



STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
LANSING

RICK SNYDER
GOVERNOR

KIRK T. STEUDLE
DIRECTOR

December 21, 2015

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 the Pure Michigan Byways Program. Public Act 69 of 1993, Michigan Heritage Routes, as amended (MCL 247.958, Section 8), requires the department to report each year to the State Transportation Commission, the Governor, and the Legislature on the following information regarding this Act:

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

On December 17, 2014, Public Act 445 was signed into law. This law officially changed the name from "Heritage Route" to "Pure Michigan Byways." This action is part of a rebranding and reinventing of the program to align it with statewide travel and tourism initiatives.

On October 16, 2015, M-134, from I-75 to Townline Road in Drummond Island, was designated as a Pure Michigan Byways.

There were no deletions to the collection of state and federal byways.

Rebranding will require replacing the existing highway sign with a new design that incorporates elements of the Pure Michigan campaign logo. This sign will include the word Byways, which is used nationwide in 45 other state programs.

The new highway sign will be fabricated, as needed, to maintain inventory levels and installed according to statewide sign replacement schedules and maintenance requirements. The sign installation process may be advanced depending upon the availability of financial assistance from another state or local agency and/or interested partner.

The program rebranding also includes adding three new intrinsic qualities, an updated nomination form, and a driving guide that will enhance the designation process and ensure a strong Pure Michigan Byways Program.

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Three new intrinsic qualities (Cultural, Archaeological, and Natural) were added to the program for a total of six. A state highway nominated for designation must possess at least one of six intrinsic qualities listed below. Intrinsic qualities are features along the roadway corridor that contribute to the character of the roadway. The six intrinsic qualities are:

- 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
- Cultural – A state highway crossing an area with unique cultural and/or ethnic heritage amenities such as art galleries, theaters, opera houses, restaurants, markets, and music venues
- Archaeological – A state highway traversing a corridor with ruins, artifacts, and structural remains
- Natural – A state highway that navigates a corridor with natural features that are relatively undisturbed, unique geological landforms, vegetation, water bodies, or conservation areas

Listed below is the current collection of Pure Michigan Byways 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
- Old Mission Peninsula (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 (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
- North Huron (M-134), Chippewa County

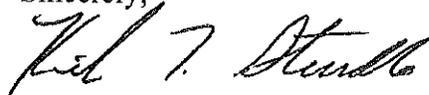
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Lastly, the following route is currently under consideration for nomination under the Pure Michigan Byways Program:

- US-31 (West Michigan Pike) from the state line to Ludington (application not yet received by MDOT)

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk T. Steudle". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "K".

Kirk T. Steudle
Director