

**Pennsylvania Route 6 Byway
Questions and Answers
Including questions from the Business Survey
Revised - 3/28/13**

Q: What is a PA Byway?

PennDOT designates Pennsylvania Byways at the request of the LOCAL communities seeking to highlight cultural, historical, recreational, archaeological, scenic and natural qualities. Pennsylvania Byways parallel Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byways Program and titles its byways program as "Pennsylvania Byways", because many roadways exemplify more than purely scenic qualities,

Q: What is a Federal Scenic Byway?

The Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) designates federal scenic byways at the request of local communities who have developed a corridor management plan that contains local commitments to preserve the intrinsic qualities of the corridor through zoning and other land management techniques. The PA Route 6 Alliance will seek federal designation after the state designation is obtained.

Q: What are the benefits of becoming a byway?

- Support local planning efforts to achieve byway designations;
- Protect and enhance the visual quality of designated routes;
- Maintain byway resource qualities along designated routes;
- Educate residents and visitors about the history and culture of the Commonwealth; and
- Promote tourism and enhance economic development potential on designated Pennsylvania Byways

Q. What is a corridor management plan?

A corridor management plan "means a written document that specifies the actions, procedures, controls, operational practices, and administrative strategies to maintain the scenic, historic, recreational, cultural, archeological, and natural qualities of the scenic byway". (Interim Policy for National Scenic Byways, 1995, vol. 60, no. 96 Section 2.b)

Q. Does being a Pennsylvania Byway prohibit future development along the highway or corridor?

No, designation does not prohibit future development. But, under a federal designation, future development will be managed through design review and such land management techniques as local zoning ordinances, easements and economic incentives which would need to be consistent with the corridor management plan. (Interim Policy for National Scenic Byways, 1995, vol. 60, no. 96 Section 2.f)

Q. How does Pennsylvania Byway designation impact the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor?

The PA Route 6 Alliance already has a Management Action Plan (MAP) that helps guide community and asset development, development programs and tourism promotions along the designated PA State Heritage Corridor. This document is a requirement of the PA State Heritage Areas program under the PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. PA Route 6 was designated a PA Heritage Area in 2005. The current Management Action Plan for the PA Route 6 Heritage Area includes all municipalities of the counties that Route 6 traverses.

The current MAP is due to be revised and the PA Route 6 Alliance intends to include the elements required in a Corridor Management Plan. Again, both processes require public input.

Q: How much will it cost to be part of the Byway?

For a municipality, there is no cost to be part of the Byway. Participating municipalities will continue to be eligible for the same grant programs and funding opportunities as in the past, but may be given a higher rating for project importance or need based on being part of the Byway.

In addition, the municipalities will be eligible for additional pools of money through shared municipal services grants, which can help with things like safety improvements, infrastructure, signage, and other key projects.

Q: What happens once we're part of the Byway?

Signage is placed along the Byway, and the corridor officially becomes one of the state's treasured assets. The municipalities along the corridor will be able to work together with the PA Route 6 Alliance on updating the current Management Action Plan/ Corridor Management Plan for the PA Route 6 Heritage Corridor, which will help prepare for the future, while maintaining the integrity of each community's unique culture. Along with that, the state will include the PA Route 6 Byway in its Byway marketing campaign, at no cost to the county or municipalities.

When, and if, PA Route 6 receives National Scenic Byway designation, it will become part of a national and international promotional program.

Q: What defines a byway for state designation?

There are three items that define a byway for designation as a state byway:

1. Quality Requirements: This consideration is defined as "Intrinsic Qualities" in the federal program (hereafter referred to as "qualities" for the state program). The determination of qualities depends upon three factors:

- the significance of the resources,
- their visibility from the byway, and
- the relationships among the resources and between the resources and the road.

2. [Outdoor Advertising](#) Restriction Requirements. Additional outdoor advertising is restricted on designated byways, with exceptions. All currently standing signage is grandfathered and should be maintained. Exceptions:

- Official signs and notices which are required or authorized by law and which shall conform to the national standards promulgated by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States pursuant to sections 131 of Title 23, United States Code.
- Outdoor advertising devices advertising the sale or lease of the real property upon which they are located.
- Outdoor advertising devices advertising activities conducted on the property on which they are located. (on-premise signage)
- Directional signs, including but not limited to, signs pertaining to natural wonders, scenic and historical attractions, and other points of interest to the traveling public which shall conform to the national standards promulgated by the Secretary of Transportation of the United States pursuant to section 131 of Title 23, United States Code.

3. Local Support requirements: Byways must be nominated by a government entity, and all the municipalities and the counties through which the byway passes must pass resolutions and letters of support for the designation. Resolutions shall include a statement indicating the municipalities' intent to uphold the designation.

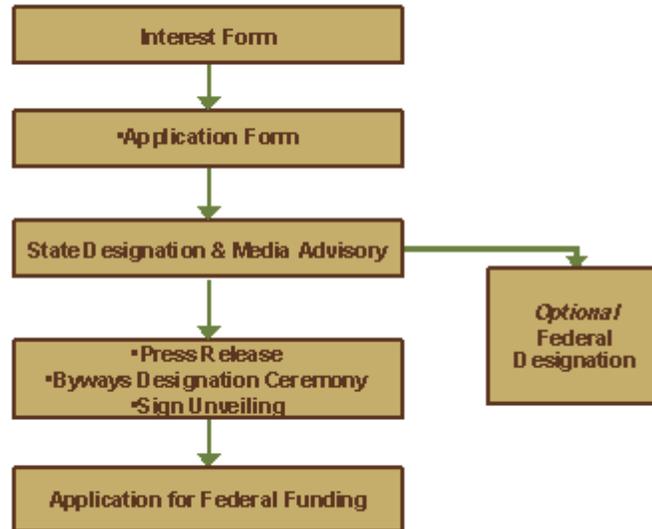
Q: What is the process to apply for state designation?

There are two methods of designating a Pennsylvania Byway:

- 1.) Application is made to PennDOT including a interest form by a sponsoring organization and proof of signing regulations enacted in all municipalities.
- 2.) A bill is passed in the state legislature designating a highway as a Pennsylvania Byway. Once a road is legislatively designated, PennDOT- the Engineering District would be in charge of enforcement of billboards and also approving and denying new signage permits.

It is the intention of PA Route 6 Alliance to seek legislative designation (2). We are currently asking municipalities to pass resolutions in support of the designation. A survey of businesses within the PA Route 7 Corridor is also currently underway.

PA Byways Program: Overall Process



Q: Is there funding available?

Under the new federal transportation act, known as Moving Ahead for Progress in the 21st Century (MAP-21), there is no designated funding for National Scenic Byways. Several Byway projects are eligible for funding under the Transportation Alternative Program including hike and bike trails, rail trails, overlooks and viewing areas and other infrastructure needs.

In the past under previous Federal Highways legislation, other activities were funded through the National Scenic Byway program. Since 1992, a total of 36 projects in Pennsylvania have received over \$6.2 million in funding.

Q: What about the Billboard Ordinance we've heard about?

While all of the outside attention and potential for local economic benefit is good, preserving the aesthetics along the corridor is important. Current billboards will be able to remain, and business signage is allowed along the corridor. New off-premise billboards are not permitted within 660 feet of the right of way on Route 6. While this may sound restrictive, it is important that the beauty of the Byway corridor not be impeded with uncontrolled visual blight.

Again all current billboards will be grandfathered in. In current day marketing, there are many different ways of providing directional and advertisement material including the use of smartphone and kiosk based technology. We also encourage businesses along Route 6 to use the Mile Marker system in their directional signage.

For more information on the PA Byway process, see the Pennsylvania Byways Guidance Manual:

<ftp://ftp.dot.state.pa.us/public/Bureaus/Cpdm/Byways/PA%20Byways%20Manual.pdf>