common to all ten states and 1 specific to their state or 2 matching intrinsic qualities for all ten states?

Per https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/nominations/2020_nsb_omination_application_questions.pdf guidance “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.”

Also, questions about the number of examples? Is it 8 per intrinsic quality or 16 total, with applicant choice of how they split the examples.

Recommend 8 per intrinsic quality to be best prepared – we can always eliminate, and it follows :
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/nominations/2020_nsb_omination_application_questions.pdf guidance that says, “For the All-American Road designation, identify **up to 16 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.”

- a. February 13 the FHWA NSB/AAR application portal will open at:
https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/nominations/.

There will be a webinar on the application process for byway leaders that all are encouraged to sign up for, and others for state coordinators and FHWA Points of Contact. Try to participate to learn firsthand what is required.

February 26 -

<https://collaboration.fhwa.dot.gov/dot/fhwa/WC/Lists/Seminars/DispForm.aspx?ID=2242&Source=https%3A%2F%2Fcollaboration%2Efhwa%2Egov%2Fdot%2Ffhwa%2FWC%2Fdefault%2Easpx>

- b. May 15 is the deadline for applications, State DOTs may have earlier deadlines (see attached for deadlines in each state as of this teleconference).
- c. Confirm which states are intending to seek AAR
All ten states indicated they will apply for the AAR designation.

Teleconference follow up: See attached Excel spreadsheet/table and correct or complete your state's information, providing contacts and other details. Save the file with your state's initials and return to Francis by February 26.

Carol and Francis plan to coordinate a three-way telephone conversation with each state after the February 26th webinar to access needs and opportunities to support each state on an individual basis.



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- d. Each state to find and review their GRR NSB application as a basis to apply per https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/nominations/2020_nsb_omination_application_questions.pdf
Many states have found and are reviewing their NSB application. KY – is missing their NSB application and corridor management plan – they only allow local municipalities to apply or non-profits. They will do some looking with Norma and FHWA to see if anyone still has a copy. National Office will review their files as well and will let us know if they have a copy of KY or other states’s application or CMPs. It was noted that National Office should develop a repository of the CMPs and AAR applications going forward.
- e. Review original Historic sites highlighted in NSB application, update if needed to meet national significance requirement (up to 8)
Review NSB application but, consider others that may have developed since the original NSB application. They must be of national or international importance
- f. Identify Cultural intrinsic sites/resources that meet national significance requirement (up to 8)
Must be of national or international importance
- g. Common application content:
 - i. one-of-a-kind features must relate to the Mississippi River
The Mississippi River is a one-of-a-kind feature with national and international significance. The river’s characteristics will likely differ from one state to the next – but we should work to have some element of common thread. Carol will provide a first draft of common description for consideration by all.
 - ii. Primary photo – each state – meeting high resolution requirement.
Resolution requirements in the application guidance. Should the picture be of the river itself or of the attraction? The picture should try to include both the River and the Place if at all possible.
 - iii. Statement of qualification – 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.
750 words – and offer to assist with this if requested
 - iv. Route information – Length, Description, Federal Lands, Route Map, and Continuity. Update national nomination.
Map, ESRI/GIS, DOTs could likely be a good source for some of this information
 - v. Route conditions – Vehicle Accommodations, Travel Restrictions, Seasons, and Safety. Update as needed from the national nomination

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Use nomenclature as utilized in application and application guidance.
DOTs might be a good resource

- vi. Travel experience – Getting to the byway, Traveler services, Intrinsic qualities, Storytelling. Update as needed from the national nomination
- vii. Planning/Sustainability – Community support, CMP, Byway Organization. Include AAR meetings, letters of support from communities, US Senators and Congressmen along the GRR. **Community Support should be pursued by local commissions. The multi-jurisdictional applications having each jurisdiction apply, does not necessarily require each tribal, federal or local jurisdiction to submit an application. Letters of support will likely suffice.**

In a response directly for Danielle Blackshear (FHWA):

The requirement for multi-jurisdiction nominations applies when more than one State, Federal Land Management Agency (FLMA), or Indian tribe has jurisdiction over the road or responsibility for managing the road. Historically, this has applied for multi-state byways seeking designation.

Consider who has jurisdiction/responsibility over the road. The important thing is that you can demonstrate support and coordination with those jurisdictions for nominating the byway. If this is the case, the State may submit a single application. (Carol's note: This is where letters of support can document the agency/tribe support and coordination)

You may nominate the GRR for All-American Road designation separate from the remaining 9 states. If designated, the state's GRR would still be considered part of the 10-state Great River Road, the state's portion would just be classified as an All-American Road while the remaining byway would be classified as a National Scenic Byway if not all ten states receive the AAR designation. However, it may be helpful to coordinate with the other 9 states as this may impact the overarching 10-state byway story.

To help provide general guidance to each of the state commissions and encourage FHWA webinar participation, please see the attached Word document (drafted for MN-MRPC, but feel free to modify for your state).

- viii. Corridor Management Plan –state CMP and the 10-state CMP. Note: use updated 10-state CMP which includes a strategy to apply for All-American Road designation.

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10 State Corridor Management Plan has been amended to support seeking AAR status if nominations were opened. This amended plan has been posted on the www.MRPCMembers.com website

ix. Additional Requirements for All-American Road Nomination Submissions

1. 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 these activities should be identified.

10 state commission, local commission and other ways of marketing/interpreting

2. 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.

Existing facilities and capacities (not reached yet) – room to grow and other ways that facilities are being grown.

3. A plan for addressing multi-lingual information needs.

10 state commission will provide some information regarding MRC international marketing, also include information on the GRR app.

4. A demonstration of the extent to which enforcement mechanisms are being implemented in accordance with the corridor management plan.

CAPX2020 (high voltage distribution lines), mining/quarries, visual restrictions, visual resource protection plans/processes, and scenic easements are a few examples

- h. Coordination with MRPC Standing Committees and BOD

Vet, Add or Editor Reviews by Standing Committees and BOD as requested or determined beneficial

VI. Great River Road Ten-State Corridor Management Plan

- a. Revision on Page 13, 7. **Great River Road Organization – Mississippi River Parkway Commission** Revised to add: **G. If FHWA opens nominations, the MRPC will seek All American Road designation in all ten states.**

Reviewed these changes

- b. **GRR alignment and GRR wayshowing:** tabled due to AAR application priority

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Next Meeting – we will look to schedule sometime after the webinars at the end of February – likely in the 2nd week of March.