

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

Clyde E. Cristman
Director



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

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Deputy Director of Operations

May 31, 2016

Mr. Christopher E. Martino
Acting County Executive
Prince William County
Office of Executive Management
1 County Complex Court
Prince William, Virginia 22192-9201

RE: Potential Virginia Byway Designations - State Routes 646, 619, 601, 681 and 55

Dear Mr. Martino:

In response to the request of the Prince William County Administrator on behalf of the Board of Supervisors, a variety of routes were evaluated for Virginia Byway designation eligibility. A review team composed of personnel from the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) traveled the roads proposed in the original requests of December 2015 and February 2016 to determine if any meet the program's adopted criteria.

The route segments, as identified below and on the enclosed map, meet the adopted criteria for Virginia Byways. If the county wishes to proceed with these designations, we will need a resolution of support from the Board of Supervisors. When DCR has received the resolution of support, Clyde E. Cristman, DCR Director, under the provisions of §33.2-405 of the *Code of Virginia*, will send his recommendations to the Commissioner of Transportation, who will submit the proposal to the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB).

The following are the Prince William County roads that can be presented to the Commonwealth Transportation Board for consideration as candidates for addition to the Virginia Byways System:

- Route 601 (Waterfall Road) - from the Fauquier County line east to the intersection of Route 681
- Route 681 (Antioch Road) - from the Route 601 intersection south to Route 55
- Route 55 (John Marshall Highway) - from Route 681 to the Fauquier County line
- Route 646 (Aden Road) – between Route 619 and Route 28
- Route 619 (Bristow Road) – between Joplin Road (Route 619) and Route 28
- Route 619 (Joplin Road) – between Bristow Road and I-95

The road segments above would add about 39.4 miles to the Virginia Byways network.

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These recommendations are due to the following features:

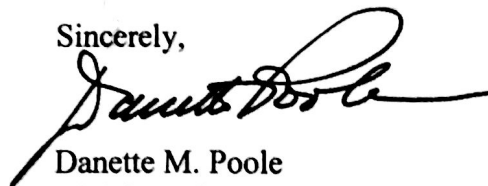
- Several long views of nearby mountains.
- Absence of billboards, junk yards or litter.
- Protection of environmental and recreational corridors that parallel or cross several of these roads is supported in the local comprehensive plan. Most existing development is setback and thus does not detract from the traveling experience. It is recommended that future development provides setback or vegetative buffers to enhance the traveling experience and protect the scenic qualities of the roads.
- Presence of historical structures and properties of national and statewide significance, especially the Brentsville Historic District, Prince William Forest Park Historic District, Broad Run/Little Georgetown Rural Historic District, Chapman's Mill/Beverly Mill Historic District, Proposed Village of Bristoe Historic District and several battlefields.
- Nearby access to several parks and other recreational sites.
- Logical termini, which connect to existing Virginia Byways and bypass high traffic roads

The Prince William County comprehensive plan addresses the need to preserve the natural beauty of the county as well as historical communities and sites. The proposed segments have 11 nationally recognized historic sites and two state listed historic sites; mountain vistas; minimally visible development; and no detracting properties, billboards or trash. Route 55, John Marshall Highway, and Route 601, Waterfall Road, connect to other Virginia Byways and provide an attractive driving experience.

DCR and/or VDOT staff will be glad to attend any public meetings and provide information on the Virginia Byway program and answer questions from the Board of Supervisors or the public. If you have any questions, please contact Lynn Crump at Lynn.Crump@dcr.virginia.gov or 804.786.5054.

Prince William County's interest in the Virginia Byway program is appreciated, and we hope you choose to proceed with the Byway designation process.

Sincerely,



Danette M. Poole
Division Director, Planning and Recreation Resources

Enclosure

cc: Kim Hosen, Executive Director, Prince William Conservation Alliance ✓
Paul S. McCulla, Fauquier County Administrator
Helen Cuervo, P.E., VDOT, District Engineer
Susann Graham, Canopy Inc.
Fulton deLamorton, VDOT, Local Assistance Division
Lynn Crump, Environmental Programs Planner, Planning and Recreation Resources