



Colorado Scenic and Historic Byways Commission Meeting

August 3, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Time: Wednesday, , August 3, 9:30 am- 11:30 am

Location: Online with Zoom

Attending: Lenore Bates (CDOT), Nathan Boyless (Commission), Kelli Helpler (Commission), Debbie Lininger (Commission), Ilana Moir (Commission), Heidi Plankow (Commission), Andrew Grossmann (CTO), Traci Stoffel (DOLA), Chad Schneckenburger (Commission), Tim Finger (Commission), Dave Roberts (West Elk), Anna Scott (South Platte River Trail), Imogen Ainsworth (At-large), Darius Pakbaz, Talia Siens, Alina Marquez, DeAnne Goodegos, Brian (Mesa Verde Country), Sami Powers, Rick Wallner (Commission), Nancy Kramer (Flat Tops Byway).

Nathan Boyless called the meeting to order at 9:33 am.

Minutes have been reviewed. Heidi Pankow moves to approve the minutes as presented, Ilana Moir 2nd, M/P/U.

Update from the Byways

- **Nancy Kramer** is updating the CMP for Flat Tops using a CU Boulder intern. Focusing more on Tourism Management vs Tourism Attraction.
- **Lenore Bates** updates us on various byways:
 - Top of the Rockies is moving forward with volunteer board doing the work
 - Santa Fe Trail is getting started with a new CMP. Factor to Earth Adventure C & P is selected for Reimaging Site. Mike King is Identifying high potential sites along the byway for EV charging.
 - Pawnee Pioneer is reinvigorating and working with DCI to help them
 - Alpine Loop moving the focus from Preserving to Protecting. alpineloop.info for safety concerns, consistent messaging and protection information.

Update on EV Byways Designated to Date:

- **Andrew Grossmann** CTO is trying to distribute more resource care information and what we expect from our visitors.
 - Electric Byways update: Get on the list from different programs. It is suggested that the Commission would like feedback from the Electric Byways Group regarding where and how funds are used; are there any changes and exceptions? The Commission would like to be sure that the program is being well distributed around the state.
 - 5280 is planning a story on EV Byways in the September Edition.

- New EV Designations, both are 4WD. Guanella Pass and Alpine Loop
- **Andrew motions to designate the two new EV Byways (4WD)**
- Alpine Loop - Chad Schneckenburger 2nds. 9 Yes and 2 No (high clearance concerns)
- Guanella Pass - Illana 2nds. M/P/U
- Traci asks if a test run could be done to see if the Rivian F150 could do the Byway with one charge on Alpine Loop. Use it as a demonstration.
- Outreach might be needed to be sure that people aren't being sent out on the Loop without a clear understanding of the risk.

Other Updates

- Chris Bowles update on History Colorado Markers. 390 markers have been identified around the state in various styles and condition. Language on the panels is not always accurate or reflects the language used today. Assessing the content and human interaction with the landscape (cultural) needs to be done. GOCO now funds the whole projects vs phases part of the program. This means History Colorado needs to have a good idea of the full scope before beginning any updating.
- NSBF Update: the NSBF is discussing a partnership with Scenic America and what that would look like for each of the organizations. The new FHWA grants being offered to byways are a little problematic. They are seeking projects of \$500,000 and up, with a match of 20%. This is a lot of money to match and most byways do not have the capacity to meet that requirement, unless they are already in a partnership for a project with a state DOT or other funding source.

Open Floor

- Highway of Legends, new PEL study provided some great recommendations and a model for other byways to look at getting a PEL study done. They are expensive.
- Mt Evans is in the Process of getting a name change.
- Lenore is working with other byways to get grants for their projects.
- Annual Survey 22 out of 26 responded, that is the best response rate to date.
- Lenore presented the NSBF Award to the Silver Thread on July 13th at Lake San Cristobal. There was a good turn out and publicity.
- Impact Survey from the past revealed that approx. 11 - 13% more than 5,000 were visiting byways. In 2019 there was an estimate of 19% of the travelers visited a byway. Andrew can help get a question on the Londwood's Study that would be specific to byways.
- BLM has a new person on staff handling tourism. They have a project with the Gold Belt.

Andrew- Motion to Adjourn @ 11:25, Traci 2nds.

2022 Byways Commission Meetings to Save the Date:

Wednesday, November 2, 9:30 am - 12:00 pm