



Ohio National Road Association

President: Denna Johnson

Vice President: Cyndie Gerken

Byway Coordinator: Thea Walsh

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★★★ *An All – American Road National Scenic Byway* ★★★

Board of Directors

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Vice President:

Cyndie Gerken – Miami Co.

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President's Message

Spring 2007

Greetings ONRA Members!

I hope the New Year has been healthy and happy for you and yours. Changes have affected the Association with Ed Kemper stepping down as President and former Scenic Byways Section Chief, Paul Staley taking a new position at ODOT. Both have enriched the Ohio National Road Association (ONRA) in numerous ways and for their untold contributions, we will be forever grateful. But, don't think that we're getting rid of Ed that easily. He's still planning to be an active member of the Association!

As the new ONRA President, I am encouraged by both the enthusiasm of the Board and the momentum that drives our many exciting projects. I am proud to be serving in this capacity and, along with Vice President, Cyndie Gerken, will strive to continue the work of promoting, preserving and protecting the Historic National Road in Ohio.

At the January 23 ONRA Board meeting, I unveiled a list of our 2007 Goals for the Association. These goals include Preservation of Historic Resources, Targeting and Avoiding Insensitive Development, Accurate Placement of Directional Signage, Planning for Accessibility to the Blaine Bridge, Planning for State Gateway Welcome Centers, Obtaining Corporate Sponsorships, Increasing Private and Business Memberships, Creating an Ohio National Road Speakers' Bureau, Forming Alliances with Classroom Educators, and Establishing an Awards Program for Sites along the Historic National Road. We will be continuing our work on the Interpretive Signage project and of course, promoting the Road whenever possible!

This year has already seen attention and recognition given to ONRA. Our Design Guidelines Handbook has been well-received and is now award-winning, too! And in the March 2007 edition of Ohio Magazine, ONRA is prominently featured in Glenn Harper's outstanding article on the National Road. We all have much of which to be proud.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank you, the members, for supporting the work of the Association. 2006 was a good year for ONRA and with your help, 2007 will be our best yet.

Denna Johnson - President

Upcoming Events

The **2007 Ohio Genealogical Society conference** to be held in Columbus April 12-14. This year's theme is "Along The National Road" and will feature workshops on using research tools to study the Road. ONRA's Glenn Harper will be speaking at the conference from 8-9:30am on April 13th.

The **Spring 2007 National Road Alliance meeting** to be held April 26-27 at the 1839 Huddleston House along the National Road in Cambridge City, Indiana.

The **2007 National Scenic Byways Conference** to be held May 20-23 in Baltimore, Maryland. For more information, contact Leah Kohits, at the America's Byways Resource Center at 866.974.6403 or visit www.bywaysonline.org to register.

Historic National Road Yard Sale Days Shop along the National Road (US 40) from Baltimore to St. Louis from May 30 - June 3, 2007. *You'll find everything from antiques, collectables, furniture, glassware, fresh garden produce and much more!* Fill your ditty with deals! For more information, contact Patricia McDaniel 765.825.6295 or 765.478.4809 or Thea Walsh 937.328.3582.

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Funded in part by the Federal Highway Administration

Ohio's Byways... A Sunday drive anyway!





AASHTO TO HONOR OHIO HISTORIC NATIONAL ROAD PROJECT

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), in association with the US Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and America's Byways Resource Center have announced their 2007 Scenic Byway Awards: Sharing Success & Honoring Excellence. The awards are the products of a biennial competition which seeks to showcase projects of excellence and share successful models that can be adapted for other byway corridors.

The Ohio Historic National Road Design Guidelines Handbook has been selected as an award winning project. The project was selected from 49 nominations throughout the United States, and was one of only eight to receive the award. This project was the only award winner in the planning category. It is the only project in the State of Ohio and the only National Road specific project to receive this award during this biennial competition period.

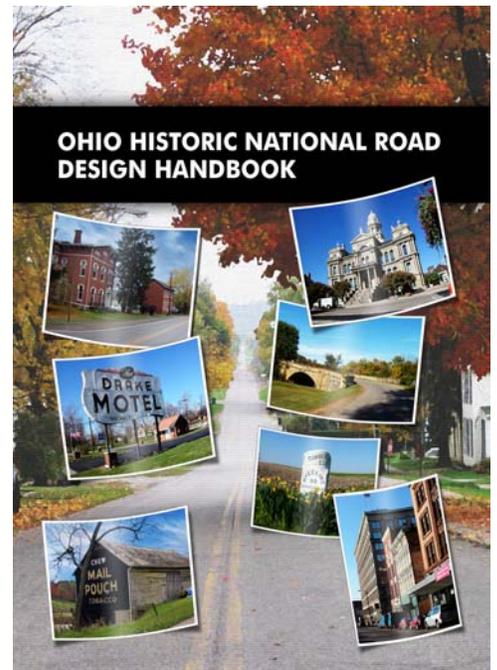
The Design Guidelines Handbook was produced in recognition of the complexity of context-sensitive design and varying levels of control and governance of the roadway corridor along the 227-mile long Ohio Historic National Road. The byway passes through 10 counties, 13 cities, 16 villages and 38 townships. The Handbook was initiated and is used as a resource that can

be applied to a variety of circumstances and settings. The overall goal of the Handbook is to assist local efforts in preserving, protecting and enhancing the byway corridor.

The project was funded by a grant from FHWA's National Scenic Byway Program awarded through the Ohio Department of Transportation and matched with funds from The Turner Foundation (Springfield, Ohio) and the Clark County - Springfield Transportation Coordinating Committee. The Ohio National Road Association and the Ohio Historic Preservation Office of the Ohio Historical Society administered the project. Professional consultation was truly a collaborative effort including Judith B. Williams, The EDGE Group, Lincoln Street Studio and Burgess & Niple. The project benefited tremendously from the creativity and expertise of Tedd Hardesty, Frank Elmer and Bethany Rutter, who all were so committed to creating a quality (award-winning) publication!

Glenn Harper, of the Ohio Historic Preservation Office nominated this project for the award. He has been instrumental in obtaining the All-American Road status for the Ohio Historic National Road, obtaining funding for the Design Guidelines Handbook project and administering the project. Glenn will accept the AASHTO

Award for the Ohio National Road Association at an award ceremony at the 2007 National Scenic Byway Conference this May in Baltimore, Maryland. Other ONRA members to attend the conference include Board President- Denna Johnson, Vice President - Cyndie Gerken, Treasurer - Lynn Kartavich, Board Member - Marian Vance and Byway Coordinator - Thea Walsh.



Indiana's New Guidebook

Driving the National Road in Indiana, a guidebook to the National Road in Indiana, was recently released. A paperback book capturing the expression and scenic beauty of the Historic National Road in the State of Indiana, it is 108 pages long and includes more than 90 black and white photos. The guidebook was written by Mary Beth Temple a freelance writer. *Driving the National Road in Indiana* is currently available at the Old National Road Welcome Center in Richmond, Indiana, and online at www.amazon.com and www.booklocker.com. Temple will be touring Indiana this spring to promote her new publication.

New Exhibit

March 1, 2007 a new exhibit featuring the Ohio National Road opened at the Statehouse in Columbus. The exhibit, sponsored by the Ohio Historical Society and the Ohio National Road Association, includes multiple panels that highlight information in the Ohio National Road Traveler's Guide. The exhibit will be on display at the City of Englewood Government Center and The National Road / Zane Grey Museum this spring. For more information about the exhibit contact Thea Walsh, Byway Coordinator at 937.328.3582.



Members-In-Print

As part of the Arcadia Publishing's Images of America series, ONRA Board Member, Marian Vance has authored a book on Bucyrus, Ohio. It is a pictorial history of her hometown, famous for its bratwurst and hand-hammered copper kettles.

Ex-Officio Board Member, Glenn Harper has written an article titled "Adventure Road" in the March 2007 issue of *Ohio Magazine*. In it he describes the experience of traveling the National Road in Ohio and details what attracts travelers to take a trip on the Road.

The Historic National Road in Ohio

State of the Road 2007

2006 was a banner year for the National Road in Ohio. The bicentennial of the National Road was celebrated across the state, with car rallies, proclamations, historical markers and a 227-mile long yard sale. The Road was highlighted in major publications, including *Midwest Living*, *Ohio Magazine*, *Timeline* and numerous large and small city newspapers. A *Traveler's Guide to the Historic National Road in Ohio* was reprinted and with guide in hand many more people traveled the Road, exploring its many historic and scenic resources. The *National Road Design Guidelines Handbook* was published, providing local communities with information and technical assistance for improving the National Road.

However, despite our efforts the historic and architectural integrity of the Historic National Road in Ohio continues to be threatened. The following is a brief summary of the challenges and opportunities we face.

Lost National Road: The Continued Loss of the Road's Historic Resources

Despite lots of positive publicity, increasing numbers of tourists and growing grassroots advocacy for the Road and related historic resources, important historic properties continue to be lost. Brownville's 1826 brick National Hotel/Old Coach Inn, recently became a victim of "demolition by neglect" and the Gordin Motel, east of Reynoldsburg, was demolished in October 2006.

Deterioration of Road Infrastructure

The Road's historic infrastructure (stone bridges, culverts and old road sections) also continues to deteriorate. While the Blaine, Cassell and Fox Run S-bridges have been restored, other bridges and old road sections are in a state of disrepair. The bridge over Crooked Creek, west of Cambridge, was closed in 2004 and is threatened with demolition. Brick and concrete old road sections suffer from deferred or no maintenance, including Peacock Road in Guernsey County. Listed on the National Register of Historic Places, this old road section contains an early example of brick curbing and original 1925 guardrail. When repairs are made to old road sections they are sometimes inappropriate, such as the brick section of road that was recently paved with blacktop.

Blaine Bridge, Phase II

The future of the Blaine Hill Bridge in Belmont County is once again at a crossroads. More than a year after rehabilitation and restoration was completed it remains an isolated and hidden gem among the National Road's many historic resources. There are no signs directing travelers to the site, no adequate parking, no access for busses and a cumbersome and dangerous turn is required from the west on to the old roadbed leading to the bridge. Worse yet, with the exception of some nearby well-kept houses, the adjacent property remains abandoned and derelict, hardly a fitting setting for one of the most significant structures along the entire All-American Road National Scenic Byway. A meeting was recently held among state and local bridge stakeholders to begin planning for the redevelopment of the bridge site, to include parking, landscaping, lighting and interpretative signage.

Insensitive Development

Development (commercial and residential) is occurring along nearly every segment of the Road with no thought about maintaining the landscape of the Road through the construction of buffer strips or other types of site development design. The problems associated with development along urban and suburban sections of the Road are highlighted in the *Ohio Historic National Road Design Guidelines Handbook*. However, communities must commit to and hopefully adopt the appropriate guidelines. There continues to be a disconnect between those who see economic development as new businesses and subdivisions and those who believe heritage tourism generated by the many attributes of the National Road also contributes significantly to economic development. Local governments must find a way to encourage growth and development while also maintaining the integrity of the Byway.

Inadequate Directional Signage

Despite the initial installation of Ohio National Road directional signage, the Road continues to suffer from an overall lack of these signs. This is true on Interstate 70, where large signs directing people to the National Road are completely absent, along US 40 and at the intersection of the National Road with state routes or other roads, where there is a total lack of signage directing people on to the National Road. Nor is there any signage identifying old road sections, so that people traveling on US 40 can choose to drive these significant examples of original roadbed if they wish. A list of proposed additional locations for directional signage was compiled nearly two years ago. However, no additional signs have been installed at any of the recommended locations.

The National Road / Zane Grey Museum

At a time when the National Road is receiving national and even international publicity and increasing numbers of tourists are traveling the Road, the only museum along the entire National Road specifically constructed to interpret the Road's history remains underused and closed much of the year. While a large brown interstate sign directs people to the Museum, they will find the building closed during all but the summer months. The problem is lack of funding for this and numerous other OHS-owned sites. A Friends of the Museum Group has been formed and a new director, Mary Ellen Weingartner, has been hired, presenting new opportunities for expanded use and better programming of this important site.

Become a National Road Advocate

As a member of the Ohio National Road Association, you are a stakeholder in the future of the Road. You are also our eyes and ears. You are close to the scene and often aware when a building is threatened or the Road may be affected in a negative way. We hope you will act on behalf of the National Road when it counts the most. Please do not hesitate to contact a member of the Ohio National Road Association Board of Trustees or your byway coordinator with your ideas and suggestions.

ONRA Website

Be sure to check out ONRA's website at www.ohionationalroad.org where you can learn about history on the Ohio National Road, as well as all the upcoming National Road events, the latest news, links to other great National Road sites, and links to the websites of ONRA members with their own businesses.



Ohio National Road Association
 C/O Thea Walsh—Byway Coordinator
 76 E. High Street
 Springfield, Ohio 45502

The Ohio National Road Association would like to thank its sponsor:



Membership Information

You have the opportunity to play an important role in the preservation and development of the National Road by becoming a Member of the Ohio National Road Association.

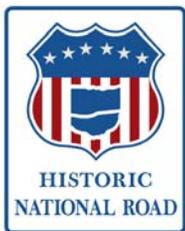
NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

EMAIL _____

HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT ONRA? _____



SEND FORM AND PAYMENT TO:
 OHIO NATIONAL ROAD ASSOCIATION
 C/O THEA WALSH—BYWAY COORDINATOR
 76 E. HIGH STREET
 SPRINGFIELD, OHIO 45502

Founding/Business

Membership

Membership: For your donation, you will join a select group of individuals who have a vision of what the National Road can be and what part it can play in the development of the communities it connects. The following membership rates apply:

Individuals

Student Membership: \$10

Individual Membership: \$30

Founding Membership: \$50

Families

Weekend Rover: \$100

Ohio Voyager: \$250

Byway Pioneer: \$500+

Business Membership: Like Founding Members, your donations will afford you a position in the ONRA community and will include you in the visioning and community connections of the National Road. Business members will also receive a National Road window sign. The following **business** rates apply:

1 - 10 employees: \$100

11 - 100 employees: \$250

101 - 500 employees: \$500