



Illinois River Road Receives Boost for Economic Development

Peoria, IL (September 15, 2011) – The Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway has been awarded a \$78,000 National Scenic Byway Program planning grant by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, bringing the Byway’s total grant awards to just over \$1 million. The grant money will be used to collaborate with byway communities to study and integrate and prioritize local and regional community and economic development plans, as well as developing new projects related to Illinois River Road travel into the byway’s current Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

Anaise Berry, Byway Director, states “This money enables us to create an action plan that will result in projects that enhance unique characteristics of the byway and its communities; provide more for travelers to experience and enjoy; and create better ways for travelers to travel and experience the byway. Additionally, the plan will entail projects that ultimately enhance the quality of life for those living in the byway region through increased tourism, jobs, mobility and outdoor opportunities.” The final CMP product will include project directives having significant long-term strategic benefits through planning, safety and infrastructure improvements to roadway facilities. These improvements may include bike and pedestrian trails, scenic pull-offs and visitor facilities, just to name a few. “Once our action plan is developed, we will seek funding through National Scenic Byway Program grants and other funding programs available to implement those priority projects,” said Berry.

The Illinois River Road was designated a National Scenic Byway in 2005 by the U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Highway Administration, which recognizes roads having outstanding archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational and scenic qualities. It stretches 291 miles alongside the Illinois River from Ottawa to Havana and is notable for its natural and historic qualities. The Byway covers ten counties including Peoria, Tazewell, Woodford, LaSalle, Bureau, Putnam, Marshall, Stark, Fulton, and Mason. The Byway has six gateway communities including Ottawa, Princeton, Peoria, Pekin, Canton, and Havana. Learn more at www.illinoisriverroad.org.

If you have questions or would like to schedule an interview with Anaise Berry regarding the Illinois River Road, contact Renee Charles at 495-5905 or rcharles@h-p.org or Byway Director Anaise Berry at 495-5909 or aberry@edc.h-p.org.

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The Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway is a program of the Economic Development Council for Central Illinois - a company of The Heartland Partnership.



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