



View from Trail Ridge Road: Rocky Mountain National Park

Corridor Management Plan: TEMPLATE



Colorado Department of Transportation
Colorado Scenic & Historic Byways

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OVERVIEW

The Colorado Department of Transportation (CDOT) Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways (Colorado Byways) partnered with Joining Vision and Action (JVA) to develop a template, template instruction, training and a training webinar to assist the 26 individual Colorado byways with completing their corridor management plans (CMPs). The template was developed based on information collected through a review of best practices from other state programs and individual byways; a review of existing CMPs; and a survey of and communication with Colorado Byways leadership.

This template includes detailed instruction for completion of each section of the CMP, with links to resources to help byways find the information needed for their area. The design is intended to be user friendly to guide byways communities in completing and updating their CMPs.

Definition of the Corridor Management Plan

A corridor management plan (CMP) is the written plan outlining how communities will use, enhance, protect and benefit from the intrinsic qualities and character for their byway corridor. Collaborative development of the plan can include the Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission and partners from other agencies. CDOT Byways, and the National Scenic Byways Program, require a CMP for scenic byway designation. The CMP is a fluid document that describes goals, strategies and responsibilities that help preserve and promote the byway. As the community changes, the CMP should address any new developments that occur along the byway corridor. The "14-point plan" from the National Scenic Byways Program gives guidance to those creating the CMP.

The CMP addresses a variety of issues. Depending on its role in the community and the planning process, the details and length of the plan can vary. Detailed plans are necessary to address issues and do not need to offer solutions for each problem. Major goals for improved access for different types of transportation, such as bicycles, should be addressed.¹

¹ Scenic America, Byways and Corridor Management Plans. Retrieved from <http://www.scenic.org/issues/scenic-byways/byways-and-corridor-management-plans>

Process for Completing the CMP

The suggested process for completion and updates of a CMP involves addressing a byway's current conditions, goals, objectives and strategies to achieve goals, timeframe to achieve goals, and persons responsible for implementation.

Steps in the process are to:

- Form a committee or group to be responsible for oversight of the process, and review the CMP or any documents related to the byways that have been completed.
- Prepare a work plan for completion over several months or years.
- Schedule a recurring meeting with the committee to review portions of the plan.
- Hold meetings with city and county officials, and host community input meetings.
- Use the CMP Corridor Management Plan Template to guide completion of the CMP plan for your byway.

Level of Byways Designation

There are five designations for byways based on recognition by the U.S. Department of Transportation of one or more of six intrinsic qualities, including archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic attributes. Colorado has designated 26 scenic byways. Byway designations are described below.

1. **Colorado Scenic and Historic Byway** refers to any of the 26 byways designated by the Colorado Transportation Commission to have historic and/or scenic qualities.
2. **America's Byways®** is the umbrella term used by the Federal Highway Administration to describe the roads deemed scenic by the U.S. Secretary of Transportation. Among the 150 distinct and diverse roads designated as America's Byways, there are National Scenic Byways and All-American Roads.²

The U.S. Secretary of Transportation has deemed 11 of Colorado's byways as America's Byways.®³ They are 1) Colorado River Headwaters Byway, 2) Dinosaur Diamond Prehistoric Highway, 3) Frontier Pathways Scenic and Historic Byway, 4) Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway, 5) Grand Mesa Scenic and Historic Byway, 6) Lariat Loop Scenic and Historic Byway, 7) San Juan Skyway, 8) Santa Fe Trail, 9) Top of the Rockies, 10) Trail of the Ancients, and 11) Trail Ridge Road/ Beaver Meadow Road.⁴

3. All-American Roads meet at least two of the six intrinsic scenic byways qualities and must themselves be tourist destinations. Travelers are attracted to these roads because they are nationally recognized for their outstanding characteristics and features that distinguish them from other locations.⁵ San Juan Skyway and Trail Ridge Road have this highest-level designation of All-American Road.

² Federal Highway Administration. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/byways>

³ CDOT. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways>

⁴ CDOT. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways>

⁵ Byways 101. Retrieved from <http://www.byways101.org/byways101/index.php/planning-action-nomination/regional-or-national-significance>

4. **National Forest Scenic Byways** are designated as such because they meet at least one of the intrinsic qualities for byways. These byways are designated by the Forest Service and have driving routes on National Forest areas with access to scenic corridors with significant recreational, natural and historic features. The USDA Forest Service lists 10 Colorado byways as National Forest Scenic Byways: 1) Cache la Poudre—North Park Scenic and Historic Byway, 2) Flattops Trail Scenic Byway, 3) Grand Mesa National Scenic and Historic Byway, 4) Highway of Legends Scenic Byway, 5) Mount Evans Scenic and Historic Byway, 6) Pawnee Pioneer Trails, 7) Peak to Peak Scenic and Historic Byway, 8) San Juan Skyway National Scenic Byway, 9) Silver Thread Scenic Byway, and 10) Top of the Rockies Byway.⁶
5. **National Back Country Byways** are designated by the Bureau of Land Management as adventurous “off-the-beaten-path” routes. Among these Back Country Byways are some roads that can accommodate cars; unpaved roads that require high-clearance vehicles; roads that require four-wheel-drive vehicles or all terrain vehicles (ATVs); and single-track trails managed for dirt bikes, mountain bikes, snowmobiles or ATVs to use.⁷ Alpine Loop National Scenic Back Country Byway and Gold Belt Tour Scenic and Historic Byway are the two National Back Country Byways in Colorado.

⁶ National Forest Scenic Byways (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.fs.fed.us/recreation/programs/tourism/TourUS.pdf>

⁷ Bureau of Land Management. (2018). Retrieved from <https://www.blm.gov/programs/recreation/recreation-programs/byways>

Program Guidance for Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways

Colorado's Scenic and Historic Byways Commission approved the guidance⁸ below to provide criteria needed to establish and maintain byways that promote, preserve and enhance the significant intrinsic resources of the state of Colorado. For continued enhanced visitor experience and maintenance of a sustainable byway, byways are expected to:

Maintain a byway committee. The committee keeps up-to-date job description(s), bylaws/guidelines, and CMP organization and preparation.

Bylaws or rules guide the duties, responsibilities and actions of the organization. They may include detailed information about and instructions for the following areas (often referred to as articles):

- Membership
- Board of Directors
- Membership Meetings
- Officers
- Amendments
- Indemnification
- Committees
- Budget
- Fiscal Year
- Parliamentary Procedure
- Discrimination
- Conflict of Interest
- Nonpartisan Status

For a more detailed outline of bylaws, please see Appendix J for an example from the Gold Belt Scenic Byway.

Including your area's varied stakeholders is another important component of creating a byway committee. The following list of stakeholders from the

⁸ Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Program Guidance Summary. (2016). Retrieved from <https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/assets/byways-strategic-plan-2017>

Colorado River Headwaters National Scenic and Historic Byway can be used as a reference:

- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (federal government)
- U.S. Forest Service (federal government)
- Colorado Department of Transportation (state government)
- Colorado Parks and Wildlife (state government)
- Grand County Planning Department (county government)
- Town of Granby (municipal government)
- Town of Grand Lake (municipal government)
- Town of Hot Sulphur Springs (municipal government)
- Town of Kremmling (municipal government)
- Grand County, Colorado, Tourism Board Special District
- Grand Lake Area Chamber of Commerce
- Greater Granby Area Chamber of Commerce
- Kremmling Area Chamber of Commerce
- Grand County Historical Association (nonprofit organization)
- Headwaters Trails Alliance (nonprofit organization)
- Middle Park Land Trust (nonprofit organization)
- Grand Lake Historical Society (nonprofit organization)
- Middle Park Stock Growers (nonprofit organization)
- Grand Lake Partners for Trails (nonprofit organization)
- Colorado State University Extension (state government)
- Colorado State Forest Service (state government)
- Rocky Mountain National Park (federal government)
- Trail Ridge Road Scenic Byway (federal government)
- Grand County Road and Bridge (county government)
- Colorado Department of Transportation Local and Regional Maintenance
- Board of County Commissioners (county government)
- Local law enforcement (town, county, state)
- Federal governments
- Local businesses

- Local media—newspaper, radio, television, internet

Maintain a regular meeting schedule, including a minimum of two meetings per year, with one of those being an in-person meeting.

Hold at least one public workshop, community event, or presentation to local elected officials or another group.

Participate in at least four CDOT, Colorado Byways, National Scenic Byway Foundation or other public meetings, trainings, webinars and conference calls per year.

Complete an annual survey to 1) track the accomplishments of the program and the byway goals, 2) check that reasons for corridor designation are still relevant, and 3) see that progress is being made toward preservation of the corridor.

All byways with a CMP more than 10 years old will be required to update their CMP. Byways with dated CMPs may be subject to review for de-designation by the Commission. De-designation of a byway may occur in the following cases:

- The intrinsic values originally identified along the corridor have been degraded
- The byway fails to meet the minimum criteria for designation
- The byway committee deteriorates and/or there is no cohesive group of citizens or local government to implement the CMP
- The land uses along the corridor have changed the overall character of the byway since designation
- The committee fails to complete annual reporting and/or the 10-year CMP update
- Other reasons as may be deemed appropriate by the Commission⁹

⁹ Federal Highway Administration. Retrieved from https://www.fhwa.dot.gov/hep/scenic_byways/byway_quality/strategies/de_designation.cfm

BYWAYS LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION

User Instruction:
Address the following questions to complete areas of the executive summary.

1. When was the byway **established**?
2. What are the **communities that surround** the byway and have characteristics that tourists want to visit?
3. What **significant history and accomplishments** are important and would attract visitors to the byway?
4. Who are the **citizens, organizations and agencies** that work together to promote and protect the byway?
5. What are the **benefits** the byway brings to the region or state?
6. What **other descriptions** are important for your byway?

MISSION, VISION AND GOALS

Mission

Vision

Goals

User Instruction:
Describe the mission, vision and goals for your byway.

MISSION

1. *Why* does the byway exist?
2. *Who* does the byway serve?
3. *What* does the byway do?

VISION

1. How will the community *be a better place* as a result of the byway?
2. What *outcome* do you want your byway to have on the community and society based on the intrinsic qualities?

User Instruction: Create a list or table describing the community and any of the intrinsic qualities that are featured in the byway, using guiding examples below.

Scenic: What are *elements of the landscape* that contribute to the quality of the byway's environment?

Cultural: What are some of *the unique cultural attractions* that bring families and individuals into the area of the byway?

Historic: What are some of the *unique historic attractions* that bring families and individuals into the area of the byway?

Archeological: What is the *evidence of historic or prehistoric human life or activity* that can be seen in the byway?

Recreational: What are the *year-round or seasonal recreational opportunities*?

INVENTORY AND ASSESSMENT OF BYWAY RESOURCES

PROMOTION

User instruction:
Describe areas to be promoted using the following focus areas:

Lodging

What are the best motels, hotels, or bed and breakfast spots you can recommend?

Dining

Where are the local restaurants, coffee shops, or ice cream parlors in your corridor?

Entertainment

What theaters, comedy clubs, amusement places, or fun activities are present in the byway?

Outdoor Activities

Where are the hiking trails, bicycle trails and rentals, and camping spots for visitors?

Rest Areas

Where are the rest areas?

Language Translation

What languages do you have translated in materials or offer interpreters for?

User Instruction:
Complete the
following areas for
the map of the
byway:

What are the *corridor boundaries* (length and width)?

Where are the *locations of* natural, scenic, historic, cultural, recreational, archeological and educational *intrinsic qualities* (views, places, buildings, sites)?

Where are the *different land uses and zoning classifications*?

What are the *routes and GPS coordinates*? (These should be integrated with the sign plan described below.)

FEDERAL REGISTER REQUIREMENTS

1. Map

2. Assessment of intrinsic qualities

User Instruction:
Provide at least one paragraph for each intrinsic quality identified.

What are the *primary intrinsic qualities* along the byway?

What are the *resources* that contribute to these qualities and their context in the surrounding areas in the byway?

Which qualities have *local, regional and national significance*?

User Instruction:
Answer the following questions to prepare a strategy for maintaining intrinsic qualities.

How will the intrinsic qualities be *managed*?

What are the *tools that are currently in place* or planned to manage the qualities?

What is the *zoning* and what are the overlay districts in the byway?

What are the *easements* in the byway?

3. A strategy for maintaining the intrinsic qualities

4. A schedule and list of all agencies, groups and individual responsibilities

User Instruction:
Answer the following questions.

What *agencies are involved* in the CMP process?

What are the *roles* of the agencies, groups and individuals on the team that will implement the plan?

Agency	Management Document	Management Objectives	Key Provision

User Instruction:
Answer the
following
questions.

How will *existing development* be enhanced?

How will *new development* be accommodated?

What is the *plan for preserving* the intrinsic qualities in the midst of enhancing and planning for new development?

What *agencies or organizations will assist* the byway with addressing these issues?

What are methods and plans for *implementation*?

What is the *zoning* and what are the *easements* and/or *economic incentives* that are associated with enhanced or new development?

5. A strategy describing how existing development may be enhanced and new development might be accommodated while still preserving the intrinsic qualities of the corridor

6. A plan to ensure ongoing public participation in the implementation of the corridor management plan

User Instruction:
Answer the following questions.

How will the *public participate* in the implementation of the CMP?

When will the *meetings or committees* be held?

How will *communication with the public* occur regarding the meetings (Facebook, other public outreach platforms, newspapers, email, flyers)?

User Instruction:
Address the following questions to prepare for road and highway safety for the byway.

Who are the *transportation experts* that handle records for road safety and accidents in your community?

What are *any hazards and poor design* that may be problematic for drivers who are not familiar with the route?

Have you identified *possible corrections* for any hazards or poor design issues?

What brochures or other communication includes *tips for visitors* including CO Trip?

What resources should be included in visitor information from *CDOT's Online Transportation Information System (OTIS)*?

7. A general review of the road's or highway's safety and accident record to identify any correctable faults in highway design, maintenance or operation

8. A plan to accommodate commerce while maintaining a safe and efficient level of highway service, including convenient use of facilities

User Instruction:
Address the following questions.

How is *commerce*, including truck traffic and access to businesses along the route, accommodated *while ensuring the safety* of sightseers in recreational vehicles, on bicycles and on foot?

What are the *specific guidelines for bicycle traffic*, and where are these guidelines published for your byway?

User Instruction:
Address the questions below to demonstrate how the visitor experience is considered.

9. A demonstration that intrusions on the visitor experience have been minimized to the extent feasible, and a plan for making improvements to enhance that experience

Where are the *rest stops* along the corridor?

Are there any *visual attractions* in the entrance and throughout the corridor that *enhance or detract* from the visitor experience?

What does the *gateway* to the byway look like?

What is a list of things that would *add to or detract* from the visitor's experience?

What is a *plan for minimizing those intrusions* and making improvements?

Are plans for beautification *in accordance with the beautification laws*?

What are the guidelines regarding *fracking* in the byway?

How do you know *you are on the corridor*?

How do you know *where to go to stay* on the corridor?

10. A demonstration of compliance with all existing local, state and federal laws on the control of outdoor advertising

User Instruction:
Answer the questions below regarding local, state, and federal laws for the byway:

What *local laws* impact the *outdoor advertising* for the byway?

What *state laws* guide the advertising for the corridor?

Are there *federal laws* that need to be addressed for the byway?

User Instruction:
Address the following questions for the signage plan for your byway.

How does the number and *placement of highway and wayfinding signs* support the visitor experience?

How do the *signs make it easier for tourists* to find their way to, from and along the byway?

Do the signs *obscure or detract* from any scenery?

What signs do you have for *international tourists* who may not speak English fluently?

11. A signage plan that demonstrates how the state will ensure and make the number and placement of signs more supportive of the visitor experience

12. A narrative describing how the National Scenic Byway will be positioned for marketing

User Instruction:
Answer the following questions for your Marketing Plan.

What actions and *plans are currently in place* for marketing your byway?

Who is the *designated committee or leader* who will take responsibility for the marketing plan?

What is the *timeframe for completing* the plan and the goals within the plan?

How do you *encourage visitors, businesses and communities* to invest more time and money in the byway?

What is the description for how the byway be *marketed and publicized*?

How will you *incorporate ecotourism environmental protections*?

What byway *stories* will you use to support the visitor experience and how are they *linked to your byway's intrinsic qualities*?

User Instruction:
Answer the questions below for clarification of design standards for the byway.

13. A discussion of design standards relating to any proposed modification of the roadway

What are the likely *effects of the proposed changes* on the intrinsic qualities of the byway corridor?

How was the *shape of the corridor* determined and how were endpoints chosen?

Is the *width the same or variable* along the length?

Where are the *affected intrinsic qualities* located within the corridor?

14. A description of plans to interpret the significant resources of the scenic byway (for example, museums, festivals, interpretive markers and kiosks)

User Instruction:
Address the questions below in preparing an inventory of significant resources.

What *museums, festivals, interpretative markers or kiosks* are currently in the byway plans?

What *resource development* needs to be included in upcoming plans for the byway?

ADDITIONAL AREAS

Succession Planning

User Instruction:
Address the questions below in preparing for succession planning.

Has your *CMP* been *updated and shared* with the community and agencies within the last 10 years?

Is *your board or committee empowered* to embrace its responsibilities and understand key functions of the byway?

Is the *wisdom, history, background and planning* for the byways *being shared* with constituents, the community and others for long-term sustainability?

Is there a *plan for documenting the key functions* and committee records?

Are *community volunteers cross-trained* to ensure they can implement the systems and plans in case someone moves on from their role?

Fundraising

User Instruction:
Develop a plan for fundraising for sustainability of the byway, guided by the following questions.

Do you have a *fundraising committee* for your byway's committee or board?

What are local, regional and national *sources of grant funding* that you can pursue?

What *fundraising plan or process is in place* for your byway?

Conservation Plans

Conservation plans are developed and implemented to protect, conserve, or enhance the record of decisions that support and inform treatment of land that meets the planning criteria for multiple natural resources including soil, water, air, animals, energy and human considerations. The conservation plan could include federal and local plans and component plans like a Comprehensive Nutrient Management Plan, Grazing Plan, Integrated Pest Management Plan, and Wildlife Management Plan.¹⁰

A good way to find out what needs protection in your community and plan for management is to conduct a community visual assessment involving citizens, school groups, local leaders and business owners. After the assessment the information gathered can be used for development of activities such as community walks and slide presentations to show how the scenic views can be protected by willing citizens.¹¹

Scenic Byways Collaboration

Preparation of a byway's CMP document includes collaborating with key agencies, including the following:

- [Colorado Creative Districts](#) to connect to detailed Colorado visitor information about tours, welcome centers and industry partners
- [Colorado Main Street Program](#) is part of Main Street America™ for connection to revitalize older and historic commercial districts and build vibrant neighborhoods and thriving economies through preservation-based economic development.
- [The Colorado Department of Agriculture](#), for agritourism, which covers services provided by farmers and experienced by consumers who value recreational, education, and leisure activities. Events are often on a farm or ranch, and the consumer has an opportunity to connect with a natural resource, heritage or a valued culinary experience.

¹⁰ Conservation Plans. Retrieved from <https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detail/national/programs/technical/cta/?cid=stelprdb1049425>

¹¹ Strategies for Protecting Scenic Views and Vistas. Retrieved from <http://www.scenic.org/issues/scenic-easements-a-view-protection/strategies-for-protecting-scenic-views-and-vistas>

- [Destination Development Association](#) is an organization that provides an array of resources for municipalities, planning, tourism, and economic development.

Integration of Other Plans into the CMP

As the CMP is developed and implemented, it is critical that other documents for the byway be considered for integration and alignment.



Even more importantly, this plan must be shared and integrated with all other regional and statewide plans. This ensures that all efforts in the byways area are symbiotic and coordinated, to the benefit of all involved.

Examples of other plans include the following:

- **Transportation Plan.** This statewide plan “identifies the future needs for Colorado’s transportation system, establishes a transportation vision and goals for the state, and outlines the strategic direction necessary to achieve these goals. The plan connects current and future funding realities with business practices and partnering efforts to deliver an effective and efficient transportation system that works for Colorado today and in the future.”

“Transportation Matters” is the motto on the CDOT logo that expresses that the absence of transportation leaves no access to the communities, jobs, and natural areas that make Colorado so wonderful. From trains, planes, and automobiles; from mountains to the plains, the transportation future is being built by Coloradans.¹²
- **Land Use Plan.** According to the Colorado Department of Local Affairs, Colorado allows local government control with respect to land use planning. Planning regulations including zoning, sign codes and building codes are mostly locally designated.¹³

¹² Colorado Department of Transportation. Retrieved from https://www.codot.gov/programs/planning/documents/planning-programs/SWPLogo_Explanation.pdf

¹³ Colorado Department of Local Affairs.

- **Economic Development Plan.** Goal areas for economic development for byways include strengthening some traditional economies, having tourism revenue increased, preserving agricultural and rural identified areas, and building bridges to stakeholders.¹⁴

¹⁴ Colorado Scenic Byways Economic Development Strategies. Retrieved from <https://www.codot.gov/travel/scenic-byways/assets/scenic-byways-economic-strategies-plan-final-12-17.pdf>