



VIRGINIA BYWAYS PROGRAM

Overview and Proposed Designation of Route 55 – Frederick County

Russ Dudley, Director
Local Assistance Division

September 17, 2024

Virginia Byway Program Overview

- Authorized in the Code of Virginia in 1966 (§ 33.2-405)
- CTB in **cooperation** with the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) is authorized to designate any road as a scenic highway or Virginia byway
 - Memorandum of Agreement between VDOT and DCR outlines designation process and responsibilities



Merits of Designation

- Showcases unique attributes of area
- Becomes part of tourism strategy
- Requirement for National Scenic Byway designation
- Locally initiated
- Limits outdoor advertising signage
- Does not affect land use
- Does not limit road improvements

Byway Designation Process

- Local government(s) adopt resolution of support for designation
- VDOT and DCR evaluate road corridor
 - VDOT and DCR Director recommend designation to CTB
- A local public hearing is held, if requested
- CTB designates byway
- Signage is installed; route is identified on official state transportation maps and VDOT website
- Periodic reviews



Finding a Virginia Byway

Virginia Byways

- On this page
- State Scenic Highway and Virginia Byway Act
- National Scenic Byways Program
- All American Roads and National Scenic Byways in Virginia
- Interactive Map

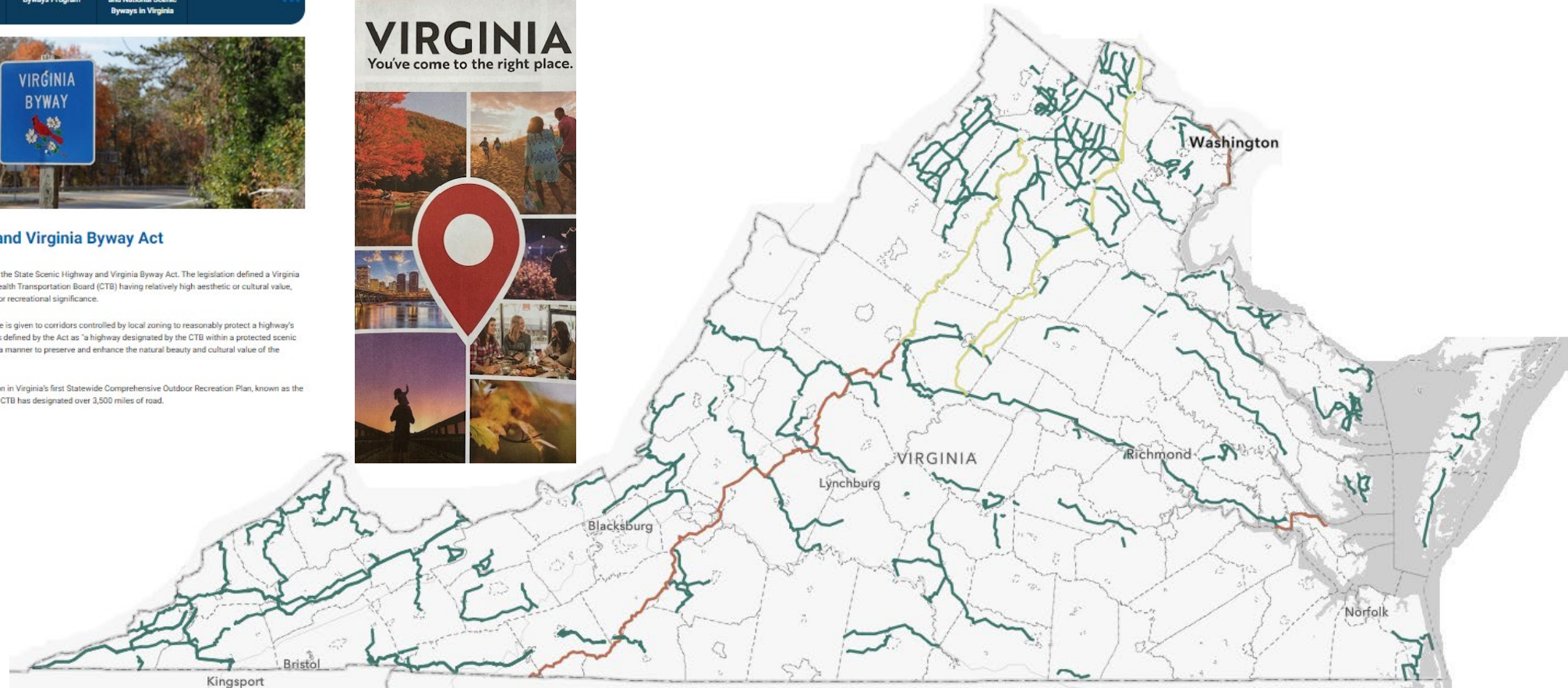


State Scenic Highway and Virginia Byway Act

In 1966, the Virginia General Assembly passed the State Scenic Highway and Virginia Byway Act. The legislation defined a Virginia Byway as a road designated by the Commonwealth Transportation Board (CTB) having relatively high aesthetic or cultural value, leading to or within areas of historical, natural or recreational significance.

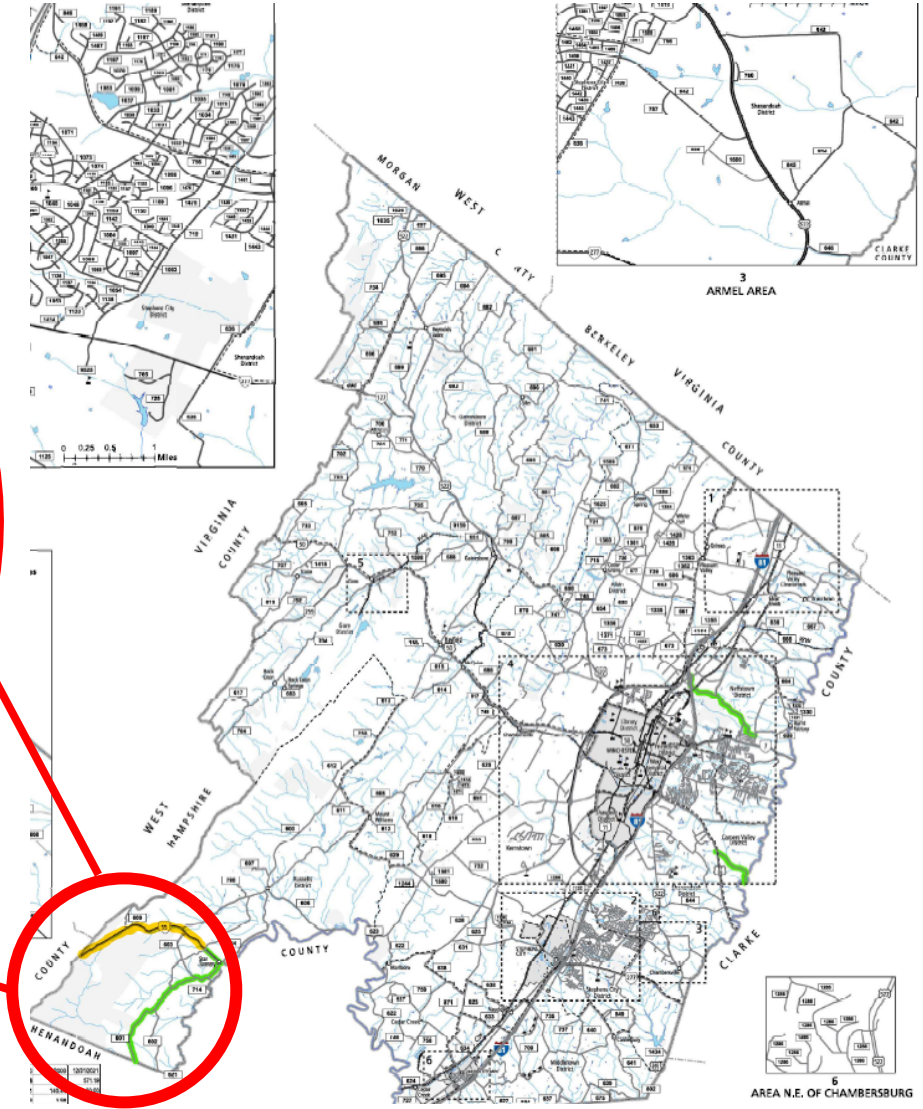
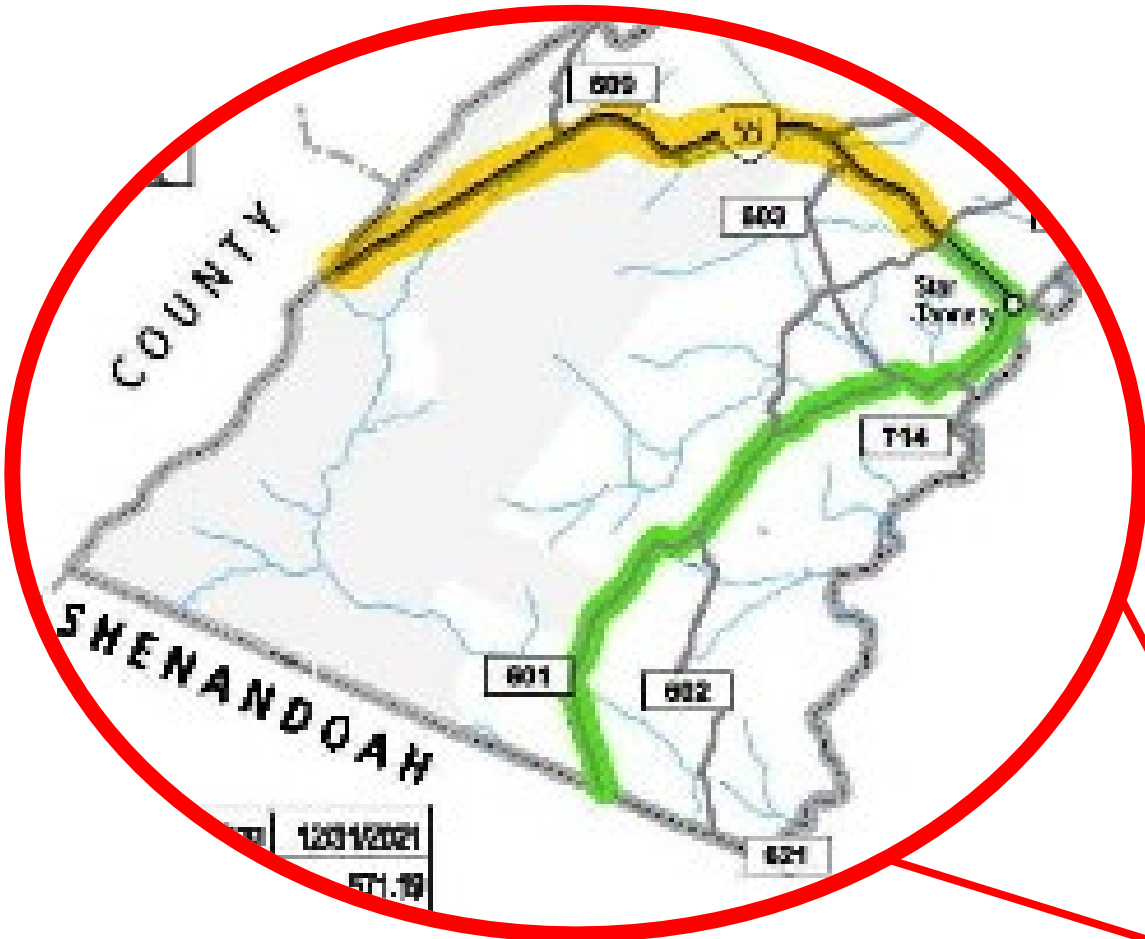
In selecting a byway for designation, preference is given to corridors controlled by local zoning to reasonably protect a highway's aesthetic or cultural value. A Scenic Highway is defined by the Act as "a highway designated by the CTB within a protected scenic corridor located, designed, and constructed in a manner to preserve and enhance the natural beauty and cultural value of the countryside.

The Act arose in response to a recommendation in Virginia's first Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan, known as the Virginia Outdoors Plan. Since its inception, the CTB has designated over 3,500 miles of road.



<https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/06a8ec8f96804c1cbf83c7f5bc5396e0>

Route 55 – Frederick County, 3



FREDERICK COUNTY, VA

Virginia Department of Transportation

COUNTY ROAD MAP

FREDERICK COUNTY

ROAD CLASSIFICATIONS	MISCELLANEOUS
Frontage Road	Schools
Secondary Route	Seaports
State Route	Park_RideLots
U.S. Route	Commercial
Urban Road	General
LightSurface	Military
DividedHwyInterstate	RAILROADS
AllWeatherSurface	Metro
Unsurfaced	VA Railroads
otherSurface	Park_N_Ride
BikeRoutes	BOUNDARIES
AppalachianTrail	MilitaryAreas
Virginia Byway	MagisterialDistricts
Proposed Byway	Incorp_Areas
	Natural_LandCover

Additional ROAD CLASSIFICATION (Post 2019): Hard-surface

0 1 2 3 4
MILES
0 1 2 3 4
KILOMETERS

The accuracy or completeness of this map is not guaranteed or warranted. Map depicts state-maintained highway networks as of May 1, 2021. Copyright © 2021 by Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Transportation. All Rights Reserved.

AN INVENTORY OF STATE MAINTAINED ROADS

- **January 2024: Private citizen requests designation of Route 55**
- **February 14, 2024: Frederick County Resolution in support of designation passed**
- **February-March 2024: VDOT researches local zoning, traffic data, road geometrics and verifies points of interests along route, and coordinates with DCR in accordance with 33.2-405**
- **July 18, 2024: DCR defers recommendation for designation to VDOT (Staffing issues)**
- **September 17, 2024: Presentation to Commonwealth Transportation Board**
 - **October 23, 2024: CTB considers action on designation recommendation**

Route 55 – Frederick County

Points of interests along route:

- Tuscarora Trail
- Duck Run
- Cedar Creek
- A Natural Spring
- Simply Shenandoah Wellness & Nature Retreat
- Devils Backbone State Forest



Route 55 – Frederick County, 2

- **Extends the existing designation of Route 55 through the entirety of Frederick County to the West Virginia line**
- **Connects with Route 604, a designated Virginia Byway**
- **Adds 4.38 miles to the Virginia Byway Inventory bringing the total byway mileage within Virginia to 3,608.7 miles**



Next Steps

- **CTB Action Meeting – Oct. 23, 2024**
 - **Consider resolution to designate Route 55 from Route 600 at the Frederick-Shenandoah County line to the West Virginia state line**
- **If designated:**
 - **Install blue Virginia Byway signs**
 - **Update map**

