

761—132.5(306D) Application and approval process.

132.5(1) Program cycle. The scenic byway program shall operate on a two-year cycle, with the following steps and timetable:

<u>Step</u>	<u>Timetable</u>
Deadline for submission of applications	October 1 of even-numbered years
Field inventories of proposed routes	April to October of odd-numbered years
Evaluation and rating of proposed routes	November to February following field inventories
Designation and signing of routes	March to August of even-numbered years

Subrules 132.5(2) to 132.5(7) further explain each step of the program cycle.

132.5(2) Application. Application to designate a route as a scenic byway shall be on a form provided by the department and shall be submitted to the office of location and environment by the application deadline. The application must be accompanied by a document indicating approval of the designation from the city council of each city and the board of supervisors of each county through which the proposed route passes.

132.5(3) Initial review. Applications shall be reviewed by the advisory council to acquaint the council members with the proposed routes, to allow the members time to provide any information from their areas of expertise regarding the routes, and to provide guidance to the program.

132.5(4) Field inventory. The department shall conduct a field inventory of proposed routes. The department shall collect the following information for each proposed route:

- a. Types of views along the route, including panoramas, scenes and focal points. Several elements or items related to material or color are also pinpointed.
- b. Quality of the various views along the route, from outstanding to poor or distracting.
- c. How long one sees a particular view or element.
- d. Relative ease of seeing the various views and elements as the road is driven.
- e. Visual character of the roadway alignment.
- f. Types of scenic areas or historic sites along the route.
- g. Variety of views as the route is driven.

132.5(5) Evaluation and rating. The department shall compile and evaluate the field inventory data for each proposed route, calculate an overall quality rating for each proposed route, and prepare a written report documenting these findings. A potential quality rating ranges from “excellent” to “very poor.” The midpoint is “average.”

132.5(6) Selection. The advisory council shall review the evaluations and ratings and select the routes to be designated based on this information and any other information the council may have obtained regarding the routes. For a route to be designated, it must have an overall quality rating that is above “average.” Also, at least 50 percent of the length of the route must be rated above “average.”

132.5(7) Signing. The department shall provide the necessary state scenic byway signs and accompanying posts and hardware for the newly designated scenic byways.