

STAKEHOLDERS

Public

- Residents
- Tourists

Byway Property Owners

- Private Homes
- HOAs
- Community Facilities
 - Hospital
 - Schools
 - Library
 - Other
- Businesses
 - Retail
 - Professional
 - Services
- Agricultural
- Open Space

Developers/Contractors

Government

- City of Lewes
- Sussex County
- State
 - Legislators
 - DeIDOT
 - DNREC
 - Economic Development
 - Agriculture
 - Heritage Commission
 - Historic Preservation
 - Tourism
 - Bicycle Council

Business

- Chambers of Commerce
- Realtors
- Delaware Outdoor Advertising

Non-Profit

- Local Community Groups
- Friends' Organizations
- Delaware Greenways
- Delaware Nature Society
- Nature Conservancy
- Preservation Delaware
- Sierra Club

Lewes Scenic and Historic Byway

What is the Byway?

The Byway is a transportation route traveling through an area with special intrinsic scenic, historic, natural, cultural, recreational, or archeological qualities. An alternative travel experience that tells a story, it connects and provides access to the area's heritage, beauty, natural and recreational resources.

To qualify a roadway must possess at least one of the following six intrinsic qualities: scenic, historic, natural, cultural, recreational or archeological. The Lewes Scenic and Historic Byway possesses all six qualities.

The byway's goal is to **conserve, enhance and promote** the byway corridor, balance the needs of preservation, enhance the travel experience, and **accommodate** existing and new development via context sensitive design to retain byway character.

The byway is a multi-modal corridor designed not to speed people to their destination, but to connect and provide access to venues, attractions and recreational resources at a lower speed which enables enjoyment of the corridor itself. The byway is a tool to

- Manage the positive and negative impacts of tourism.
- Help manage available transportation infrastructure at maximum efficiency to help capture intrinsic value, not lose it.
- Promote tourism, connecting the travel experience for heritage, recreational and eco-tourism.
- Conserve intrinsic qualities of the Byway that qualified it for designation when possible and use context sensitive design as changes or development takes place.
- Advocate and provide recommendations for **context sensitive design** at the conceptual design stage for landscaping and/or building projects to enhance the travel experience.
- Manage roadway improvements/right-of-way, as guided by DeIDOT policy documents: Context Sensitive Design Manual, Byway Corridor Management
- Plan, and Master Plans, coordinating with active developers/ DeIDOT/ community.
- The Scenic Byway nomination program is administered by DeIDOT through a collaborative effort of Delaware's citizens, together with local, state and federal government.

What the Byway Is Not:

The byway and CMP are not regulatory or enforcement tools; the CMP is a plan developed with DeIDOT through a collaborative, inclusive process and it is endorsed by DeIDOT. Its recommendations are just that, recommendations; it cannot mandate what a property owner should do on private property. The byway advocates for the plan and preservation of the byway character via an inclusive cooperative/collaborative process that enhances existing development and accommodates new development via context sensitive design.

The byway

- Does not grant or detract from property rights.
- Does not make land use/zoning decisions.

What Is a Corridor Management Plan?

The CMP is a plan, a living document. It spells out how the community intends to protect, enhance and preserve the special character and intrinsic resources of the byway, while balancing developer and business need for visibility and access, and enhancing the traveler experience. It's about a sense of place. It's not about "should we" or "don't", it's about "how do we".

With regard to the roadway character, the CMP provides a process to communicate with and involve property owner stakeholders in discussion of future roadway plans. The elements of the CMP are:

- Ongoing public outreach
- Vision & goals
- Stewardship
- Guiding change
- Enhancing travel experience
- Managing tourism
- Resources for interpretation
- Support & implementation

The CMP aims to preserve byway character via context sensitive design to achieve:

- Mitigation of traffic by maximizing efficiency of existing infrastructure
 - Master Plan for each byway road using context sensitive design and multi-use paths where feasible.
 - Alternatives to reduce vehicular demand
 - Park-and-Ride/Jitney Service/Remote Parking
 - Improvement of public transit
 - Complete greenway and trail system.
 - Improve sidewalks and bike lanes
- Management of traffic
 - Spread visits beyond the beach
 - Management and monitoring for special events or peak days
 - Advance info sharing and message system
 - Improved visitor information and wayfinding
- Promote and Manage Tourism
 - Enhance visual quality and traveler experience.
 - Market attractions, resources, heritage to spread visits throughout area. Tell the byway story. Focus on heritage, recreational and eco-tourism.
 - Expand seasons
 - Increase spending per day/per trip
 - Lengthen stays
 - Link the Lewes Byway and the Delaware Bayshore Byway
- Conservation of natural resources and open space.
- Complete Streets, where feasible (use context sensitive complete streets design to preserve historic roads and character)
- Establish Gateways and Wayfinding Signage Plan

What Is Context Sensitive Design (CSD)?

The goal is to seek design solutions that preserve, maintain and enhance the byway's special intrinsic qualities. "Each action taken over the course of a byway's lifetime impacts the traveler's experience. The results of [transportation, hardscape and landscape projects] can individually appear insignificant; however, their cumulative effect can positively or negatively impact the appearance and quality of the byway." [DelDOT manual, Context Sensitive Solutions for Delaware Byways].

- Familiarization and broad understanding of all stakeholders with the byway, including the byway's special intrinsic qualities and character-defining features.
- Understanding of the unique aspects of each road within the corridor
 - New Road – conservation of rural character and Canary Creek watershed
 - Savannah Road – enhancement to restore character-defining features of historic route
 - Kings Highway – use master plan guidance and CSD to shape future character in growth areas while preserving the route through the historic district
 - Gills Neck Road – retain historic road character, canal views and improve bike/pedestrian safety
 - Cape Henlopen Drive – enhance safe bike/pedestrian access to recreation and open space views
 - Pilottown Road – enhance and preserve canal-front and views
- Stakeholder participation in the Master Plan for each road within the byway corridor
- Stakeholder support for the concepts and approach embedded within Context Sensitive Solutions for Delaware Byways [DelDOT manual] which provides more specific guidance for flexible and creative alternatives that complement character-defining features and/or add value to the traveler's experience.

Additional information:

- To **preserve** is to sustain existing character.
- To **conserve** is to stabilize character.
- To **enhance** is to augment special intrinsic qualities increasing or magnifying their beauty, effectiveness or perceived value or improving the environmental context.
- '**Complete Streets**' means roads planned and built to serve all users. A 'Complete Street' is a roadway that accommodates motorized and non-motorized modes of travel for all travelers, particularly public transit users, bicyclists, pedestrians [all ages and individuals with mobility, sensory, neurological, or hidden disabilities], and motorists, to enable all travelers to use the roadway and efficiently.