What is a Scenic Byway?

Is a road having relatively high aesthetic or cultural value, leading to or within areas of historical, natural or recreational significance.
Definitions

• Virginia Byway
  – Roads designated under the Virginia Byways Program

• Scenic Roads
  – Roads that meet the criteria, but have not been designated by VDOT
Why Designate?

- To provide an awareness of the uniqueness of the area
- To become part of the coordinated promotional strategy for Virginia Tourism - [http://www.virginia.org/ScenicDrives/](http://www.virginia.org/ScenicDrives/)
Program Goal:
to emphasize the importance of the byway, and its intrinsic qualities;
Scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, natural and archeological.
Pros

• Does not affect land use
• Does not limit road improvements
• Is eligible for federal scenic byway funds

Cons

• Might limit the placement or removal of outdoor signage
• Must have local government endorsement
Criteria

1. Important & unique scenic values & experiences
2. Diverse landscape experience
3. Linkages & access
Criteria (continued)

4. Leisurely motoring experience
5. Landscape Control & Management
6. Enhancements can occur
What Qualifies

• Two-lane roads
• Landscapes of variety
• Roads that connect to other byways
• Regionally significant
What Does Not Qualify

- Divided roads
- Roads with lots of derelict properties
- Dirt roads
- Roads that are not unique
Considerations

• There are no imposed land use controls.
• There are limits on outdoor signage.
• There are no restrictions on road improvements.
Process

1. Request for review & provide:
   - Historic listing from DHR
   - Local planning controls

2. Review
   - DCR & VDOT

3. Recommendation/ denial
   - Resolution from local Board
Process (continued)

4. CTB Review & Designation
5. Signs installed
6. Periodic review
BYWAY DESIGNATION
FLOW CHART

Request for designation received by DCR or VDOT

Acknowledgement letter sent to requestor and copy to other agency

DCR reviews local zoning laws and comprehensive plan
Request local government support

No local government support

Process stopped

Local government support

VDOT reviews traffic volumes and accident reports

Review team from DCR and VDOT review route

Does not meet criteria

DCR will notify localities and requestor

Meets criteria

DCR will make recommendation to VDOT Commissioner

VDOT notifies localities and offers to hold Public Hearing

No Public Hearing requested within 30 days

Public Hearing requested. Resident Engineer will conduct Public Hearing with participation from DCR & Env. Div.

Env. Div recommends designation request put on CTB agenda

CTB passes resolution

Notify DCR, localities & requestor

Env. Div requests District Traffic Engineer to install Byway signs. Notify appropriate divisions
CONTACTS

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  - Fulton.deLamorton@vdot.virginia.gov

• DCR - Lynn Crump - 804-786-5054
  - Lynn.Crump@dcr.virginia.gov

• Websites
  http://www.virginiadot.org/programs/prog-byways.asp
  www.byways.org