RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

February 8, 2012

The Honorable Rick Snyder
Members of the Michigan State Legislature
Members of the Michigan State Transportation Commission

Dear Governor Snyder and Members of the Legislature and State Transportation Commission:

It is our pleasure to provide you with the annual report on the status of Michigan's Heritage Route Program. Public Act 69 of 1993, Michigan Heritage Routes (MCL 247.958, Section 8), requires the department to report by December 31 of each year to the commission, the Governor, and the Legislature on the following information regarding this act:

(a) Routes designated during the previous year.
(b) Deletions or other changes made in the heritage route system during the previous year.

There have been no deletions or changes to the Heritage Route System for calendar year 2011.

In December 2011, the Michigan Department of Transportation was informed that the Federal Highway Administration changed the scope of heritage route planning work eligible for federal reimbursement under the State Planning and Research (SPR) Program. This change excludes all indirect costs, such as program administration, which is a significant part of the services we provide to our heritage route committees.

Since 1993, SPR funding has been awarded annually to Regional Planning Agencies (RPAs) to assist the department with heritage route planning and administration. We are currently working with each RPA on a solution to make up the funding shortfall, and on program efficiencies that will provide quality services to our customers with limited available resources.

Categories and Currently Designated Routes:

There are three categories of heritage routes:

- Scenic - a state highway having outstanding natural beauty.
- Historic - a state highway having outstanding historic resources along its length.
- Recreational - a state highway maintained not only to serve the recreational driver, but also to capture the recreational setting of the area itself, and set the mood for recreational experience.

Listed below are the corridors in each of these categories:

Scenic:

- Copper Country (US-41), Houghton and Keweenaw Counties.
- Tahquamenon Trail (M-123), Chippewa and Luce Counties.
- Leelanau Heritage Route (M-22), Leelanau County.
- Tunnel of Trees (M-119), Emmet County.
- Peninsula Heritage Route (M-37), Grand Traverse County.

Historic:

- Heritage Trail (US-2), Iron County.
- Center Avenue (M-25), Bay City.
- Territorial Road (I-94 Business Loop), City of Marshall.
- US-12 Heritage Trail (US-12), Berrien, Cass, St. Joseph, Branch, Hillsdale, Lenawee, Washtenaw, and Wayne Counties.
- Monroe Street Heritage Route (M-125), City of Monroe.

Recreational:

- Miles of Smiles (M-15), from Clarkston to Bay City in Oakland, Genesee, Tuscola and Bay Counties.
- Chief Noonday (M-179), from US-131 to Hastings in Allegan and Barry Counties.
- Woodward Avenue (M-1), from Detroit to Pontiac in Wayne and Oakland Counties.
- Sunrise Side Coastal Highway (US-23), from Standish to Mackinaw City in Arenac, Iosco, Alcona, Alpena, Presque Isle, and Cheboygan Counties.

Routes in Designation Process:

- M-134, Mackinac County.
- A Loop M-64, M-28, M-26, M-38 and US-45, in Ontonagon County.

If you have any questions, please contact either me or Denise B. Jackson, Administrator, Statewide Transportation Planning Division, at 517-335-2962.

Sincerely,

Kirk T. Steudle
Director