

Definitions & Acronyms

Alabama Scenic Byway – means any public road on the State Highway System that is so designated by the Alabama Scenic Byway Advisory Council Designating Committee pursuant to **Alabama SB438**. These roadways offer travelers views of cultural, historical, archeological, recreational, natural or scenic resources and provide a relaxed recreational and educational experience. The intrinsic resources of the corridor must be considered of significant value by the surrounding communities. The corridor often includes vistas, rest areas and other amenities in harmony with the scenic character of the road.

Alabama Scenic Byway Program – encompasses the process and criteria that define a system of public roads on the State Highway System that are officially designated the Alabama Scenic Byways. It may also include public roads that are part of the National Scenic Byways Program. The Alabama Scenic Byway Program is voluntary and grassroots in nature and there are no penalties attached for local general purpose governments not participating in the program.

Archaeological Resources – Archaeological resources embody the physical evidence or remains of known historic or prehistoric human life, activity or culture in Alabama. For example, significant ruins, artifacts, inscriptions, structural or human remains may be considered archaeological resources. These resources differ from historical resources in that they may have existed before written records were kept in an area.

Byway Management Team – (BMT) means an organization created through joint powers of agreement or memorandum of understanding, or other agreement to perpetually administer, manage and monitor the designated corridor.

Bicycle and Pedestrian Plans - refers to the local, regional or state planning document for bicycle and pedestrian facilities for a given area.

Corridor Advocacy Group – (CAG) means a group of interested citizens, business interests, civic groups, local government representatives, Indian Tribal Councils, and other corridor advocates formed to seek designation for a roadway as an Alabama Scenic Byway.

Corridor Impression Survey – (CIS) is an inventory of scenic qualities and distractions along a corridor seeking Byway status.

Corridor Management Plan – (CMP) means a formal policy and plan elements recognized by a local general purpose government(s), and where applicable, adopted into the comprehensive plan. The CMP addresses the goals, policies and objectives, management strategies, regulatory controls, and practices and Action Plans by which the designated Alabama Scenic Byway corridor will be managed. Each Alabama Scenic Byway shall have a CMP intended to maintain, preserve, protect and enhance the

intrinsic resources of the corridor and maintain roadway safety. Additionally, the CMP may address the local economy within the designated corridor.

Corridor Story – a summary of the significance and relationship of the intrinsic resources used to justify a Byway designation as well as market the Byway.

Corridor Video – means a videotape made of the corridor. It simulates or represents the traveler’s experience and will be used by the Scenic Byway Advisory Council in determining eligibility.

Cultural Resources – Cultural qualities are evidence and expressions of the customs or traditions of a distinct group of people. Cultural features include, but are not limited to crafts, music, dance, rituals, festivals; speech, food, special events and vernacular architecture are currently practiced. The cultural qualities of the corridor could highlight one or more significant communities and/or ethnic traditions (FHWA Policy 5.18.95). The Alabama Scenic Byway Program further refined the definition to include the distinctive characteristic that expresses or highlights the customs, traditions and learned behaviors of a specific group of people and/or community. It must relate a story of the community and educate travelers about the uniqueness of the State of Alabama (historic and contemporary).

Cultural qualities are divided into five main groups, Traditions, Events / Festivals, Stories/Folklore, Regional Economic Patterns and Performing/Visual Arts.

Department – means the Alabama Department of Transportation.

Designation Application – means the package of information, including the Corridor Management Plan (CMP), that is submitted to the Alabama Scenic Byway Advisory Council for review to determine whether a roadway should be officially designated as an Alabama Scenic Byway.

Designation Phase – means the second phase of the process for the Alabama Scenic Byway Program which ends with an approval/denial for state designation.

Division – means one of the nine Alabama Department of Transportation Districts within the State.

Eligibility Application – means the package of information submitted to the Alabama Scenic Byway Advisory Council for determination of a roadway’s eligibility as an Alabama Scenic Byway.

Eligibility Phase – means the first phase of the process for the Alabama Scenic Byway Program where the Alabama Scenic Byway Advisory Council determines whether or not a roadway is eligible for designation as an Alabama Scenic Byway.

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) – is the federal agency which oversees all highway transportation issues for the nation.

Greenway Plans - refers to the local, regional or state planning document for protecting green and open space throughout a community in a manner consistent with the policies or jurisdiction traversed by the Greenway.

Historical Resources – Historic quality encompasses legacies of the past that are distinctly associated with physical elements of the landscape, whether natural or manmade, that are of such historic significance that they educate the viewer and stir an appreciation of the past. The historic elements reflect the actions of people and may include buildings, settlement patterns, and other examples of human activity. Historic features can be inventoried, mapped, and interpreted. They possess integrity of location, design, setting, material, workmanship, feeling, and association. (FHWA Policy 5.18.95)

Implementation Phase – means the third phase of the process for the Alabama Scenic Byway Program where, following designation, a Byway Management Team implements the actions and requirements developed in the Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) – refers to the federal legislation which initiated the development of the National Scenic Byways Program.

Intrinsic Resources – means the cultural, historical, archeological, recreational, natural or scenic qualities or values along a roadway that are necessary for designation as an Alabama Scenic Byway. Intrinsic resources are features considered significant, exceptional and distinctive by a community and are recognized and expressed by that community in its comprehensive plan to be of local, regional, statewide or national significance and worthy of preservation and management.

Legislatively Designated Scenic Highways – are roadways designated scenic and/or historic by action of the Alabama Legislature.

Letter of Eligibility – means the written notification from the Alabama Scenic Byway Advisory Council to the applicant stating the Department’s decision to grant eligibility as an Alabama Scenic Byway and initiate the Designation Phase. This letter would also apply for the National Scenic Byways Program.

Letter of Intent – (LOI) means the written notification form submitted by the applicant to the Department stating the applicant’s intent to pursue designation for a roadway as an Alabama Scenic Byway.

Local General Purpose Government – means a county, municipality, or consolidated city-county government.

Local Government Comprehensive Plan – refers to the local government plan for regulating land use and development within their jurisdiction.

Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO) – means the forum for cooperative transportation decision making for the metropolitan planning area, as defined by Federal Transportation Planning Regulation 23 CFR 450.104. MPO’s designated prior to the promulgation of this regulation remain in effect until redesignated in accordance with § 450.106 and nothing in this part is intended to require or encourage such redesignation.

Mission Statement - a broad statement that explains how the CAG will manage the Byway and identify, protect, and enhance intrinsic resources along Alabama Scenic Byways.

National Scenic Byways – means a scenic highway which is designated by the federal government as satisfying the criteria for a National Scenic Byway pursuant to Section 1047(f) of the Title 23 USC and any federal regulation and/or guidelines. These roadways offer drivers and passengers views of cultural, historical, archeological, recreational, natural or scenic resources and provide a relaxed recreational and educational experience.

Natural Resources – “Natural Quality” means the ecological environment such as water bodies, wetlands, marshes, forests, geologic features, landforms, topography, vegetation, and wildlife that are indigenous and/or characteristic of Alabama.

Program Manual or Manual – means the Alabama Scenic Byway Program Manual created by the Alabama Scenic Byway Advisory Council to guide an applicant seeking designation for a roadway as an Alabama Scenic Byway. It details each phase in the Program Process and offers step-by-step instructions. The Manual also contains all forms an applicant needs to submit to the Alabama Scenic Byway Advisory Council for eligibility and designation.

Program Process – means the graphical representation or flowchart of the process that defines the Eligibility, Designation and Implementation Phases of the Alabama Scenic Byway Program.

Public Road – means a road which is open and available for use by the public and dedicated to the public use, according to law or by prescription.

Public Participation Plan – (PPP) is a documented plan for showing how the communities adjacent to the Byway will be involved in the Byway planning and implementation process.

Recreational Resources – Recreational qualities involve outdoor recreational activities directly associated with and dependant upon the natural and cultural elements of the corridor’s landscape. The recreational activities provide opportunities for active and passive recreational experiences. They include, but are not limited to, downhill skiing, rafting, boating, fishing and hiking. Driving the road itself may qualify as a pleasurable recreational experience. The recreational activities may be seasonable, but the quality

and importance of the recreational activities as seasonal operations must be well recognized. A test of significance for the resource is the degree to which the resource draws visitors from outside the immediate area. (FHWA Policy 5.18.95)

Regional Planning Commission – multi-jurisdictional governmental units across the state responsible for providing planning functions.

Scenic Byway Advisory Council – is the organization identified in the legislation (SB438) responsible for the continued development and implementation of the Alabama Scenic Byway Program.

Scenic Byway Coordinator – means the statewide Scenic Byway Coordinator as recognized by the Alabama Scenic Byway Advisory Council. The Scenic Byway Coordinator will be responsible for implementing the Alabama Scenic Byway Program.

Scenic Resources – Scenic quality is the heightened visual experience derived from the view of natural and man-made elements of the visual environment of the scenic byway corridor. The characteristics of the landscape are strikingly distinct and offer a pleasing and most memorable visual experience. All elements of the landscape - landform, water, vegetation and man-made development – contribute to the quality of the corridor’s visual environment. Everything present is in harmony and shares the intrinsic qualities. (FHWA Policy 5.18.95)

Transferable Development Rights (TDR) – refers to a process by which landowners can transfer development rights from a restricted parcel to another parcel or sell such rights.

Vision Statement - Vision statements are broad visions for the Byway that “reflect the broad and sweeping aspirations your community has for its Scenic Byway without getting bogged down in details.” (FHWA, Community Guide to Planning and Managing a Byway)