



Wisconsin Department of Transportation

Tommy G. Thompson
Governor

Charles H. Thompson
Secretary

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
P. O. Box 7910
Madison, WI 53707-7910

June 24, 1999

Mr. Robert Draper
Manager of National Scenic Byways Program
Federal Highway Administration
HEP-10, Room 3222
400 7th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20590

Dear Mr. Draper:

As Secretary of the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, I Charles H. Thompson, administratively establish an interim State of Wisconsin Scenic Byways program with the expectation that the Wisconsin State Legislature will enact the program as part of the 1999-2001 Biennial Budget bill in July, 1999. The interim program Wisconsin State Scenic Byways program is established on June 24, 1999.

Under interim designation, the Wisconsin Department of Transportation may designate portions of the state highway system as a scenic byway when the highway corridor possesses unusual, exceptional, or distinctive scenic, natural, historic, recreational, cultural, or archaeological features. After legislative enactment, the department shall adopt and promulgate rules and regulations establishing the procedures and criteria to be used in making scenic byway designations.

There is internal Wisconsin Department of Transportation consensus and local and national recognition that the Great River Road (STH 35) which traverses the Mississippi River corridor, possesses such a high degree of unusual, exceptional, and distinctive scenic, natural, historic, recreational, cultural features, that it would meet and most likely surpass all criteria. Given this support and recognition, I hereby designate the Great River Road as Wisconsin's first scenic byway in both the interim and final program.

Sincerely,

Charles H. Thompson
Secretary

CHT:jvc

cc: Mary Ann McNamara, FHWA