



Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission

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Members of the House: Emma Greenman (D-63B); Kristin Robbins (R-34A) **Members of the Senate:** David Senjem (R-25); Patricia Torres Ray (DFL-63) **State Agency Appointees:** Paul Hugunin – Agriculture, Marni Karnowski – Transportation, Lisa Havelka – Explore Minnesota Tourism, Grant Wilson – Natural Resources, David Kelliher – Historical Society **Regional Appointees:** Sally Fineday – Lake Itasca to Grand Rapids, Megan Christianson – Grand Rapids to Brainerd, Karl Samp – Brainerd to Elk River, John Anfinson – Elk River to Hastings, Jennifer Weaver – Hastings to Iowa Border **Member at Large:** Anne Lewis

June 3, 2022

Office of Acquisition and Grants Management
Federal Highway Administration
U.S. Department of Transportation
1200 New Jersey Ave., SE
Washington, D.C. 20590

Re: Support for Great River Road National Scenic Byway Grant Application

Dear Grant Reviewers:

The Minnesota Mississippi River Parkway Commission (MN-MRPC) supports the Arkansas Department of Transportation and the National Mississippi River Parkway Commission in their application for National Scenic Byway Grant funds to develop a new online presence for the ten-state Great River Road.

The project aligns with the mission and Corridor Management Plan of the MN-MRPC, byway organization of the Minnesota Great River Road National Scenic Byway. The MN-MRPC is a statutory commission whose mission is to promote, preserve and enhance the resources of the Mississippi River Valley and to develop the highways and amenities of the Great River Road. The Minnesota Great River Road spans 565 miles, 20 counties, 43 communities; and three tribes.

The Minnesota Great River Road received National Scenic Byway designation in 2000 and was a new recipient of All-American Road designation in 2021. The Great River Road is a popular travel destination in our state and key driver of the economy in the communities along the river. We support this project that will bring the stories of the Great River Road to a larger audience and showcase the wide range of urban and rural amenities we have to offer visitors and residents alike. This project will also demonstrate the importance of the Great River Road and the Mississippi River to the region as a whole, highlighting all ten river states. We thank our partners at the Arkansas Department of Transportation for serving as the applicant on behalf of this multi-state byway endeavor.

We look forward to the implementation of this project and to Minnesota's participation in it. If you have questions about our support or if there is additional information we can provide, please contact the MN-MRPC office at 651-341-4196.

Sincerely,

Sen. David Senjem, Chair