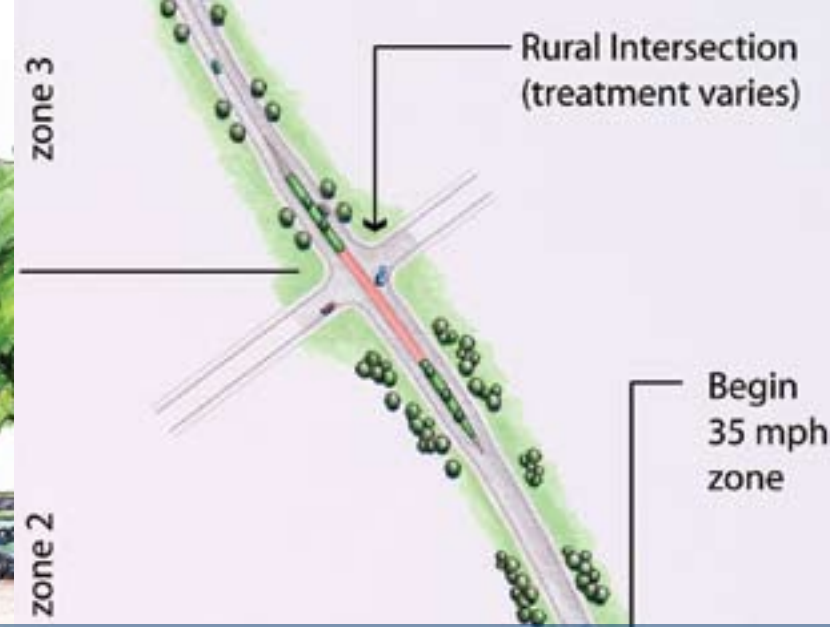


RESOURCE PROTECTION

CONTEXT-SENSITIVE SOLUTIONS FOR MARYLAND SCENIC BYWAYS

Maryland Scenic Byways

MARYLAND



2007 SCENIC BYWAY AWARD WINNER for RESOURCE PROTECTION

As States gain experience managing their scenic byway programs, they realize that designation of a byway is only the starting point for a successful long-term plan. Maintaining the integrity of the resources for which the byway received its designation is among the critical hurdles still to be faced.

STATE PARTNER SUPPORT

The Maryland Scenic Byway program, administered by the Maryland State Highway Administration (SHA), has made great progress toward maintaining the distinctive qualities of the State's byways. Recognizing the importance of the State's byways, the Maryland SHA worked to ensure the completion of a professionally prepared document entitled, "Context-Sensitive Solutions for Work on Scenic Byways." In addition, the Maryland SHA requested that State and local governments immediately begin implementing the guidelines presented in this publication, even while the publication was still in a draft form.

INNOVATION IN DESIGN AND PLANNING TOOLS

"Context-Sensitive Solutions for Work on Scenic Byways" is an informative and easy-to-use publication. It gives hands-on advice and illustrations, both of which have already been put to good use. Judith Kremen with the Maryland National Road Association noted in her letter of support, "Maryland's byway guides...are easy to read and designed to stimulate thoughtful decision making without intimidating local citizens and community leaders by incorporating a lot of technical jargon or talking down to design and engineering professionals."

The guidelines cover a host of issues, including roadside barriers, utilities, landscaping, bridges, signs, lighting, bicycle access, and maintenance. Importantly, the workbook of solutions focuses first on identifying the byway's character-defining features, then assists the user in applying context-sensitive design solutions to protect these features.

PROCESS OF COOPERATION

In crafting the documents, the Maryland SHA was committed to reaching common ground with a variety of partners who served on a working group of advisors. This group reached consensus on the publication guidelines and reviewed the draft documents. To ensure implementation of the guidelines, Maryland SHA also held critical meetings with SHA offices that are directly involved with road projects along designated byways.

MODEL FOR STATEWIDE LEADERSHIP

The Maryland SHA contribution to this publication offers a spectacular model for State departments of transportation nationwide, both in the specific guidelines and the process for establishing them. The project provides an excellent example of innovative leadership at the State level. The SHA has also developed a specific handbook, "Context-Sensitive Solutions for the Maryland Historic National Road Scenic Byway," and has plans to develop individual handbooks for each of Maryland's byways.

"Maryland's byway guides...are easy to read and designed to stimulate thoughtful decision making without intimidating local citizen and community leaders..."

- JUDITH KREMEN, Maryland National Road Association



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