



IDAHO BYWAYS PROGRAM

Purpose

This policy implements Board Policy 4082 instructing the Department to establish guidelines for the Idaho Byways Advisory Committee membership and administrative procedures by which the committee shall operate.

Legal Authority

Idaho Code 40-310(2) – The Board has a duty to promulgate maps of the state highway system.

Idaho Code 40-310(4) – The Board has the authority to design, locate and construct transportation systems in the best interest of the public.

Idaho Code 40-310(5) – The Board is responsible for establishing the standards of the state highway system.

Idaho Code 40-313(1) – The Board is authorized to erect and maintain suitable signs for public information and safety.

Idaho Code 40-313(3) – The Board is authorized to acquire, maintain and improve areas adjacent to highway for the restoration, preservation and enhancement of scenic beauty.

Idaho Code 40-317 – The Board may enter into cooperative agreements with federal government and local governments for state highway purposes.

Idaho Code 40-505 – Subject to the direction of the Board, the Director of the Department shall have general supervision of all activities of the Department and shall enforce all state laws relating to the Department and the rules and regulations of the Department.

Program Administration and Goals

The Idaho Transportation Department shall act as the lead agency and provide administrative support. A non-partisan Idaho Byways Advisory Committee, consisting of federal and state agencies and other parties, shall provide advice and recommendations to the Idaho Transportation Department. This committee shall operate under the Idaho Byway Advisory Charter and Operational Guidelines. The goal of the Idaho Byways Program shall be to:

- Nurture an appreciation of Idaho's heritage through the preservation, protection and enhancement of the state's scenic, natural, or recreational characteristics and historic, cultural, or archeological elements; and
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- promote and enhance tourism on designated Idaho highways, roads and trails.

Byway Designation Process

Local organizations, communities, etc. must initiate support, propose a possible route, enlist other agencies' support (when appropriate), and request that the Idaho Byways Advisory Committee consider the proposed route as a Byway. When a candidate route is being considered, the Board shall direct an evaluation be completed by department personnel. The Board shall review the evaluation, the Idaho Byways Advisory Committee's recommendations, and other presented information to determine if the proposed route should be designated a State Scenic Byway, Historic Byway, or Back Country Byway.

Each route shall be evaluated on the following information:

- A listing of unique scenic, natural, recreational, historic, cultural, or archeological elements.
- The degree to which the corridor characteristics offer a variety of experiences or themes of scenic, natural, recreational, historic, cultural, or archeological interest
- A single route that follows existing roadway alignments. The route can consist of segments between control points when continuous access is not readily available.
- Present or future availability of conveniently spaced roadside rest areas, scenic overlooks, turnouts with interpretative signs or other facilities including bikeways and pedestrian walkways which take advantage of unique features or recreational activities.
- The existence of measures to protect or enhance the scenic, cultural, historic, archeological, recreational, or natural resources adjacent to the roadway. The Idaho Byway designation should reflect or enhance local, state and federal land use or corridor management plans.
- The degree the route provides convenient access to larger population centers, or as an alternate route, or makes scenic, natural, recreational, historic, cultural, or archeological sites accessible

The Director of the Department may coordinate with the Idaho Department of Commerce to ensure inclusion of Idaho's Byways on the State Highway map.



Brian W. Ness
Director

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