

America's Byways® Collection



Byway Relationship



National Scenic Byways Program

- FHWA's *Interim Policy* for National Scenic Byways Program published in the Federal Register on May 18, 1995, provides **THREE CORE ELEMENTS**:

INTRINSIC QUALITIES

***A PLANNING COMPONENT:
Corridor Management Plans***

VISITOR or TRAVELER EXPERIENCE



The Consistent Message

Are You Ready?

Before you consider submitting a nomination for national designation, we request that you review the Designation Readiness Worksheet. The Federal Highway Administration has developed this worksheet to help byway leaders judge their readiness to seek national designation for their byway. It is intended for your use only as you begin to think about the kind of information you might be requested to provide in your nomination application.

Seeking designation requires considerable effort and the collection and assessment of many documents. Byway leaders are encouraged to review this Worksheet, make notations, and verify that they have the information available to demonstrate that their road possesses the necessary Intrinsic Quality(s) and significance needed to be considered for designation as one of America's Byways®.

The FY 2008 Designation Readiness Worksheet can be accessed online at <http://www.bywaysonline.org/nominations/docs>.

Keep It Simple

Once you've reviewed the Designation Readiness Worksheet and read this Guide you might feel overwhelmed. As you prepare your nomination application or think about nominating your byway for national designation in the future, it is important to remember that there are four (4) core elements that you need to address:

1) the significance either regionally or nationally of the Intrinsic Quality(s) along your byway that merit national designation; 2) planning to support the preservation, enhancement and promotion of the Intrinsic Quality(s) along your route; 3) providing a quality visitor experience; and 4) sustainability in the form of community and organizational support to continue to preserve, enhance and promote your byway.

11) When considering how best to organize an eligible project proposal in the Interpretive Information category, FHWA expects the applicant to consider and respond to the following questions:

- What would be accomplished with this proposed project? Will specific projects and priorities be identified in the development of the Interpretive Plan? If an Interpretive Plan is already in place, how does this project specifically relate to the activities and priorities identified in the Plan?
- What are the byway's intrinsic qualities that support the byway's designation and that would be interpreted as part of this proposed interpretive project? How would information be developed and provided through this proposed interpretive project to inform byway travelers about the significance of the byway's story and intrinsic qualities?
- Are directional signs currently along the byway? Would directional signs be placed byway as part of this proposed interpretive project? Who will pay for the signs? Will management authority agree to the location(s) for directional signing?
- Is directional information available to byway travelers in byway maps, publications, other mediums? Would directional information be developed and provided as part of proposed interpretive project?
- Who is currently developing or providing interpretive information along the byway? From the byway traveler's perspective, are the byway stories coordinated? How would the information help create a continuous experience for the visitor with minimum intrusion? How would the information be developed and provided through this proposed interpretive project to help achieve these objectives?

FY 2009 National Scenic Byways Program Grant Information

- What related projects have been completed or are planned or underway along the byway? How would the information be developed and provided under this proposed interpretive project to complement these other efforts?
- Is the proposed amount of byway funds proportionate to the proposed project's benefits to byway travelers? To what extent would the interpretive information emphasize the overall byway or the immediate surrounding area, forest, or park? How would the interpretive information be integrated or coordinated with the byway stories or experience?
- Does the corridor management plan include this project, and how does it compare to other priority projects along the byway?
- Why did byway leaders make this project a high priority and who participated in setting the byway's project priorities?
- Are agreements in place to sustain the information that would be developed and provided under this proposed interpretive project? For example, who will pay for reprints of publications, or who will pay to maintain interpretive exhibits or directional signs?

Complete Applications Include:

Below are some tips to the applicant when preparing a complete application for a project in the Interpretive Information category.

- ☐ **INTERPRETIVE INFORMATION:** Reviewers can determine eligibility only when the application demonstrates there is a clear relationship between the proposed project and the byway traveler experience. Respond to the questions posed in item eleven of the Practices section (above) – in the Narrative Section of the bywaysonline.org application.
- ☐ **MAPS:** Provide a map that locates the individual byway within the State or on Indian lands including the beginning and end points of the byway. If signs, exhibits or kiosks would be developed or installed as part of this proposed interpretive project, then a map should also identify the single location or multiple locations of these signs or structures. A map should also identify the relationship of these signs or structures and similar existing or planned signs or structures along the byway. (If possible, please include the addresses/intersections and GPS coordinates for the beginning and end points of the byway and proposed installations such that the sites can be located using basic mapping software).
- ☐ **PLANS AND OTHER SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS:** If signs, exhibits or kiosks would be developed or installed as part of this proposed interpretive project, provide available plans showing the proposed work. Depending on the stage of project design, plans ranging from general concept plans to construction plans that show what is being proposed will be satisfactory. Include concepts for kiosk

The Consistent Message

IQ Evidence Along Road

- Inventory of sites/features
- Patterns or sites that rise to top
- How are the IQ definitions used?

Example

- Travelers impression of roads
- Route 66 in Illinois

The Resource

- Tangible Characteristics.
 - Objects that you can see, feel, hear, smell, taste.
- Intangible Meanings.
 - The concepts, ideas, abstractions, and values, the “spirit of place” that makes the resources significant and special.



What's your
Story??



The Energy Loop in Utah

THE ENERGY LOOP HUNTINGTON AND ECCLES CANYONS SCENIC BYWAYS

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL
FOREST, UTAH

ACTIVITIES ALONG THE BYWAYS

Hiking: Still along a clear mountain stream, follow the tracks and trails of a deer, bobcat, coyote, or fish across an open ridge with spectacular views across the Wasatch Plateau. Most hiking trails are also open for horseback and bicycling. See page 1 and 2.

Camping: Along the byways, the U.S. Forest Service manages several low-cost campsites that have restrooms and water. If you camp at backcountry locations, your vehicle must be within 100 feet of forest roads. Some backcountry locations have no fees, so check information signs.

Wildlife: The scenic beauty of the forest makes it a great place to watch wildlife. In the state, Huntington Creek is a blue-winged teal, yellow-billed cuckoo, and brown trout. You can also try your luck for a white-tailed deer near the Huntington Reservoir. A Utah fishing license is required. See page 1, 2, and 3.

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The fall colors along the byways are magnificent. They are famous for their green and yellow.

MANTI-LA SAL NATIONAL FOREST:

Following years of floods and mud slides, the forests of San Juan County suffered to have

the night begins and they cut into the land and now, creating negatively curved canyons and hills.

In 1800, 10,000 to 15,000 years ago, glaciers formed and covered the land. The mountains, mountains, and short forest trees, all from ancient, isolated the glaciers. A warm, dry climate followed the Ice Age, and vegetation adapted to create the forested island we see today.

COMMON FISH

growing restricted on the rocky banks of the Wasatch Plateau. In a 1900s period, President Theodore Roosevelt created the Manti-La Sal National Forest, and had

Wisconsin GRR - Final Vision

The ever changing experience of traveling through the un-glaciated landscapes and historic river towns embraced by towering bluffs and the mighty Mississippi will be enhanced and preserved and allow increased usage and growth of the corridor to be accomplished.



Freedom Park on the Great River Road



Wi. Great River Road

The Stories of the Wisconsin Great River Road



Take the best drive in the Midwest this fall
Download the FREE audio tour now!



Your Guide to Wisconsin's Great River Road Scenic Byway.
ABOUT US HIGHLIGHTS MAPS RIVER TOWNS PHOTOS CONTACT US



Now's your chance to continue the rich history of the Great River Road by sharing your story in the "Wisconsin Great River Road Trip Round Up" contest. Check out the travel blog to find out what's happening right now on the Wisconsin Great River Road! Download [The Stories of the Wisconsin Great River Road](#) (pdf), a beautiful, 20-page printed guide to the Wisconsin Great River Road.



Find a River Town.

The stories of the Great River Road are as big as the Mississippi River itself. Click here to share yours.





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Illinois
ROUTE 66
LICENSE PLATES



[Order Now >](#)

Welcome to Route 66 in Illinois!

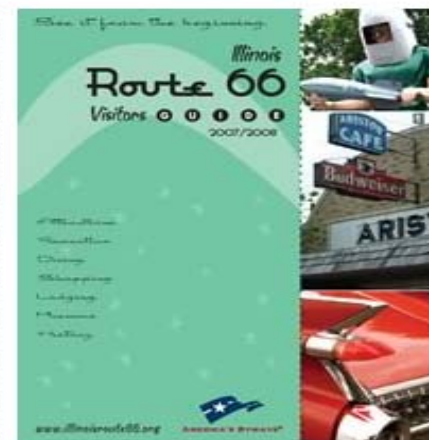
We're glad you stopped by for a visit, and we hope you find everything you need to know (and some stuff that's just plain fun) about traveling our Byway.

Route 66 defined a remarkable era in the growth of our nation. As it threaded its way across eight states, it left its indelible mark on our nation's physical, historical and cultural landscape. No other road symbolizes optimism, freedom and the American Dream quite like Route 66.

So browse, link-up and learn about our road. And, hey, if we've missed something you want, give us a holler. We'll be glad to do whatever we can to help you out.

In the Spotlight

- [Illinois Historic Route 66 Earns National Scenic Byway Designation](#)
- [Illinois Route 66 Materials Now Available](#)



AMERICA'S BYWAYS™

Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project, Inc. • c/o CITDO • 700 East Adams St • Springfield, IL 62701
info@illinoisroute66.org • 217.525.9308 • 866.378.7866 • Fax: 217.525.8004


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[Overview](#)
[Essence of the Byway](#)
[Stories](#)
[Just For Fun](#)

The Road - Essence of the Byway

Route 66 is the "Mother Road" & Illinois is where it all begins. From the majestic skyline of Chicago to the Mighty Mississippi, you'll experience the romance of the road and discover the legendary people and places that have given millions of travelers their "kicks on Route 66."

Unlike traditional highways that ran north-south or east-west, Route 66 followed the trail blazed by American history itself. A look at 66 on the map is a glimpse at the direction of transportation and commerce of the country from the 1830's to the present. From the beginning, this is a story that "begins" with Chicago as the gateway to an "end" in the great American west...a compelling story of modern American freedom and mobility.

In 1926, America was on the move and Route 66 became the way to "motor west." The road gave birth to service stations, motels, diners and of course, often kitschy roadside attractions to entertain travelers on their journey. Today, Illinois 66 is a continuum of one-of-a-kind connections to the old road...neon signs, filling stations, mom and pop diners and unique roadside attractions, all set against the backdrop of America's agricultural heartland.


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Day 1

- **Start:** [Chicago](#)

It will be hard to separate the exhilaration of being immersed in the heart of the city from the adventure you're about to begin. Chicago sets the stage for Illinois Route 66 - the opening great American experience - and provides a grand historical context where the road begins.

- **Stop 1:** [Lou Mitchell's Restaurant](#)

Directions from previous place: Go west on E. Jackson Dr. and turn left onto S. Michigan Ave. Turn right into E. Van Buren St. and then right onto S. Jefferson St. Turn right onto W. Jackson Blvd. and go east until you see the restaurant.

Distance from Previous Site: 1.54 miles / 2.5 km

Travel Time from Previous Site: 6 minutes

Suggested Time at This Site: 40 minutes

Make a point to start off your journey on Route 66 with breakfast at the legendary Lou Mitchell's restaurant. You'll get an immediate "flavor" for the hospitality served up on Route 66 - great for the plenty of it is the road's tradition.



Breakfast At Lou Mitchell's

- **Stop 2:** [Midewin Tallgrass Prairie](#)

Directions from previous place: Follow W. Jackson Blvd east to Canal St. and turn right. Follow Canal St. to I-90 and go south until you can merge on to I-55 S. to St. Louis. Follow this road for 51.4 miles, until you see the exit for Wilmington. The exit leads into N. River Rd., which will go through the prairie.

Distance from Previous Site: 51.4 miles / 82.2 km

Travel Time from Previous Site: 58 minutes

Suggested Time at This Site: 1 hour

Stop at the Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie to enjoy the transition from the urban landscape of Chicago to the rolling prairie and wide open spaces Route 66 is known for. Browse through the visitor center at the prairie to gain an appreciation for the natural and historic context of the area. You may want to plan your trip to include a guided tour.

Buckingham Fountain

Built in 1927 in Grant Park, is based on a Versailles Palace fountain. This is one of the largest fountains in the world. Daily music and light displays during the summer make this a popular attraction. Constructed one year after Route 66, it is the nostalgic and symbolic starting point of the road.

Lou Mitchell's Diner

Built in 1923, Lou Mitchell's has served Route 66 travelers since its beginning. As part of its unique tradition, women receive a free box of milk duds. It was inducted into the Route 66 Hall of Fame in 2002. Its atmosphere and menu remain true to the heyday of Route 66. 565 West Jackson Boulevard 312-939-3111.

Cicero

Henry's Drive-In

Their slogan, "It's a Meal in Itself," refers to the way they serve Chicago-style hot dogs in the same bag with French fries and a pickle spear. It is a regional mom and pop diner with a fun old 66 personality. 6031 West Ogden Avenue 708-656-9344.

Hodgkins

McCook Quarry

Spanning both McCook and Hodgkins, this quarry is a 650-acre limestone pit that Route 66 spanned on a precipitous ribbon of road until recently, when it was declared unsafe for travel. The quarry is a visual focal point, and has been throughout the heydays of 66. Its immense size and depth, not to mention the ominous looking abandoned roadway, demand a travelers attention and beg for an explanation. It is ironic that a quarry providing road building material has closed down a portion of the famous road. 5500 Joliet Road 866-713-4862.

Willowbrook

Dell Rhea's Chicken Basket

This restaurant started in 1946 and is a Route 66 classic famous for its specially prepared chicken and nostalgic artifacts. This 66 icon has survived as a remnant in a sea of residential and commercial development. It is an example of a "chicken diner" that was common on Route 66. Dell Rhea's has maintained its down home charm and menu. It is decorated with a vintage chicken motif and turns on the historic neon sign in the evening. 645 Joliet Road 630-654-0909.

Romeoville

White Fence Farm

This restaurant dating to the 1920's which serves the "World's Greatest Chicken" family style. While you wait you can play with and observe a large collection of antique machines, cars, and other artifacts in a rambling building that feels like it dates to the 1920's. 1376 Joliet Road 630-739-1720.

LEGEND



Route 66

1926-30

Route 66 Used Between 1926-1930

1930-40

Route 66 Used Between 1930-1940

1940-77

Route 66 Used Between 1940-1977



Interstate Highway

283

Interchange Exit Number

45

U.S. Highway

53

State Highway



Lakes & Rivers



Illinois Department of Transportation



ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 HERITAGE PROJECT, INC.



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Just for Fun - Recipes

ARIZONA RANCHERO OMELET

- ½ Cup New Red Potato's, Cubed
- 1 Tablespoon Butter
- 1 Green Onion, Sliced
- ¼ Pound Chorizo Sausage, Browned & Drained Well
- 1 Red Bell Pepper, Diced
- 3 Eggs, Beaten
- ½ Cup Shredded Cheddar Cheese
- ½ Cup Shredded Monterey Jack Cheese

Cook potatoes and keep them warm. Brown sausage and drain well. In a skillet, place butter and cooked potatoes over medium heat for 1 to 2 minutes. Pour beaten eggs mixture over the potatoes. Cook, constantly lifting the edges with a spatula to ensure even cooking throughout. Top with Chorizo sausage, green onion slices, red bell pepper and cheese. Cover and cook until egg is set, about 1 to 2 minutes. Serve with fresh fruit and biscuits. Yields 1 serving.

ONE STOP TOMATO SOUP

- 1 Peck Ripe Tomatoes
- ½ Cup Sugar
- 2 Red Peppers
- 5 Sprigs Parsley
- ¼ Cup Salt
- 1 Teaspoon Pepper
- 3 Bunches Celery
- 10 Small Onions
- ½ Cup Butter
- ½ Cup Flour

Cook tomatoes and sieve. Boil pulp down nearly to half. Grind onions, parsley, celery and peppers through a food chopper. Pour in the tomatoes. Thicken with flour and enough water to make it smooth. Stir in the pulp and tomato juice and boil 30 minutes. Add butter before removing from heat. Can while hot. Makes 6 to 7 pints. To use, add milk and heat.

Funks Grove MAPLE SIRUP BARS

- ½ Cup Butter
- ¼ Cup Sugar

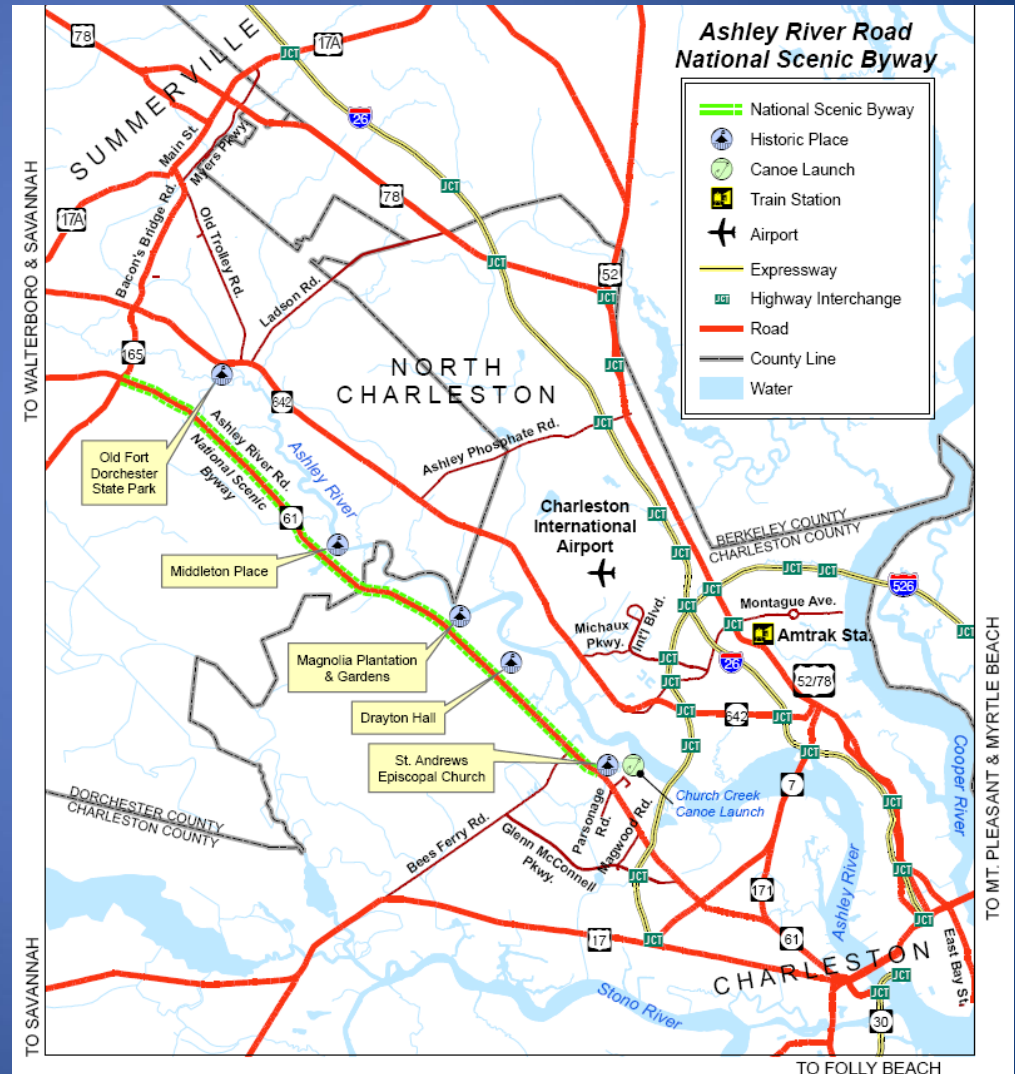
What are your Visitor Experiences?

What do visitors need?

- List what makes a good road trip?
- List what makes a bad road trip?
- From your experience what is the stuff that contributes to a good byway trip?
(brochure, maps, signs, repetition of information in different media, accessibility, facilities, Interp. Center,

Ashley River Road - SC

- Think about your road from a visitors point of view about
- Is your traveler experience pleasant?
- Can you get to the byway?



Wayfinding Questions that Need Wayshowing Answers:

For travel to be successful, byway travelers must be able to:

- Identify origin and destination,
- Determine turn angles,
- Identify segment links and directions of movement,
- Recognize on-route and distant landmarks, *and*
- Mentally embed or visualize the route in a larger reference frame:
a cognitive map.

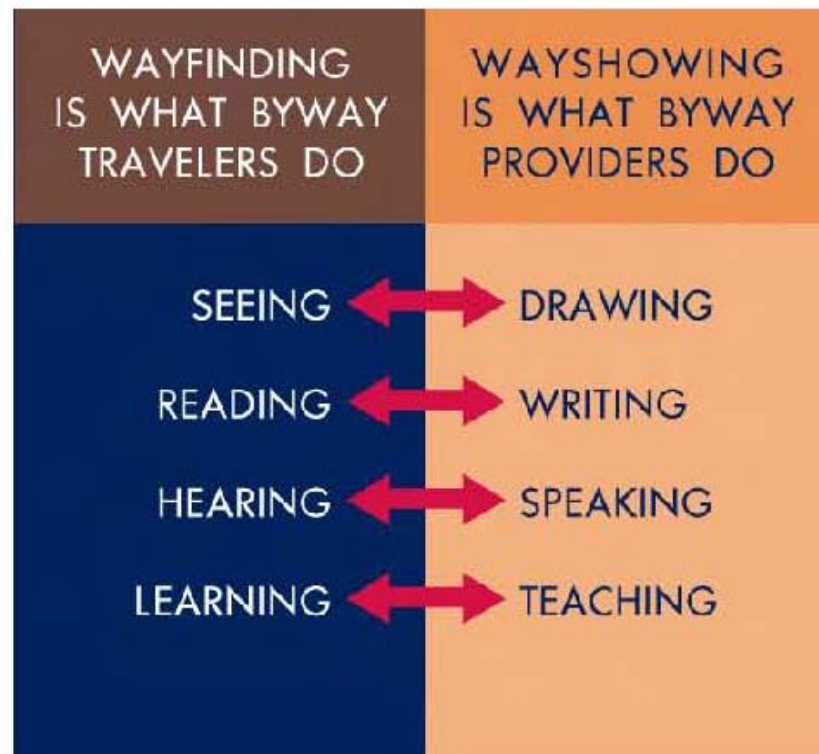
To successfully experience any byway, travelers need:

- To know where the byway begins and ends, when they are accessing a byway, and when they are leaving a byway environment;
- To create, refresh and expand their mental maps of a byway corridor and to establish and strengthen their orientation to the byway and the part of the world that surrounds that byway;
- A reliable and easily recognizable sequence of visual cues to follow when traveling along a byway; *and*
- To locate and safely travel to planned stops and special places to fulfill their desired byway experience.

Byway providers have a responsibility to show travelers the way along the byways they are manage.

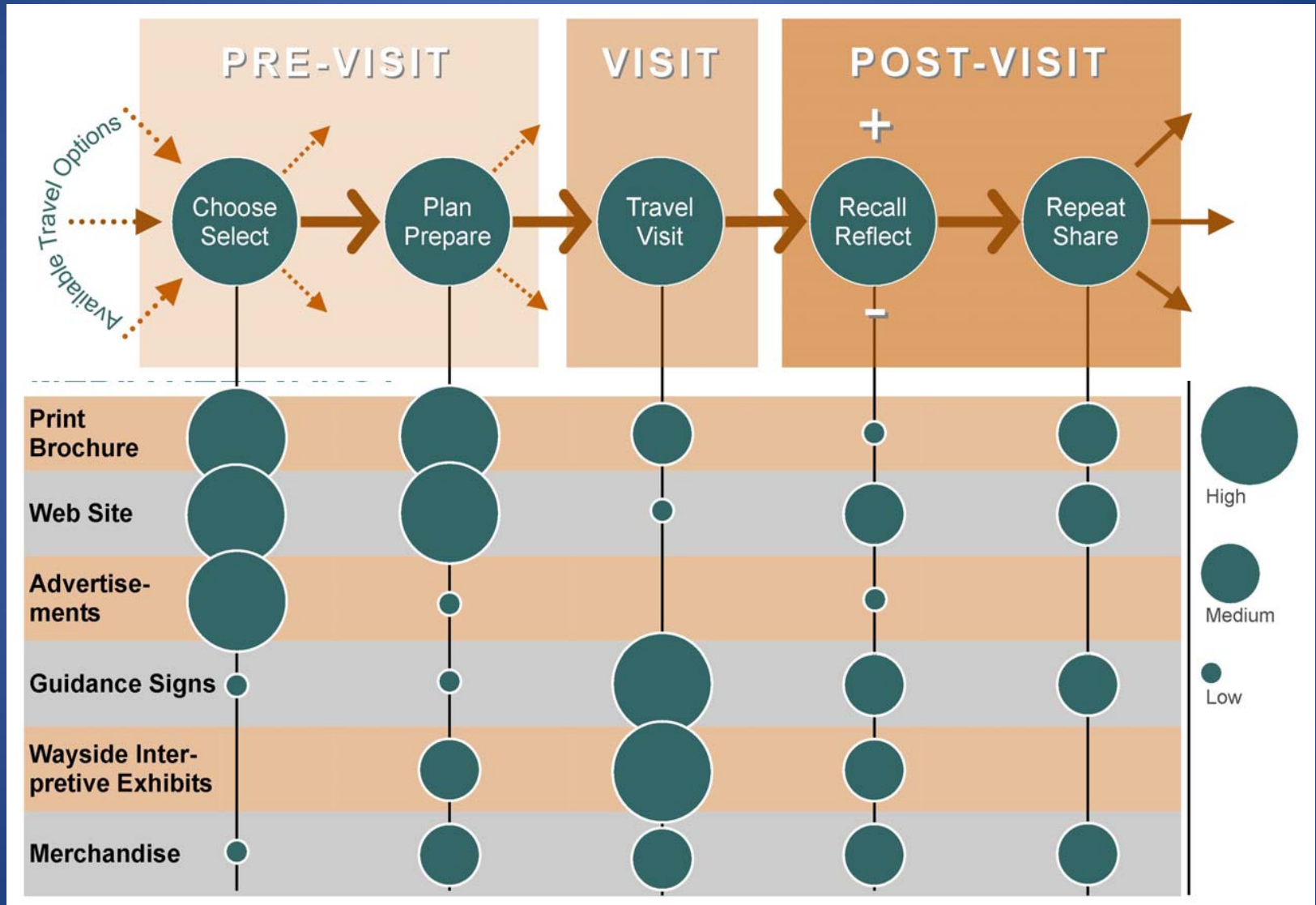
Wayfinding. Wayshowing. Who does what?

Wayfinding is a mental process, performed by byway travelers, that turns a traveler's goals into decisions, actions, and behaviors. **Wayfinding is continuous problem solving under uncertainty.**

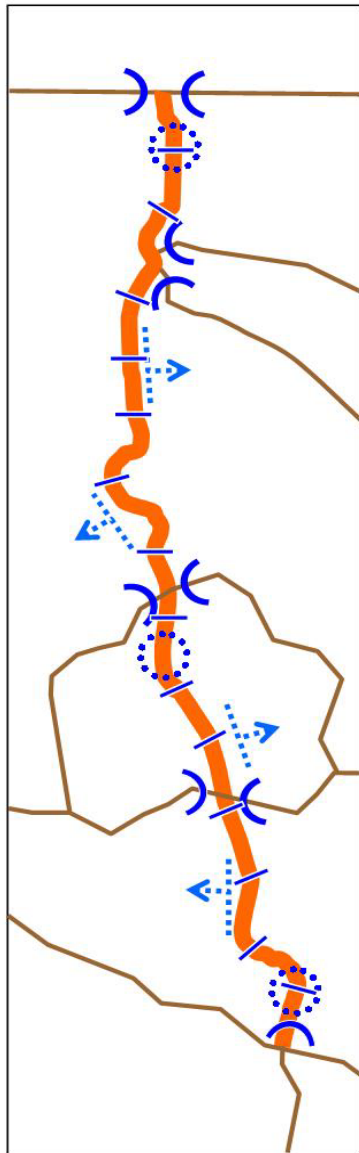


Wayshowing is the communication of information, intentionally undertaken by byway providers, to help travelers set desired goals, make decisions, and take appropriate actions.

Accommodating Visitors



The Byway Guidance System



LEGEND

 Byway

 Major
Highways



A. Entrances, Exits and Gateways



B. Orientation Stops



C. Repetitive Route Markers



D. Directions to Planned Stops

E.

Portable Byway Map