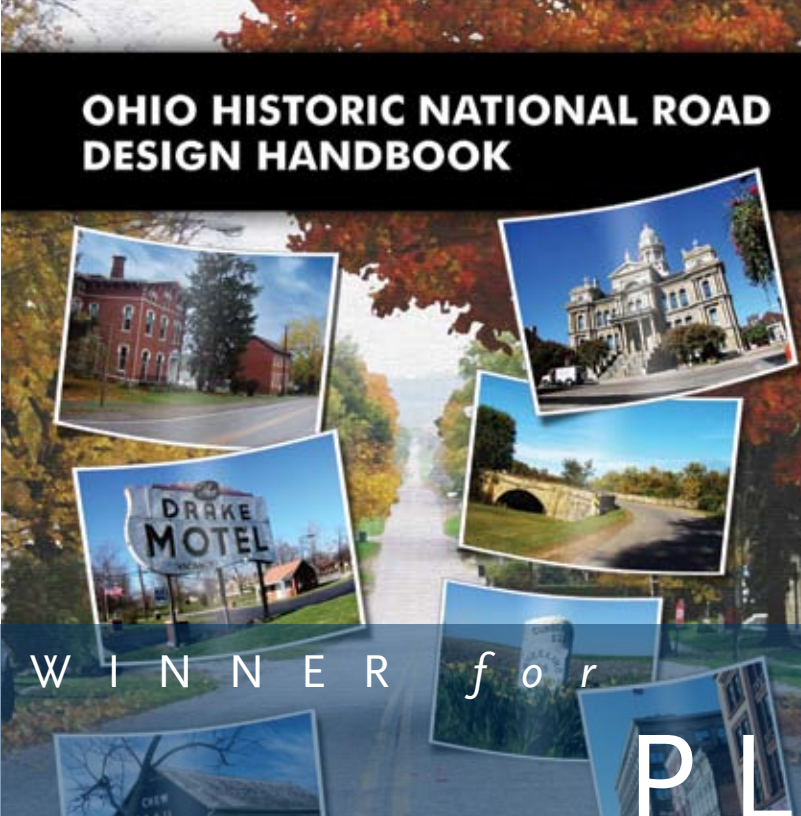


# OHIO HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD DESIGN HANDBOOK

Ohio Historic National Road All-American Road

OHIO

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WINNER for PLANNING

In Ohio, the Historic National Road's leadership has recognized the challenges that lie beyond the designation phase, and created a design handbook to help communities craft long-term planning solutions for their All-American Road. This effort is clearly meant to preserve, protect and enhance the byway's qualities that led to its designation. In fact, the handbook development accomplished an important goal of the byway's corridor management plan.



### INNOVATION FOR FUTURE PLANNING

The innovative *Ohio Historic National Road Design Handbook* is designed for many types of local audiences, including regional planners, local government officials and staff, property owners, developers, and others with an interest in the road. It offers a variety of tools, resources, and design guidance to match an array of circumstances along the 227-mile corridor.

The handbook first leads users through the process of defining their historic character and context. Next they see specific recommendations for directly protecting historic structures through planning, stewardship, maintenance, and rehabilitation. Similarly specific recommendations also help protect properties on either side of the road through community and transportation planning, zoning, development guidelines, and use of land conservation tools. Throughout the handbook, case studies show how all these concepts actually work in the real world.

### COMMITMENT TO REACHING CONSENSUS

The handbook alone provides a solid model for future planning by byway stakeholders. The effective process of community involvement to develop the document is equally a model for replication. In Ohio, the process began with an electronic questionnaire sent to a database of State, county, municipal and township contacts. After identifying future plans for the road and potential future design issues, the handbook team

set up a website to distribute this information and to gather more input. About 500 postcards were sent to individuals across the State, explaining the website and asking them to visit online for further information. From this site, the handbook team collected information and answered questions from the public. In addition, three workshops were held across the State to gather more face-to-face input. Through the process, the handbook team sought consensus on the information and recommendations to present in the publication.

### MODEL OF IMPLEMENTATION

The result has been a well-received handbook frequently used by local byway communities. "This is a creative resource that pays credence to the significance of the Ohio National Road and uniqueness of the Road's history, design, and landscape. This office is often consulted on design and planning concepts, and I am certain the Handbook will help ... ensure our economic and community development projects will be sensitive to the design guidelines most compatible for projects in the National Road Corridor," said Jeff Johnson, Executive Director of the Community Improvement Corporation of Springfield and Clark County, Ohio.

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