



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE  
DIRECTOR

April 24, 2014

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

Dear Governor Snyder, 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 Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to submit this report to the Governor, the Legislature, and the State Transportation Commission by December of each year, to include the following information:

- (a) Routes designated in the previous year
- (b) Deletions or changes in the heritage route system or program during the previous year

No new designations or deletions occurred in 2013. However, there were a few program changes. In October 2013, House Bill 5072 was introduced to the Michigan House of Representatives to change the program name from Heritage Route to Pure Michigan Byway. This action is part of rebranding the program to align it with statewide travel and tourism initiatives, as well as to market state byways as destinations unto themselves.

This rebranding will result in replacement of the existing highway signs with a new design being developed cooperatively with the Michigan Economic Development Corporation, MDOT, and Heritage Route committees. The new design will incorporate elements of the "Pure Michigan" campaign logo and the word "byway," which is used nationwide in 45 other state programs. The installation of new signs may be advanced with financial assistance from other state agencies and/or interested parties. Signs with the new design will be produced, as needed, according to current inventory levels and installed as part of the sign replacement maintenance procedure.

Other program changes include adding three intrinsic qualities to the program for a total of six qualities. Intrinsic qualities are features along the roadway corridor that contribute to the character of the roadway. Basing the designation on these features highlights a road's outstanding qualities. State highways nominated for designation must possess at least one of the following six qualities:

- Scenic - A state highway having outstanding natural beauty
- Historic - A state highway having exceptional 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 a recreational experience
- Cultural (added) - A state highway traversing an area with unique cultural and/or ethnic heritage amenities such as art galleries, theaters, opera houses, restaurants, markets, and music venues
- Archaeological (added) - A state highway crossing a corridor with ruins, artifacts, and structural remains
- Natural (added) - A state highway that traverses a corridor with natural features that are relatively undisturbed and include unique geological landforms, vegetation, water bodies, or conservation areas

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Members of the Michigan State Transportation Commission  
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Listed below are the current state designated Heritage Routes and National Scenic Byways:

- 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
- 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
- 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
- River Road (M-65), Iosco County
- U.P. Hidden Coast (M-35), Menominee and Escanaba counties
- I-69, Branch and Calhoun counties

Routes Proposed for Nomination as a State Byway:

- M-134 from I-75 to Drummond Island, in Mackinac and Chippewa counties
- A Loop (Bridge to the Clouds) 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



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

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.

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



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

KIRK T. STEUDLE  
DIRECTOR

February 14, 2011

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), reads "By December 31 each year, the department shall report to the commission, the governor, and the legislature 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."

This report was delayed due to the recent retirement of our Michigan Heritage Route Program Manager and the reassignment of this position within the Statewide Planning Section.

There has been one addition to the currently designated National Scenic Byways Program – Brockway Mountain Drive Scenic Overlook Enhancement Project (SB-MI-2006-53737) for calendar year 2010. There have been no deletions or changes to the Heritage Route Program for calendar year 2010.

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.

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.

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

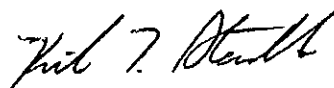
- Miles of Smiles (M-15), from Clarkston to Bay City in Oakland, Genesee, Tuscola and Bay Counties.
- Chief Nooday (M-179), from US-131 to Hastings in Allegan and Barry Counties.
- Woodward Avenue (M-1), from Detroit to Pontiac in Wayne and Oakland Counties.
- Sunrise Side Coastal Highway (US-23), from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

Routes in Designation Process:

- M-64, Ontonagon County.
- M-35, from Menominee to Gladstone in Menominee and Delta Counties.

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



STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
LANSING

JENNIFER M. GRANHOLM  
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE  
DIRECTOR

January 19, 2007

Governor Jennifer Granholm  
Members of the Michigan State Legislature  
Members of the Michigan State Transportation Commission

Dear Governor Granholm, Members of the Legislature, and State Transportation Commission:

Public Act 69 of 1993, Michigan Heritage Routes: MCL 247.958, Section 8, reads "By December 31 each year, the department shall report to the commission, the governor, and the legislature 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 changes, deletions or additions to the currently designated heritage routes for calendar year 2006.

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 - maintained not only to serve the recreational driver, but also to capture that recreational setting of the facility or area itself, and set the mood for the recreational experience

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

Historic:

- Heritage Trail (US-2), Iron County
- Center Avenue (M-25), Bay City
- Territorial Road (I-94 Business Loop), City of Marshall
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- Monroe Street Heritage Route (M-125), City of Monroe

Governor Granholm  
Michigan Legislature  
State Transportation Commission  
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January 19, 2007

Recreational:

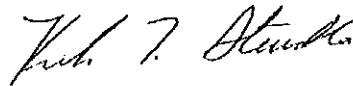
- Miles of Smiles (M-15), from Clarkston to Bay City in Oakland, Genesee, Tuscola and Bay Counties
- Chief Noonday (M-179), from US-131 to Hastings in Allegan and Barry Counties
- Woodward Avenue (M-1), from Detroit to Pontiac in Wayne and Oakland Counties
- Sunrise Side Coastal Highway (US-23), from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

Routes in Designation Process:

- M-64, Ontonagon County
- M-37, Peninsula Township, Grand Traverse County
- M-35, from Menominee to Gladstone in Menominee and Delta Counties

If you have any questions, please contact either me or Susan P. Mortel, Director, Bureau of Transportation Planning, at 517-373-0343.

Sincerely,



Kirk T. Steudle  
Director

BTP:STPD:PH:gms

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