



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

### Commonwealth Transportation Board

W. Sheppard Miller, III  
Chairperson

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Richmond, Virginia 23219

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*Agenda item # 13*

### RESOLUTION OF THE COMMONWEALTH TRANSPORTATION BOARD

**December 4, 2024**

#### MOTION

**Made By:** Mr. Good, **Seconded By:** Mr. Gribbin

**Action:** Motion Carried, Unanimously

#### **Title: Virginia Byway Designation – Route 55 in Frederick County**

**WHEREAS**, under the authority of § 33.2-405 of the *Code of Virginia*, the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) is authorized to designate Virginia Byways in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) after providing notice and the opportunity for a hearing; and

**WHEREAS**, at the request of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors in its resolution dated February 14, 2024, the staffs of DCR and the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) have reviewed and determined that Route 55 in Frederick County, from the intersection with Route 600 at the Frederick-Shenandoah County line to the West Virginia state line, substantially meets the current criteria as a Virginia Byway; and

**WHEREAS**, in a letter dated July 18, 2024, DCR deferred recommendation for Route 55 designation as a Virginia Byway to VDOT; and

**WHEREAS**, the procedures required by § 33.2-405 have been followed and the views of the citizens and local governing body have been considered; and

**WHEREAS**, once designated as a Virginia Byway, it is the sense of the CTB that such designation should not limit roadway improvements or maintenance by VDOT or prevent the CTB from exercising its general power and duties to locate, construct, improve and maintain all highways in the Commonwealth.

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**NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that Route 55 in Frederick County as herein described be designated as a Virginia Byway.

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that VDOT is directed to make every effort to ensure that the scenic integrity of Virginia’s Byways is maintained to preserve and protect the unique natural resources and promote and protect Virginia’s vital tourism industry and the thousands of jobs associated therewith.

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## **Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) Decision Brief**

### **Virginia Byway Designation – Route 55 – Frederick County**

**Issue:** The County of Frederick has requested that the CTB designate 4.38 miles of Route 55 as a Virginia Byway, which would complete a continuous segment of byway along Route 55 in Frederick County.

**Facts:** The *Code of Virginia* §33.2-405 authorizes the CTB, in coordination with the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) to designate Virginia Byways, with a resolution of support from the local governing body.

The Frederick County Board of Supervisors adopted a resolution supporting designation of Route 55 as a Virginia Byway at its February 14, 2024, meeting. VDOT and DCR subsequently reviewed the request, point of interest information, route information, and local zoning along the route. In a letter dated July 18, 2024, DCR deferred recommendation for Route 55 designation as a Virginia Byway to VDOT.

The route connects travelers to the Tuscarora Trail, Duck Run, Cedar Creek, Simply Shenandoah Wellness & Nature Retreat, a natural spring, and Devils Backbone State Forest. The properties lining the route are in an area of the county designated as Rural Area Districts (RA) and contain a portion of George Washington National Forest, which will help to protect the aesthetic viewshed of the corridor. These attributes provide justification for consideration of a Virginia Byway designation. VDOT made a presentation to the CTB regarding this designation on September 17, 2024.

Further, this action will complete the designation of Route 55, in its entirety, in Frederick County as a Virginia Byway.

If approved, 4.38 miles will be added to the Virginia Byway system, bringing the total number of road miles designated as Virginia Byways to 3,608.7.

**Recommendations:** VDOT recommends the CTB approve the designation of Route 55 in Frederick County from the intersection of Route 600, at the Frederick/Shenandoah County line, to the West Virginia state line as a Virginia Byway.

**Action Required by CTB:** The *Code of Virginia* §33.2-405 requires the majority vote of the CTB to designate Virginia Byways. A resolution is provided for CTB action.

**Result, if Approved:** VDOT will install Virginia Byway signs along the route at each terminus, as appropriate.

**Options:** Approve, Deny, or Defer

**Public Comments/ Reaction:** The County of Frederick held a public hearing on February 14, 2024, at the Frederick County Administration Building, 107 North Kent Street, Winchester, Virginia, as part of the regular meeting of the Frederick County Board of Supervisors (Board). No public comments were received. The Board passed a resolution supporting the designation on a 5-0 vote with no abstentions.



## RESOLUTION

Action:

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS: February 14, 2024    Approved

**A RESOLUTION SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF  
WARDENSVILLE PIKE/JOHN MARSHALL HIGHWAY (ROUTE 55)  
AS A VIRGINIA BYWAY**

**WHEREAS**, the John Marshall Highway/Wardensville Pike contains aesthetic and cultural value in an area of historical, natural and recreational significance; and

**WHEREAS**, the properties lining John Marshall Highway/Wardensville Pike (Route 55) are in an area of the County designated as Rural Areas District (RA) and contain a portion of George Washington National Forest, thus reasonably protecting the aesthetic and cultural value of the highway; and

**WHEREAS**, John Marshall Highway/Wardensville Pike meets the criteria established by the Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) for designation as a Virginia Byway; and


**WHEREAS**, the designation of John Marshall Highway/Wardensville Pike as a Virginia Byway would encourage travel to this road and stimulate the local economy;

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED** that the Board of Supervisors of the County of Frederick supports the designation of John Marshall Highway/Wardensville Pike (Route 55) as a Virginia Byway and hereby submits this resolution to the Virginia Department of Transportation and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation for evaluation.

Passed this 14th day of February 2024 by the following recorded vote:

Josh Ludwig, Chairman	Aye	John Jewell	Aye
Heather H. Lockridge	Aye	Robert W. Wells	Aye
Blaine P. Dunn	Aye	Robert Liero	Aye
Judith McCann-Slaughter	Aye		

**A COPY ATTEST**

  
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Michael L. Bollhoefer  
Frederick County Administrator

Travis A. Voyles  
*Secretary of Natural and Historic Resources*

Matthew S. Wells  
*Director*

Andrew W. Smith  
*Chief Deputy Director*



**COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA**  
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND RECREATION

Frank N. Stovall  
*Deputy Director  
for Operations*

Darryl Glover  
*Deputy Director for  
Dam Safety,  
Floodplain Management and  
Soil and Water Conservation*

Laura Ellis  
*Deputy Director for  
Administration and Finance*

July 18, 2024

Synthia Waymack  
Local Assistance Division  
Virginia Department of Transportation  
804.786.2586  
Synthia.Waymack @VDOT.Virginia.gov

Dear Synthia,

Thank you for your inquiry regarding a request VDOT received for a Virginia Byway evaluation of a 4.8-mile segment of Rte. 55 in Frederick County from Star Tannery, Virginia to the West Virginia state line and request to defer the recommendation for designation to VDOT for this road segment.

As we understand, Frederick County passed a resolution supporting the evaluation of the Rte. 55 road segment and designation. Further, VDOT has reviewed the corridor and determined the road qualifies for designation based on the following:

- Designating the 4.38-mile section will provide continuity by extending the existing designation of Route 55 in Shenandoah County through Frederick County to the West Virginia state-line.
- Points of interests associated with the road corridor include a natural spring, the Tuscarora trail, Duck Run, Cedar Creek, Simply Shenandoah Wellness & Nature Retreat, and Devils Backbone State Forest.
- The properties lining the route are in an area of the county designated as Rural Area Districts (RA) and contain a portion of George Washington National Forest which will help to protect the aesthetic viewshed of the corridor.

We have also reviewed the information you provided on the Route 55 evaluation request including the following documents.

- Route information provided with the original request for designation
- A map showing the location of the road segment in Frederick County highlighted in yellow
- Frederick County resolution of support for designation
- Frederick County zoning map
- Virginia Byway Evaluation Criteria template

Based on this review and MOA that has been established between VDOT and DCR regarding our joint involvement with the Scenic Highway and Virginia Byway Program, we support this designation and we concur with your request to defer the recommendation for designation to VDOT for this road segment.

Thank you again for the opportunity to review this information.

600 East Main Street, 24<sup>th</sup> Floor | Richmond, Virginia 23219 | 804-786-6124

*State Parks • Soil and Water Conservation • Planning and Recreation Resources  
Natural Heritage • Dam Safety and Floodplain Management • Land Conservation*

If you have any additional questions, please contact me or my Chief Planner, Samantha Wangsgard at at [PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov](mailto:PlanningResources@dcr.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'KMcClary', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Kelly McClary, VCCO, Byways Designee  
Director of Planning and Recreation Resources