I-185 Scenic Byway

Corridor Management Plan
March 2007

Winter Scene Located One Mile from the I-185 Scenic Byway
I-185 SCENIC BYWAY
CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN

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**Introduction**

The I-185 Scenic Byway provides travelers with a view of gently undulating, mixed pine forest terrain as well as numerous opportunities for exploration of the local region beyond the limits of the interstate system. The purpose of the designation of the I-185 Scenic Byway is to protect the existing scenic qualities of the route, as well as to provide information about the rich cultural and natural attractions in the vicinity of I-185.

This Corridor Management Plan (CMP) provides strategies for the conservation and enhancement of the I-185 Scenic Byway as well as for the promotion of tourism and economic development in the region. A CMP is a requirement for the designation of all Georgia Scenic Byways by the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). This document is intended to provide an organizational structure for local citizens to manage the corridor and to protect the qualities that make the byway unique.

The Georgia Department of Transportation does not assume any financial or other legal responsibilities by the designation of local roadways as a scenic byway.
Vision Statement

Good planning involving local communities is essential to a successful byway. The role of local involvement in the planning process is to create a vision for how the byway will be promoted and to identify goals and objectives for long-term management of the byway.

The vision statement for the I-185 Scenic Byway was developed from initial meetings of stakeholders and interest groups and was approved by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission. The vision provides the framework for activities dealing with the byway.

To protect, enhance and promote the scenic, natural, historic, recreational and cultural qualities of this byway and the surrounding region through preservation, interpretation and beautification.

Route Description and Project Area

The route of the I-185 Scenic Byway incorporates the entire width of the interstate right of way along I-185 beginning at Interstate 85 in Troup County, through Harris County, and extending into northern Muscogee County terminating at Exit 12/Williams Road, immediately north of the City of Columbus (Maps 1 through 5). The byway is approximately 39 miles in length.

Although the designated scenic byway route is limited to the right-of-way dedicated as part of I-185, an area of approximately 10 miles east and west of the interstate is included within the context area of the I-185 Scenic Byway. This larger area provides much of the historic, cultural, scenic, recreational and historic characteristics that are vital to the significance of the byway route.

View north on the I-185 Scenic Byway.

The entire length of the I-185 Interstate corridor is 49 miles long (this distance includes mileage outside of the designated I-185 Scenic Byway corridor) and is
contained within Troup, Harris and Muscogee Counties. Construction of the interstate began in September 1964 and was completed in February 1981.¹

State law provides for segmentation of the corridor, which is the exclusion of corridor sections with industrial or commercial use that includes little or none of the intrinsic qualities for which the scenic byway designation is desired. Sections of the route to be excluded should be identified and a reasonable basis for the exclusion must be established. However, segmentation is not necessary on the I-185 Scenic Byway.

**Scenic Byway Programs**

A scenic byway is a designated public road that is intended to be enjoyable for travelers and is recognized for showing intrinsic qualities that are significant to the locality. Intrinsic qualities can include scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological and recreational resources. The state or federal government, at the request of local communities, designates scenic byways; these roadways provide an opportunity for citizens to preserve significant qualities of a roadway while also providing opportunities for enhancing appropriate tourism and economic development along the route. The development of a local scenic byway also brings together local citizens, organizations and businesses for the purpose of protecting significant roadways and associated land uses.

The designation process for a state scenic byway begins with local involvement of citizens and stakeholders. This group of local supporters identifies a potential scenic byway corridor and makes an application to the Georgia Department of Transportation. Dialogue between the state and local citizens ensues over the proposed route and the route is either approved or denied. If approved, a Corridor Management Plan is developed by the local supporters in order to clearly define the vision of the byway and to identify necessary steps to ensure that the byway standards are met in the future. Public involvement during the process of designating a scenic byway is vital.

**Significance of the I-185 Scenic Byway**

The I-185 Scenic Byway is locally significant for its scenic value. The scenic byway features unbroken miles of mixed pine and hardwood forests with many flowering trees. The corridor has the unique forest attribute of showcasing the area where northern flora in our state meets the southern flora—specifically, where the northern hardwood forests of Georgia meet the southern pine forests.

The strong appeal of the corridor lies in its scenic value that is evident in both the natural and built environments. From a geological standpoint, the byway passes

¹ Gwinnett Daily Post, June 25, 2006, “Happy Birthday to the Open Road.”
through the Goat Rock fault and allows a view of this notable feature north of the Muscogee County line. Highlighting features of the built environment include the overpass highway bridges that are varied by architecture and period of construction, providing visual interest along the byway route.

**Local Background and Public Participation**

Local meetings to discuss the designation of the I-185 Scenic Byway began in earnest in 2005 with involvement from government agencies and citizen volunteers in the Columbus, Georgia, area. Initial meetings were followed by a larger stakeholder meeting held in Columbus in January 2006, during which the process of scenic byway designation was discussed and information and others resources were offered by stakeholders to initiate the designation process.

Public participation for the scenic byway designation process was coordinated by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission and was invited through advertising public meetings in local newspapers, making local press releases, providing local television and radio interviews and announcements, and mailing meeting invitations to all property owners with land immediately adjacent to the I-185 Scenic Byway in Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties.

A community meeting was held in Pine Mountain in June 2006; this meeting served as an educational forum to explain the identified intrinsic qualities of the I-185 Scenic Byway and to solicit comments and support for the designation effort. The majority of the attendees of the June meeting were identified stakeholders from the business community, Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, and local government. A community meeting was also held in Hamilton in August 2006. Citizens who live in the vicinity of the byway or own property adjacent to the byway attended the meeting. Again, the meeting served to educate the public about the facts of scenic byway designation for I-185 and to solicit comment and/or support for the development of the Corridor Management Plan. An application for the designation of the I-185 Scenic Byway was filed with the Georgia Department of Transportation in the spring of 2006, and the application was subsequently approved in the summer of 2006.

Prior to the I-185 Scenic Byway effort, the Columbus Gateways Committee also met with the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT) staff, including Mr. Bill Wright GDOT Director of Landscaping, several times between 2002 and 2004 to discuss the creation of a master plan for the aesthetic enhancement and ongoing landscape maintenance of the entire 49 miles of I-185. Area photographs were taken of all the interchanges and much of the median. Ecos Environmental Inc. of Atlanta, a company on retainer with the GDOT, drew preliminary plans for landscape enhancements. Landscape improvements at two of these interchanges, including GA Highway 315 and GA Highway 18, have received first priority as of this writing. Other interchanges will be designed and improved over a ten-year span of time.
The Keep Columbus Beautiful Commissioners and the Columbus Gateway Committee staff feel as though this stretch of interstate highway can be among the most beautiful in America through the stewardship of local citizens, businesses and stakeholders. The beautification of the byway will require continued landscaping improvements at interchanges and along the wide medians of the interstate corridor.

Callaway Gardens, a 501c(3) organization dedicated to land stewardship and environmental education, is accessible via the I-185 interstate with major interchanges for easy and safe access for thousands of visitors who are golfing, swimming, biking or hiking the vast grounds of this public garden.

The following organizations, individuals and agencies have been involved in the planning and designation of the byway route:

Harris County Board of Commissioners
Troup County Board of Commissioners
Columbus Consolidated Government
Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau
Uptown Columbus
Better Business Bureau
Columbus Sports & Events Council
Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce
Historic Columbus Foundation
Business Improvement District
Trees Columbus
Springer Opera House
Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission
Columbus Gateway Committee
Greater Columbus Georgia Chamber of Commerce
United Way of the Chattahoochee Valley
Cunningham Sales and Leadership Institute
Pine Mountain Tourism Association
Flournoy Development Company
Industrial Metal Fabricators
WC Bradley Company
Synovus Foundation, Inc.
Harris County Chamber of Commerce
Keep Troup Beautiful Commission
Chat-Flint Regional Development Center
Georgia Department of Transportation
Atlanta Casualty Company
Georgia Power Company
Current Status of Planned Roadway Projects

Interstate 185 is part of the Federal Interstate System in Georgia that falls under the jurisdiction of the Georgia Department of Transportation (GDOT). Currently there are GDOT funded landscape enhancements, including planting on trees, underway at interchanges along the I-185 Scenic Byway in Troup and Harris Counties at GA Hwy 315 and GA Hwy 18; these projects are included in the current State Transportation Improvement Program. Although GDOT is under no obligation to perform higher levels of maintenance on the scenic byway route, the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission will coordinate with GDOT staff to make sure that any future state projects, such as the replanting of vegetation or the introduction of a new road interchange, will be in keeping with the vision of the byway.

According to the Interstate System Plan for Georgia, completed in April 2004, there are no recommendations for widening any section of the 39-mile road identified as the I-185 Scenic Byway.

Although it would be ideal to provide safe means of transportation for pedestrians and cyclists along the state’s scenic byways, the nature of the I-185 Scenic Byway as a controlled-access interstate highway precludes this type of alternative transportation.

Interstate 185 is classified as a rural interstate in Troup and Harris Counties, and as an urban interstate within Muscogee County. A general review of crash rates and crash data for I-185 and statewide statistics appears to indicate that the I-185 corridor does not experience higher than average traffic accidents in comparison to statewide counts.\(^2\)

\(^2\) Traffic data provided by Jack Carver, GDOT, March 2007.
Existing Land Use

The I-185 Scenic Byway traverses three counties in West Central Georgia: Harris, Troup and Muscogee Counties. Two of the three counties -- Harris and Muscogee -- maintain existing land use maps that show adjacent land uses to the scenic byway corridor (Maps 6 and 7).

The land use maps in Harris and Muscogee Counties show vast amounts of relatively undeveloped land in the vicinity of the byway; current land uses include agricultural, forestry, recreation/conservation/parks and rural residential. The byway area also supports sections of low-density residential land use, as well as isolated pockets of public/institutional land uses. Except for small development nodes located at crossroads and select interchanges of I-185, including Williams Road in Muscogee County, there is very little commercial development in the byway corridor vicinity.

Future Land Use

Future land use maps illustrate a jurisdiction's anticipated development pattern in the future. Harris, Troup and Muscogee Counties all have adopted future land use maps (Maps 8, 9 and 10).

The future land use maps for all three counties call for new or increased commercial, or in some cases mixed-use, developments at the majority of the interstate interchanges in the vicinity of the byway corridor. The Troup County map also shows an expansion of industrial development on the south side of Greenville Road, west of I-185. New development, or an increased density of development, at byway interchange locations may have a negative visual effect on the byway through the addition of inappropriately scaled signage and building profiles. In order to maintain the existing visual environment of the byway, design guidelines that addressed scale, height, construction materials and setbacks for new development at interstate interchanges would be desirable.

Further, the map for Harris County shows specific areas of low-density residential use (between 5-24 acres) along Highway 18, Highway 219, Pine Lake Road, Hopewell Church Road, Highway 116, and Lower Blue Springs Road. The map also indicates a new industrial and mixed-use development area north of Highway 103 on the west side of I-185.

Meanwhile, the Muscogee County map indicates an area of expanded industrial use north of Hubbard Road on the east side of I-185, as well as the refinement of the land at I-185/Williams Road from general commercial to a mix of commercial, mixed use and high density residential.
Intrinsic Qualities of the I-185 Scenic Byway

Scenic Qualities

The route of the proposed I-185 Scenic Byway begins at I-85 in the rolling hills of Troup County and meanders south through Harris County, climbing over the end of the Pine Mountain Ridge, and terminating in northern Muscogee County at Exit 12/Williams Road, immediately north of the City of Columbus.

The mixed-pine forest buffer on the byway route provides a backdrop of subtle beauty, and passing motorists can catch glimpses of undeveloped lands, including agricultural fields and pastures, through the evergreens. The undulating topography of the land provides a pleasurable driving environment as well as an occasional scenic view of surrounding countryside from high points on the corridor. The scenic quality of the byway is heightened by the absence of off-premise signs.

The median plantings along the byway offer an attractive greenspace. Future refurbishment of the aging, existing vegetation in the medians is a significant opportunity to further invest in this visual amenity.

The I-185 Scenic Byway is an excellent example of a roadway that provides access to notable scenic, cultural and natural features of the wider Troup/Harris/Muscogee County area. The byway is an outstanding resource that should be shared with the State of Georgia and the motoring public.

Winter View of the I-185 Scenic Byway.
**Intrinsic Qualities Found Within 10 Miles of the I-185 Scenic Byway**

Beyond the designated route of the I-185 Scenic Byway is a rich network of scenic roads, cultural and historic sites, and natural areas that provide an interesting backdrop for the scenic byway route. The following qualities reflect places that are located within approximately 10 miles of the I-185 Scenic Byway; however, these qualities describe resources that are not located on the byway itself and are not held to the standards of the scenic byway program.

**Scenic Qualities**

The surrounding landscape of the byway route—located a short drive from the byway itself—features numerous scenic areas, such as the small communities along GA18 from Jones Crossroads (3 miles from byway) to Pine Mountain (6.5 miles from byway); the beautiful scenes along Hopewell Church Road between Whitesville (.5 miles from byway) and Pine Mountain; and the rural character of parts of GA219 running west of and parallel to the byway. Rural qualities of the area are often those of historic agricultural landscapes, with scattered farmsteads, field margins and outbuildings. There are also striking views of the natural and 1930s-era designed landscape of GA190 winding along the Pine Mountain Ridge in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt State Park, approximately 9 miles west of the proposed byway route.

**Natural Qualities**

One of the primary physical features of the landscape is the ridgeline of Pine Mountain (approximately 6.5 miles from byway). Along with Oak Mountain that extends to the south of Pine Mountain, together the ridges create the scenic Pine Mountain Valley that is accessible from the byway via GA16. While technically the ridges are not considered part of the Appalachian Mountain chain, they are one of the first foothills of the Appalachians to appear on its southern end. Pine Mountain Valley (9.75 miles from byway) is the home of many free-flowing streams in the local watershed, including Sparks, Dowdell, Barnes and Blue Springs Creeks. Poplars, oaks and hickories provide a lovely canopy overhead.

F.D. Roosevelt State Park (9 miles from the byway), owned by the Georgia Department of Natural Resources, maintains 8,874 acres on and around Pine Mountain, much of which is chestnut oak and pine forest. There are also substantial conservation areas to the west of the byway, including the Chattahoochee River (6 miles from the byway) and Lake Harding (6.3 miles from the byway) that form the western boundary of Harris County. Both areas provide abundant natural habitat for flora and fauna, including the 5,000-acre Blanton Creek Wildlife Management Area (3.5 miles from byway) on the shores of Lake Harding. Part of the wilderness area is a Waterfowl Management Area set aside for waterfowl habitat and conservation.
Historic Qualities

Historic resources dating from the 19th and 20th centuries lend great significance to the character of the byway and are one of the elements that have shaped the cultural landscape. The handprints of past residents of Troup, Harris and Muscogee County are evident in the agricultural “landscape of work” still evident even if no longer operational. Historic farm buildings and associated fields and orchards dot the land, and well-tended homes and churches fit seamlessly into native domestic landscaping. Most of the historic homes of the area are not high-style structures; rather, they are wood-framed buildings with no architectural detail at all—or perhaps a few Queen Anne or Greek Revival details—that suggests the pragmatism of local builders and homeowners.

Jones Crossroads (3 miles from byway) on GA18 is an excellent surviving example of an intact rural crossroads community; the intersection features Jones’ Store, a stone country store built in 1890, and the Union Baptist Church.

Jones’ Store at Jones Crossroads at GA 18 located 3 miles from the byway.

Whitesville (.5 miles from the byway), on GA219, exhibits rural church architecture in its buildings: the Whitesville United Methodist Church and the Jehovah Baptist Church. The fact that rural residents lived within tightly knit communities is further evidenced by the construction of the vernacular Midway Baptist Church, Midway Cemetery and Sunnyside School on Hopewell Church Road (1.75 miles from byway).
Hamilton (8.1 miles from the byway), the small county seat of Harris County, is also a good example of a historic commercial center in rural Georgia. With its courthouse building, a downtown park, and brick block of storefronts, Hamilton reflects a common development pattern.

Historic park in downtown Hamilton, GA, located 8.1 miles from the byway.

Perhaps the most unusual historical developments in the area are those associated with former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and his influence in the development of the Pine Mountain area (6.5 miles west of the byway). Arriving in the area in 1924 to seek treatment for polio in the restorative warm springs, Roosevelt eventually established his own home called Little White House and a model farm in the Warm Springs area. While visiting for weeks at a time in Georgia, Roosevelt was a frequent visitor to the dramatic ridges of Pine Mountain, building an access road to his favorite vantage point called Dowdell Knob. Roosevelt was an original proponent for a scenic highway and park to be located along the Pine Mountain ridge, and when he became President he arranged for the Civilian Conservation Corp (CCC) to build a park and scenic highway. Down the mountain, the route of GA116 through the Pine Mountain Valley (9.75 miles from byway) highlights the historic agricultural character of the area, as well as the 20th century history associated with F. D. Roosevelt’s New Deal resettlement program. Called the Pine Mountain Valley Rural Community Project, the federally funded program attempted to establish a rural industrial community based on the tenets of model farming. One of 100 programs of its kind across the nation during the 1930s and 1940s, Pine Mountain Valley eventually became obsolete.

Cultural Qualities

Additional cultural qualities along the byway are most notable within the nearby cities of Columbus (6 miles from byway) and LaGrange (4.5 miles from byway). LaGrange, incorporated as the county seat of Troup County in 1828, offers plenty for the history buff in its historic community. This city has a variety of architectural and landscape resources found in its National Register-designated historic districts, such as the Broad Street Historic District, East Main Street-Johnson Street Historic District, LaGrange Commercial Historic District and the Vernon Road Historic District.
Opportunities exist for art lovers as well at the Chattahoochee Valley Art Museum located in the historic Troup County jail building, and the Lamar Dodd Art Center on the campus of LaGrange College.

South of the byway in the city of Columbus (6 miles from byway), a dynamic architectural heritage awaits visitors who tour downtown Columbus and its adjoining historic neighborhoods. Other cultural opportunities include the Columbus Museum, focused on regional history and art; the Springer Opera House; and the Port Columbus National Civil War Naval Museum. Black Heritage tours of the city help visitors discover the diverse culture of the city, including the sites associated with Horace King, a former slave and master builder, and Gertrude ‘Ma’ Rainey, Mother of the Blues. Nearby Fort Benning (7 miles from the byway) is the home of the National Infantry Museum.

Recreational Qualities

Recreational opportunities are abundant along the byway. North of Columbus, Flat Rock Park (5.5 miles from the byway) features a 65-acre granite outcropping that provides summer recreation when Flat Rock Creek flows over the rocks. Walking trails and bike trails are also available to explore the loblolly pine forests in the park.

The 23-mile Pine Mountain Trail in F.D. Roosevelt State Park (9 miles from byway) is a scenic hike through a mixed pine forest with waterfalls and rushing creeks. Additional activities at the state park include cooling off in the historic Liberty Bell swimming pool, horseback riding, picnicking and boating.

Pine Mountain Trail hiking trail located approximately 9 miles from the byway.

Georgia Power’s two lakes at the Chattahoochee River—Lake Harding (6.3 miles from the byway) and Goat Rock Lake (7.25 miles from byway) in Muscogee County—offer opportunities for boating, swimming and fishing. The parkland along the Chattahoochee River provides many outdoor recreational activities such as boating, fishing, swimming, hiking and camping at Blanton Creek Park (3.5 miles from byway) and Goat Rock Lake. Blanton Creek Park offers solitude for camping.
and exploring nature trails within its M.A.R.S.H. project—a 28-acre waterfowl habitat. Callaway Gardens (6.5 miles from byway), located in Pine Mountain, is a 14,000 acre designed garden, resort, and woodland preserve. Golf, biking, walking, scenic driving and just enjoying the beauty of nature are the attractions.

The Chattahoochee Riverwalk is a multi-use paved trail that extends south along the Chattahoochee River from Lake Oliver through downtown Columbus (6 miles from the byway) and on to Fort Benning (7.0 miles from the byway). The riverwalk is an attractive urban park that passes a multitude of notable attractions: historic mill sites, the dramatic Fall Line with its rocky outcrops and rapids, the restored Confederate Naval Iron Works now used as a community convention center, and prehistoric Native American settlements.

Also in Columbus (6 miles from byway), the Oxbow Meadows Environmental Learning Center offers 1,600 acres of nature trails and wetlands where the center promotes environmental ethics and awareness. A new feature at Oxbow includes a 192-foot long, 35-foot high forest canopy trail, called the Treetop Trail, which provides a walkway through the trees with a birds-eye view of the flora and fauna of the learning center. The aluminum walking platforms are attached to the trees with a patented design that does not harm the tree.
Corridor Management Issues

Byway Oversight

Part of the designation process of a scenic byway is the corresponding organization or appointment of a local body to provide future oversight and direction for actions taken in relation to the scenic byway. This local entity or organization is to give focused attention toward achieving the goals and objectives of the scenic byway as described in the Corridor Management Plan.

The Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (KCBC) has volunteered as the group dedicated to guide the scenic byway designation process as well as the official byway oversight organization. The most important role of the byway organization is to implement the corridor management plan. Secondary roles include working to preserve the characteristic qualities that provide the byway with its significance, promoting and marketing the byway, educating the public regarding the byway, and organizing state, local and community groups to leverage community resources for the byway.

It is recommended that KCBC establish a working byway oversight group that includes KCBC members and other byway stakeholders such as representatives from the three counties’ governments and other at-large representatives. It will be important to include in the group people who own property or manage a business within the byway corridor area so that those who are invested in the byway will have a voice. The byway organization should meet monthly, at least initially, and its meetings should be open to the public. Participation in this byway oversight group should be initiated through mailings to adjacent property owners as well as advertisement of the byway and its oversight group in the local media.

View of vegetative buffer and landscaped median along the I-185 Scenic Byway.
**Land Use**
Currently, Harris, Troup and Muscogee Counties do not incorporate the I-185 Scenic Byway in their planning process. Once the byway is designated, KCBC should make it a priority to communicate the extent of the scenic byway designation and program benefits to appropriate county officials for inclusion in planning initiatives.

Currently, the implementation of any of the adopted future land use plans in the three counties would introduce new mixed-use, industrial and commercial land uses to the byway area. The changes in existing land use and the increased densities of development have the great potential to negatively impact the scenic, natural, historic and recreational qualities of the byway. KCBC should initiate local advocacy efforts in order to protect the byway area from inappropriately designed development; increased height, number or type of signage in the byway area; and other relevant land use issues.

The expected population growth from Columbus and Muscogee County will continue local pressures to increase development densities in existing areas of low density adjacent to the I-185 Scenic Byway. Vigilance is required by byway advocates to maintain the rural appearance of the byway in the county by working with local officials and citizens to protect those qualities of the byway that will be harmed by increased or insensitively placed development. Actions to be taken might include advocating for reduced densities along interstate corridors; more restrictive ordinance requirements for on-premise sign heights and copy areas; and working to maintain two lane rural roadways where possible.

![Historic Bigham Chapel UMC located 1.1 miles from the byway.](image)

Similarly, over time the spreading growth from county seat LaGrange (4.5 miles from byway) could endanger scenic areas in Troup County in the northernmost section of the byway.

**Sign Standards**
Byway signage reminds travelers that they are on a state designated scenic byway. Properly designated and positioned byway signs keep travelers informed and increase the pleasure of the potential driving experience. It is recommended that
only the State of Georgia Scenic Byway signage be introduced along the byway. GDOT will supply the scenic byway signs. GDOT will install them along state routes while any signs located along local routes have to be installed by local government.

While the official GDOT sponsored scenic byway signs will be located along the I-185 corridor and its interchanges, it is recommended that coordinated directional signs be installed along local corridors adjacent to the byway where indicating the route to a nearby byway attraction or historic site (located off of the byway itself). Directional signs should be consistent in color, shape and size in order to clearly communicate with travelers; the signs should be compatible with, but not a copy of, the GDOT-sponsored scenic byway signs. Local sponsors, not GDOT, would pay for the supplemental signs.

Currently, there are no billboards along the scenic byway route, and the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission will work to ensure that existing local sign regulations are followed. Currently, each of the local governments along the route has ordinances in place that prohibit billboard-type off-premise signage. The Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission also recognizes that federal law prohibits the construction of new billboards along a designated scenic byway route and will work with local governments to ensure that these provisions of federal law are upheld. In addition, the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission will work with Georgia DOT to place scenic byway signs along the route.

**Promotion and Tourism Development**

A significant role of the KCBC as the byway oversight organization is to promote the byway and to create opportunities to increase visitor awareness and experiences along the byway. Developing relationships among various tourism and visitor interest groups regarding activities in the byway area is part of this overall responsibility. Another task includes seeking funding for the promotion of the byway.
Link the I-185 Scenic Byway with the Meriwether-Pike County Scenic Byway, another nearly state-designated scenic byway route, through regional marketing efforts.

Coordinate local tourism associations and Convention and Visitors Bureaus (CVB) to help secure funding of production and distribution of byway maps and brochures.

Develop a marketing plan for the byway that will:

- Create the byway's identity,
- Guide future appropriate activities along the byway,
- Provide information on the types of amenities that could support byway travel, and
- Create opportunities for the success of appropriate business ventures in the identified commercial nodes along the byway interchanges and area intersections.

Education and Interpretation

The I-185 Scenic Byway traverses a landscape that reflects much of what is significant about the people and the land of west central Georgia, including rural crossroad communities, historic farms, pine forests, scenic valleys, dramatic ridgeline views, country churches, rivers and lakes, and a rich cultural history. Highlighting the route of the I-185 Scenic Byway (as well as those intrinsic qualities located within an approximate 10-mile distance from the byway) is a good way to attract visitors and heritage tourism travelers to the byway area. The telling of the byway story should invite the participation of visitors through brochures, walking tours, oral history audios, video segments, and compelling graphics.
• Develop an interpretive framework for the I-185 Scenic Byway. This effort should accomplish the following:
  o Identify local stories, how they relate to the larger region or nation, and how these stories are relevant to the modern era.
  o Find and repeat a core message that residents and visitors will remember.
  o Outline a strategy for telling these stories through creative means, such as signs, exhibits, maps, tours or brochures.
  o Identify area partners and their roles in conveying these stories.
  o Potential interpretive themes could focus on the byway’s (and the larger area’s) natural, agricultural, community development and New Deal history.

• Create a driving brochure with interpretive map that highlights the characteristics and interpretive message of the byway and its surrounding areas. These supplemental materials would be developed and paid for by local sponsorship or grant funding.

• Develop children’s byway material regarding the environmental history of the byway such as Pine Mountain as the southern end of the Appalachian Mountains, and the creation of recreational lakes along the Chattahoochee River. These supplemental materials would be developed and paid for by local sponsorship or grant funding.
Aesthetics
Preserving the scenic qualities of the I-185 Scenic Byway is fundamental to any byway activity. Future byway activities should focus on maintaining the vegetative buffers along the byway, ensuring that out-of-scale and obtrusive commercial signs are restricted along byway interchanges, and that new development is sited and designed appropriately for the byway setting. New buildings should be screened by native vegetation (where possible), including large canopy trees, and should not be visible from the interstate itself. Materials used for all elements of new construction should be earth-toned or neutral in appearance.

Appropriate gateway improvements, such as the beautification of the beginning and end of the interstate byway, should be a high priority. The landscaping of each interstate interchange should be considered as a long-term goal. Appropriate landscaping improvements include the installation of native vegetation with the use of native stones to reflect the indigenous materials of the byway area. Other enhancements recommended include the refurbishment of the vegetated roadway medians that are starting to show their age. Colorful, low-maintenance native plant material should be considered for a replanting of the median.

Historic Preservation
Although there are no historic resources located within the boundary of the I-185 Scenic Byway itself, the area within approximately 10 miles of the byway features intact and significant historic resources and cultural landscapes. These resources are better than any exhibit, sign or brochure in communicating the history of the byway area and larger region.

The I-185 Scenic Byway itself dates to 1964 when construction was begun on the roadway. The interstate corridor was not completed until 1981. Once the corridor reaches 50 years of age in 2014, it may be considered for historic status in its own right.

Unfortunately, not all jurisdictions within the byway area maintain local historic preservation ordinances that could provide some protection to designated historic structures, landscapes or districts and design input into new developments in the area. Only Troup County and the City of Columbus have an adopted local historic preservation ordinance to address issues specifically dealing with the protection of historic resources. KCBC and other groups with a similar preservation interest should cultivate the adoption of local historic preservation planning measures within
the I-185 Scenic Byway area. Preservation planning measures should include the development of a county historic preservation plan, a survey of historic resource resources within the byway area, and the listing of potentially eligible historic resources, landscapes and districts to the National Register of Historic Places.

Other preservation-related activities to consider would be the adoption of appropriate exterior design guidelines for new buildings and the rehabilitation of existing buildings that are located in the vicinity of the byway. Design guidelines address such issues as scale, setback and materials (among others) that can help new buildings or developments “fit” into the existing landscape.
Implementation, Years 1 and 2

The implementation of the I-185 Corridor Management Plan will take the combined efforts of many individuals representing various agencies, organizations and localities. The voice of these individuals, however, will be streamlined through the auspices of the byway oversight organization, Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (KCBC). The KCBC should consider forming specific taskforces or subcommittees to be responsible for the specific implementation tasks below; individuals would then be assigned to each committee or taskforce to build accountability.

The goals and implementation timetables for this Corridor Management Plan should be reviewed and updated, as appropriate, by KCBC on a yearly basis.

Year 1:

- Establish the byway oversight organization to implement the Corridor Management Plan. The members of the KCBC should be educated about the byway and the Corridor Management Plan (CMP).

- Reach out to existing byway stakeholders and property owners along the byway to educate them about the facts of the I-185 Scenic Byway designation. Invite active participation and involvement from stakeholders in specific ways that can help accomplish the goals of the CMP.

- Develop a methodology and plan for surveying and assessing the byway area in order to identify and address issues as they emerge, such as the future commercial development of interstate exchanges. Develop a consistent process for responding to byway needs.

- Work with the local governments of Harris, Muscogee and Troup Counties, as well as Regional Development Center (RDC) staff, to identify existing or future local government actions and development regulations that may impact the byway. Assess the existing and future land uses for the byway area to determine potentially conflicting land uses; work with the local and RDC staff to determine possible solutions that will enable continued county growth but will also protect and preserve the significant qualities of the byway.

- Dialogue with GDOT staff about road maintenance issues and potential locations of scenic byway signage.

- Begin developing designs for supplemental directional and/or interpretive signage—including potential locations and content of information—for the corridors adjacent to the byway that would supplement any GDOT scenic byway signage. These signs would be locally sponsored and installed.
• Identify and prioritize potential areas for beautification and landscape enhancements along the byway, such as replanting the roadway medians with low maintenance, colorful native plantings. Other projects include the landscape beautification of each interstate interchange, using native plants and stones to reflect the natural character of the area. Specify the types of improvements desired and develop basic illustrative materials that can be used for fundraising.

• Coordinate local and regional tourism and visitor's bureau organizations for the purpose of developing a marketing plan for the byway.

• Coordinate with appropriate tourism agencies to ensure that the I-185 Scenic Byway is included in state and regional tourism initiatives.

• Develop an interpretive plan for the I-185 Scenic Byway and the larger area within approximately 10 miles from the byway, including a ‘byway story’ and a multi-faceted strategy for telling the story. Invite participation from local citizens, historians and designers in this effort.

• Identify potential funding sources for the development of promotional and interpretive materials for the byway and the greater area around the byway. Seek funding for the development of these materials.

Year 2:

• Develop promotional and interpretive materials for the byway and the larger byway area based on the first years' planning and fundraising. Phase the work as necessary.

• Continue to coordinate marketing efforts for the byway at the local, regional and state level.

• Work with local officials, RDC staff and the GA Historic Preservation Division in the development of appropriate architectural and site design guidelines for areas immediately adjacent the I-185 Scenic Byway, such as interstate exchanges that are within the viewshed of the byway.
I-185 Scenic Byway
Scale: 1" = 4,500'
Map 1
I-185 Scenic Byway
Scale: 1" = 4,500'
Map 2
I-185 Scenic Byway
Scale: 1" = 4,500'
Map 3
Appendix

County Resolutions of Support
Support Letters
Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia (OAAG) Outreach Efforts
Public Participation Communications
Property Owner Notification
Pre-Application Correspondence
County Resolutions of Support
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE DESIGNATION OF INTERSTATE 185
AS A GEORGIA SCENIC BYWAY

WHEREAS, the Honorable Sam Wellborn, Georgia Department of Transportation Board Member, is undertaking the project of obtaining the support of the Georgia Department of Transportation to designate Interstate 185 as a Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 185 lies within Harris County for a distance of approximately 30 miles, from the county line shared with Muscogee County to the south and with Troup County to the north; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Interstate 185 as a Scenic Byway would begin at the Georgia Visitor Center on Williams Road in Columbus and continue north through Harris County into Troup County; and

WHEREAS, the Scenic Byway designation will result in prohibiting billboards from being erected along the highway; and

WHEREAS, Harris County is proud of the beauty of the natural landscape along Interstate 185 and recognizes the significance of maintaining its natural characteristics.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Harris County does hereby support the designation of Interstate 185, from the Welcome Center in Columbus north into Troup County, as a Georgia Scenic Byway.

Approved and adopted this 3rd day of May, 2005.

Attest:
Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk

Harry Lane, Chairman
A RESOLUTION

NO. 274-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY AND KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL STAFF TO SUBMIT AND APPLICATION TO THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR DESIGNATION OF I-185 FROM WILLIAMS ROAD TO THE COUNTY LINE AS A GEORGIA SCENIC BYWAY.

WHEREAS, The Georgia Scenic Byway Program was established by the Georgia Department of Transportation in 1993; and,

WHEREAS, A Georgia Scenic Byway is defined as any designated highway, street, road of route which features certain intrinsic qualities that should be protected or enhanced; and,

WHEREAS, Intrinsic qualities are the resources present along a byway that define its character, interest and appeal.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to submit an application to the Georgia Department of Transportation to designate I-185 from Williams Road to County Line as a Georgia Scenic Byway.

____________________________________

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the day of May, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of eight members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting
Councilor Anthony voting
Councilor Davis voting
Councilor Henderson voting
Councilor Hunter voting
Councilor McDaniel voting
Councilor Turner Pugh voting
Councilor Rodgers voting
Councilor Suber voting
Councilor Woodson voting

ABSENT
YES
YES
ABSENT
YES
YES
YES
YES
YES

Tiny B. Washington, Clerk of Council

Robert S. Poydasheff, Mayor
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE DESIGNATION OF THE I-185 CORRIDOR
AS A SCENIC BYWAY  # 2005-07

WHEREAS, there is an application being submitted to the Georgia Department of
Transportation to designate the I-185 corridor from the Georgia Visitor
Center on Williams Road in Columbus, Georgia and extending through
Harris County into Troup County; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately thirteen miles of I-185 in Troup County from
the intersection of I-185 and I-85 to the Harris County line; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia Scenic Byway Program was established by the
Georgia Department of Transportation in 1993; and

WHEREAS, A Georgia Scenic Byway is defined as any designated highway,
street, road or route which features certain intrinsic qualities that should be
protected or enhanced; and

WHEREAS, Troup County recognizes the significance of the above-described
portion of I-185 and wishes to maintain the natural beauty of the same;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of
Troup County does support the designation of Interstate I-185 from the
Welcome Center in Columbus through Harris County to the intersection
with Interstate I-85, as a Georgia Scenic Byway.

SO RESOLVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 5th day of July, 2005.

TROUP COUNTY BOARD OF
COMMISSIONERS

BY:

Tim Duffey, Chairman
Troup County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

Stewart Mills, Troup County Clerk
Support Letters
October 17, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Salstrom
Coordinator
City of Atlanta
Capitol Square SW, Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Salstrom:

Please accept this letter of support for the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission (KCBC) Scenic Byways Application and Corridor Management Plan. We understand that the corridor listed in the application is I-85 Williams Road North to I-85. We further support the Scenic, Natural, Historic, Cultural, and Recreational Intrinsic Qualities that are highlighted in the application.

It's important to note that our local Georgia Power Company has enjoyed a long standing relationship with the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission and we support their mission to offer support to the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission. Therefore, it is fitting for them to lead this effort to keep this corridor in its natural state.

We stand ready to offer our continuous support in helping to preserve, promote and protect this corridor.

Respectfully,

Jack W. White
July 31, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Scenic Byways Coordinator  
2 Capitol Square SW  
Room 330  
Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

This letter comes to you to document my support for the application of the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for Scenic Byways status for a stretch of highway north of Columbus, Interstate Highway I-185 between its beginning at I-85 (Exit 21 from I-85) and I-185 Exit 12 (Williams Road).

This 39-mile section of highway passes through some of the most beautiful countryside in our region and provides the main automobile access to our city. I believe it is extremely important to preserve the green area along this highway. We are the only city on I-185 and the natural environment of the roadway helps us accurately present Columbus as an environmentally sensitive city.

The natural beauty along this roadway also ties in with our Gateways Project, which maintains ornamental vegetation on the rights-of-way of the same highway within the Metro area. Although the 39-miles for which we seek Scenic Byways status is mostly outside Columbus city limits, we consider the highway and its natural environment one of the great natural assets of our city.

I earnestly hope the Georgia Department of Transportation will ensure the protection of this scenic corridor for Columbus and for many thousands of motorists traveling to and from our city by granting Scenic Byways designation for the stretch of I-185 I have identified above.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Robert S. Poydasheff  
Mayor  
RSP/jnc

July 31, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Scenic Byways Coordinator  
2 Capitol Square SW  
Room 330  
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

I am writing to express my support and endorsement of the application of the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for Scenic Byways status for some 39-miles of I-185 north of Columbus. This Highway, which connects Columbus with the Interstate system, lies in one of the region’s great, unspoiled green areas.

It is truly a scenic route through beautiful hills and valleys and on this end of the highway it is considered the “front door” to our city. So Columbus has a strong interest in preserving and protecting the natural beauty of this highway corridor.

In my opinion, it is a perfect fit for the Scenic Byways designation. Let me thank you in advance for your serious consideration of this application.

Sincerely,

J. Edward Wilson  
Executive to the Mayor  
/jnc
August 14, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
Georgia Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square SW, Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

Please accept this letter of support for the scenic byways application submitted by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission from I-85, exit 21, continuing on I-185 southbound for approximately 39 miles to exit 12, Williams Road. The Georgia Conservancy worked for several years with citizens from LaGrange in the north to Fort Gaines in the south to develop a vision and goals for watershed-based planning. This scenic byway application is an excellent step in realizing the following goals identified through the Middle Chattahoochee Blueprints for Successful Communities stakeholder process:

- Educate the public about the water resources of the Middle Chattahoochee Watershed, the land over which the water flows, and the importance of the watershed to its plant and animal inhabitants.
- Provide leadership in supporting development that is both environmentally sound and economically viable.
- Encourage balanced economic development and improved quality of life for all residents of the watershed.

Nature-based tourism and agricultural tourism are highly sustainable forms of economic development, and this Scenic Byway designation would raise awareness of the many opportunities this area has to offer. The designation would also serve as a catalyst for local education and appreciation of the natural, cultural, and historical qualities that make this region so distinctive.

The Georgia Conservancy is a catalyst for the stewardship of our natural environment through education, principled advocacy, and inclusive decision-making in order to make Georgia a premier environmental state. We are pleased to support this application and its implications for preservation of natural resources, potential for environmental education, and promotion of environmentally sustainable economic development.

Sincerely,

James S. Stokes
President
June 29, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
State of Georgia Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square SW
Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom,

The Historic Columbus Foundation strongly endorses the Georgia Scenic Byways Program Designation Application of the “Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission.” The proposed I-185 Scenic Byway is a gateway to numerous attractions of historic importance and interest. An largely intact Columbus Historic District complete with the original brick streets and early 19th century architecture beckons visitors back in time for a living history lesson. Each day at 2pm, tour guides are available to provide hour-long tours of five house museums in the historic district. Black Heritage points of interest in Columbus include the recently restored home of “Ma Rainey,” Mother of the Blues. This restoration was made possible by the “Save America’s Treasures” federal grant program. The State Theater of Georgia, the Springer Opera House, is a beautiful nineteenth century theater which was saved from the wrecking ball in the early days of the Historic Preservation movement in Columbus. Five original mills along the Chattahoochee River comprise the National Historic Riverfront Industrial Landmark District, providing lessons in history, geography and economic development.

In short, this proposed Scenic Byway will provide visitors in Georgia the opportunity to see the “real” Georgia....the Georgia beyond the perimeter of Atlanta. This west-central area of the state was the original frontier of the state of Georgia and provides numerous opportunities for learning about the early nineteenth century southeastern frontier areas. We urge you to consider the vast historic treasures which are here as you consider this application for scenic byways designation.

Sincerely,

Susan C. Lawhorne
Executive Director

Revitalize | Educate | Advocate | Preserve
Post Office Box 5312 • Columbus, Georgia 31906-0312 • Tel (706) 322-0756 • Fax (706) 576-4760 • www.historiccolumbus.com
Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom  
GDOT  
Scenic Byways Coordinator  
2 Capitol Square, SW, Room 330  
Atlanta, GA  30334  

Re: Scenic Byway along I-185  

Dear Lisa:  

The Harris County Chamber of Commerce is in complete support of the Keep Columbus Beautiful effort to designate the I-185 corridor as a scenic byway. Our county relies heavily on tourism and this will be a wonderful asset.  

We are pleased to partner with Keep Columbus Beautiful and hope this designation comes to fruition.  

Sincerely,  

Lynda T. Dawson  
Executive Director

July 12, 2006  

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom  
Georgia Department of Transportation  
Scenic Byways Coordinator  
2 Capitol Square SW  
Room 330  
Atlanta, GA  30334  

Dear Ms. Safstrom:  

This letter is to acknowledge the full support of the Public Services Department and the Columbus Consolidated Government for the Scenic Byways Program.  

With the growth of Columbus and the surrounding areas, much has been accomplished in restoring historic areas within the city. The Scenic Byways Program can only enhance these restorations and allow our citizens and visitors alike to see the natural beauty that makes Columbus, Georgia.  

In implementing the Scenic Byways Program, it is hopeful that other similar projects will take place. Allowing people of Columbus to be proud of their heritage and the rich history embedded here, with the outlook of vast progress still to come.  

Again, we are in full support of this program and excitedly await its implementation.  

Sincerely,  

Scott A. Jones,  
City Arborist & Chief of  
Urban Forestry and Beautification  
Columbus Consolidated Government

"An Equal Opportunity / Affirmative Action Organization"
June 26, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
Georgia Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square SW
Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

Please accept this letter of support for the scenic byways application submitted by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission from I-85, exit 21, continuing on I-185 southbound for approximately 39 miles to exit 12, William Road. Trees Columbus, Inc. is pleased to be able to support this application. We have worked closely with the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission since the idea was first suggested. At least two of the intrinsic qualities of this highway are of interest to us.

We believe that the natural quality of this relatively undisturbed portion of the highway should be preserved. The many natural sites just off the road have been mentioned in the application. One cannot envision travelers being interested in those if the roadside vegetation were to be disturbed.

One of the nicest aspects of entering Columbus from the north is this green corridor which one drives through. It makes a welcoming entrance into the metropolitan area. The scenic quality is harmonious; industrial elements are well buffered. For those familiar with the geography of the region, the evidence of the fall line is also quite evident. The transition from the hills of north Georgia to the plains below is obvious. It would be a great loss to those along the corridor to have this corridor lose its scenic quality.

We wholeheartedly support the application.

Sincerely,

Gena Taylor
Executive Director

---

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
GDOT
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square, SW, Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: Scenic Byway – I-185

Dear Lisa:

We are in the tourism business and the more ways we can attract business, the better. Knowing that tourists follow the scenic byways is another way to market our property. The I-185 corridor runs through Harris County approximately five miles from our driveway and we will be proud to see the scenic byway designation.

We are very supportive of the Keep Columbus Beautiful effort and are proud to be a participant.

Sincerely,

Lynda T. Dawson
General Manager
August 7, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
Georgia Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square SW
Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom,

This is my letter of support to the Scenic Byways application, submitted by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, from I-85, exit 21 and continuing on I-185 southbound for approximately 39 miles to exit 12, Williams Road. The beauty and natural quality of this highway is a rare gem in our state, indeed in the Southeast. The vegetation preserves the rural history and character of the area.

Having been born and raised in Columbus, Georgia, I am proud of the growth and progress of our great city. I am also excited about future plans, including the expansion of Ft. Benning and the untapped potential that it brings to our community. I also serve as a Board member for The Springer Opera House and appreciate the rich history and cultural values found in Columbus and the surrounding area. It would be a shame to lose our scenic highways that compliment these attributes.

It is imperative that we portray our city's slogan, "What Progress Has Preserved." Let's work together to preserve that which we now have; which, once gone, cannot be replaced. I fully support the application.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Thomas H. Flournoy
President/COO
Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
State of Georgia Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator, Room 330
2 Capitol Square, SW
Atlanta, GA 30334

Re: I-185

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

I am writing this letter in support of the application for Scenic Byway Status for I-185 from its intersection with I-85 in Troup County down to the Williams Road Exit 12 in Muscogee County. I am a 70 year old life long resident of Columbus, and am extremely proud of this beautiful Interstate serving our area.

I represented this County in the Georgia General Assembly back in the 1960's, and remember when Columbus was the largest city in the United States not on an Interstate. I remember well how proud we were when I-185 was approved, and how glad we were when it was completed.

But, this pride and joy have been enhanced over the years because of its beauty. The landscaping done by DOT along with Gateways, along with what the Good Lord gave us naturally, have provided a beautiful path to our city. Please help preserve it by approving Scenic Byway Status for this beautiful highway. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Milton Jones

Virginia T. Peebles
1417 Stark Avenue
Columbus, GA 31906

July 28, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
Georgia Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square SW
Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

I am pleased to write a letter of support for the scenic byways application submitted by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission from I-85, exit 21, continuing on I-185 southbound for approximately 39 miles to Williams Road, exit 12. I am involved in several initiatives in Columbus that are dedicated to enhancing the beauty, protecting the environment and improving the quality of life for Columbus, GA and the surrounding region. One such organization is the Coalition for Sound Growth (CSG) that I currently serve as the volunteer coordinator. This coalition has over fifty members representing approximately thirty organizations.

The Scenic Byways designation for I-185 fulfills several platforms of CSG. Specifically, a few of these goals are: the preservation of existing open spaces, woodlands and rural landscapes; the continued development of greenways; the ongoing planting of trees at entryways and throughout the city; and the recognition and preservation of the region's archeological and historic resources. I believe that the natural quality of this relatively undisturbed portion of the highway should be preserved at all cost.

What a delightful drive it now is from Exit 21 on I-85 to Columbus and Ft Benning, GA. The scenic landscape that is undisturbed by billboards, industrial development and other intrusive elements is refreshing and welcomed after the congested highways and byways connected to I-185. It is a natural respite from the "hills of Habersham down the valleys of Hall...to reach the plain," to quote a line from the historic poem "Song of the Chattahoochee."

I enthusiastically support this application.

Sincerely,

Virginia T. Peebles
July 28, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
Georgia Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square SW
Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

RE: I-185 Scenic Byways Designation

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

Please accept this letter of support for the scenic byways application submitted by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission for the designation of a 30-mile stretch of I-185 between I-85 and Williams Road.

This green corridor provides not only an aesthetically pleasing entryway into Columbus, but it has long been one of my favorite drives for sighting hawks perched atop mature trees. So much of our interstate system is filled with the monotony of billboards and backsides of commercial development; it is a pleasure to travel along the rare route that gives the driver a sense of place—of the local environment—and can justifiably be referred to as “scenic.”

I hope that you will give this application every positive consideration.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Anne R. King

---

July 27, 2006

Marjorie Alexander Drury
523 Double Churches Road
Columbus, GA 31904

Lisa M Safstrom
State of Georgia
Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square, SW, Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

I am writing to urge the DOT to designate Scenic Byways status to I-185 from Williams Road north to I-85.

This beautiful, scenic highway traveling through green, rolling hills offers a peaceful and calming ride between Columbus and the more hectic and cluttered highways to the north. As a Scenic Byway it will remain unspoiled by signage and other disturbing elements.

It passes near the beautiful recreation center of Callaway Gardens and enhances the unspoiled approach to that area. Columbus people value I-185’s beauty and want it protected.

The DOT has the opportunity to do that. Please support I-185’s designation as a Scenic Byway. Future generations will rise up and call you blessed.

Gratefully,

[Signature]

Marjorie Drury
July 10, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
State of Georgia
Department of Transportation
2 Capital Square SW  Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

On behalf of the Town and Country Garden Club, I am writing to encourage the adoption of the section of I 185 from LaGrange to Columbus as a scenic byway.

My husband and I have had the pleasure of driving on scenic byways in other parts of our country and have thoroughly enjoyed the natural beauty of the area without the clutter of billboards and other advertisements. The area through the horse country in Kentucky was especially beautiful with the rolling hillsides and magnificent horse farms. Our Georgia pines and oaks can also be natural beauties to many visitors from out of state.

Please give this proposal serious consideration.

Julie A. Bray
President

July 7, 2006
P.O. Box 343
Midland, Georgia 31820

Ms. Lisa Safstrom, coordinator
State Scenic By-Way Committee
Georgia Department of Transportation, Room 330
2 Capital Square SW
Atlanta, Georgia 30334-1002

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

My name is Anne Mims, a resident of Harris County Georgia. I am writing to support the current Keep Columbus Beautiful Committee’s application to DOT. Part of the highway, being proposed for the Scenic By-Way designation, runs through my county.

Harris County is one of the fastest growing counties in our state. The people being motivated to move to this area are coming because of the quality of life. It needs to be maintained. Calloway Garden’s leadership is an example. Desires were turned into action and that produced beauty and growth.

The Scenic By-Way’s program has been an assent to the people. Please accept the application as a local effort to improve our community. The highway deserves a noteworthy response to help maintain the area.

Thank you.

Respectfully,

Anne W. Mims
August 4, 2006

Ms. Lisa M. Safstrom
Georgia Department of Transportation
Scenic Byways Coordinator
2 Capitol Square SW
Room 330
Atlanta, GA 30334

Dear Ms. Safstrom:

Please accept this letter of support for the scenic byways application submitted by the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission from I-85, exit 21, continuing on I-185 southbound for approximately 39 miles to exit 12, Williams Road. I am pleased to be able to support this application. At least two of the intrinsic qualities of this highway are of interest to me.

I believe that the natural quality of this relatively undisturbed portion of the highway should be preserved. The many natural sites just off the road have been mentioned in the application. One cannot envision travelers being interested in those if the roadside vegetation were to be disturbed.

One of the nicest aspects of entering Columbus from the north is this green corridor which one drives through. It makes a welcoming entrance into our metropolitan area. The scenic quality is harmonious; industrial elements are well buffered. For those familiar with the geography of the region, the evidence of the fall line is also quite evident. The transition from the hills of north Georgia to the plains below is obvious. It would be a great loss to those along the corridor to have this corridor lose its scenic quality.

I wholeheartedly support the application.

Sincerely,

Mike Corradino
1029 Christmas Court
Midland, Georgia 31820
(706) 569-6396

Cc: Gloria Weston-Smart
County Resolutions of Support
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE DESIGNATION OF INTERSTATE 185
AS A GEORGIA SCENIC BYWAY

WHEREAS, the Honorable Sam Wellborn, Georgia Department of Transportation Board Member, is undertaking the project of obtaining the support of the Georgia Department of Transportation to designate Interstate 185 as a Scenic Byway; and

WHEREAS, Interstate 185 lies within Harris County for a distance of approximately 30 miles, from the county line shared with Muscogee County to the south and with Troup County to the north; and

WHEREAS, the designation of Interstate 185 as a Scenic Byway would begin at the Georgia Visitor Center on Williams Road in Columbus and continue north through Harris County into Troup County; and

WHEREAS, the Scenic Byway designation will result in prohibiting billboards from being erected along the highway; and

WHEREAS, Harris County is proud of the beauty of the natural landscape along Interstate 185 and recognizes the significance of maintaining its natural characteristics.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Board of Commissioners of Harris County does hereby support the designation of Interstate 185, from the Welcome Center in Columbus north into Troup County, as a Georgia Scenic Byway.

Approved and adopted this 3rd day of May, 2005.

Attest:

Harry Lange, Chairman

Nancy D. McMichael, County Clerk
A RESOLUTION

NO. 274-05

A RESOLUTION AUTHORIZING THE CITY AND KEEP COLUMBUS BEAUTIFUL STAFF TO SUBMIT AND APPLICATION TO THE GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR DESIGNATION OF I-185 FROM WILLIAMS ROAD TO THE COUNTY LINE AS A GEORGIA SCENIC BYWAY.

WHEREAS, The Georgia Scenic Byway Program was established by the Georgia Department of Transportation in 1993; and,

WHEREAS, A Georgia Scenic Byway is defined as any designated highway, street, road of route which features certain intrinsic qualities that should be protected or enhanced; and,

WHEREAS, Intrinsic qualities are the resources present along a byway that define its character, interest and appeal.

NOW, THEREFORE, THE COUNCIL OF COLUMBUS, GEORGIA, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

That the City Manager is hereby authorized to submit an application to the Georgia Department of Transportation to designate I-185 from Williams Road to County Line as a Georgia Scenic Byway.

Introduced at a regular meeting of the Council of Columbus, Georgia, held the day of May, and adopted at said meeting by the affirmative vote of members of said Council.

Councilor Allen voting
Councilor Anthony voting
Councilor Davis voting
Councilor Henderson voting
Councilor Hunter voting
Councilor McDaniel voting
Councilor Turner Pugh voting
Councilor Rodgers voting
Councilor Suber voting
Councilor Woodson voting

ABSENT
YES
YES
ABSENT
YES
YES
YES
YES
YES
YES

Tiny B. Washington, Clerk of Council
Robert S. Poydastoff, Mayor
RESOLUTION SUPPORTING
THE DESIGNATION OF THE I-185 CORRIDOR AS A SCENIC BYWAY № 2005-07

WHEREAS, there is an application being submitted to the Georgia Department of Transportation to designate the I-185 corridor from the Georgia Visitor Center on Williams Road in Columbus, Georgia and extending through Harris County into Troup County; and

WHEREAS, there are approximately thirteen miles of I-185 in Troup County from the intersection of I-185 and I-85 to the Harris County line; and

WHEREAS, The Georgia Scenic Byway Program was established by the Georgia Department of Transportation in 1993; and

WHEREAS, A Georgia Scenic Byway is defined as any designated highway, street, road or route which features certain intrinsic qualities that should be protected or enhanced; and

WHEREAS, Troup County recognizes the significance of the above-described portion of I-185 and wishes to maintain the natural beauty of the same;

NOW THEREFORE LET IT BE RESOLVED, that the Board of Commissioners of Troup County does support the designation of Interstate I-185 from the Welcome Center in Columbus through Harris County to the intersection with Interstate I-85, as a Georgia Scenic Byway.

SO RESOLVED, APPROVED AND ADOPTED, this 5th day of July, 2005.

TO RULE COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

BY: [Signature]

Tim Duffey, Chairman
Troup County Board of Commissioners

ATTEST:

[Signature]

Stewart Mills, Troup County Clerk
Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia (OAAG) Outreach Efforts
May 26, 2006

Mr. Vernon Lee
Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia (OAAG)
P.O. Box 801
Acworth, Georgia 30101

Dear Mr. Lee,

Please know that the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission has applied for Scenic Byways Designation for I-185, Williams Road North to I-85. All GDOT program requirements for our application has been met, therefore we are notifying you of two community meeting we’ve planned for public awareness and feedback. Please know that we have scheduled meetings on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., at Pine Mountain Club Chalets Clubhouse, 14475 GA Hwy 18, Pine Mountain, GA 31822. The targeted audience for the meetings are residents of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties.

Please know that we will be happy to accompany you on a drive of the proposed Scenic Byway. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, you may reach me at (706) 653-4008.

Respectfully,

Gloria Weston-Smart
Executive Director

Cc: Sam Wellborn, State Transportation Board Member
Tim Meyer, Transportation Enhancement Coordinator
Lisa Safstrom, Scenic Byways Coordinator
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION</th>
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<td>Complete items 1, 2, and 3. Also complete</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Item 4 if Restricted Delivery is desired.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Print your name and address on the reverse</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>so that we can return the card to you.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece,</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or on the front if space permits.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Article Addressed to:
   Mr. Vernon Lee
   Outdoor Advertising Asso.
   P.O. Box 801
   Acworth, Georgia 30101

2. Article Number
   (Transfer from service label)
   7005 1620 0004 0027 6132

3. Service Type
   ☑ Certified Mail
   ☐ Express Mail
   ☐ Registered
   ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
   ☐ Insured Mail
   ☐ C.O.D.

4. Restricted Delivery? (Extra Fee)
   ☑ Yes

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B. Received by (Printed Name)

C. Date of Delivery

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes
   If YES, enter delivery address below: ☑ No

PS Form 3811, August 2001
Domestic Return Receipt
102535-02-M-1540
August 10, 2006

Mr. Vernon Lee
Outdoor Advertising Association of Georgia (OAAG)
P.O. Box 801
Acworth, Georgia 30101

Dear Mr. Lee,

Our efforts to extend to you the proper notice of our application to the Georgia Department of Transportation for Scenic Byways designation for a portion of I-185 has not been successful. As of today we have submitted two certified letters to the above address, both were returned to us as they were unclaimed. Therefore, we are sending this letter via first class mail. As you know, we are required to retain and submit copies of our notification communication efforts to GA-DOT. Therefore, please notify us by letter or email at kebe1987@mindspring.com of your receipt of this letter.

Please know that the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission has applied for Scenic Byways Designation for I-185, Williams Road North to I-85. All GA DOT program requirements for our application have been met, therefore we are notifying you of a August 31, 2006 community meeting we’ve planned for public awareness and feedback. The targeted audience for the meetings are residents and property owners of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties. The meeting will be held on Thursday, August 31, 2006, 6:00 P.M., at the Harris County Public Library, 138 North College Street, Hwy 27, Hamilton, GA 31811.

Also, please know that we will be happy to accompany you on a ride of the proposed corridor. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this letter, you may reach me at (706) 653-4008.

Respectfully,

[Signature]

Gloria Weston-Smart
Executive Director

Cc: Sam Wellborn, State Transportation Board Member
    Lisa Safstrom, Scenic Byways Coordinator
Public Participation Communications
NEWS RELEASE

TO: All News Directors and Assignment Editors
FAX MULTI
FROM: Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, Harris County Chamber of Commerce and Keep Troup Beautiful, Inc.
SUBJECT: Scenic Byways Public Meetings

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release
June 9, 2006

Scenic Byways Public Meetings for residents of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties

The Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, Harris County Chamber of Commerce, and Keep Troup Beautiful, Inc. will host two public meetings on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., at Pine Mountain Club Chalets Clubhouse, 14475 GA Hwy 18, Pine Mountain, GA 31822. The purpose of the meetings are to inform residents of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties of the potential Scenic Byways Designations for I-185, Williams Road, North to I-85, and to receive feedback.

Directions from I-185: Take Exit #34 and turn east toward Pine Mountain. Go approximately 5 miles and the Chalets will be on the left.

For more information please contact:
Gloria Weston-Smart, Keep Columbus Beautiful, (706) 653-4008
Lynda Dawson, Harris County Chamber of Commerce, (706) 663-2211
NEWS RELEASE

TO: All News Directors and Assignment Editors
FAX MULTI
FROM: Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, Harris County Chamber of Commerce and Keep Troup Beautiful, Inc.
SUBJECT: Scenic Byways Public Meetings

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release
June 12, 2006

Scenic Byways Public Meetings for residents of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties

The Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission, Harris County Chamber of Commerce, and Keep Troup Beautiful, Inc. will host two public meetings on Tuesday, June 13, 2006, at 3:00 – 4:00 p.m. and 6:00 – 7:00 p.m., at Pine Mountain Club Chalets Clubhouse, 14475 GA Hwy 18, Pine Mountain, GA 31822. The purpose of the meetings are to inform residents of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties of the potential Scenic Byways Designations for I-185, Williams Road, North to I-85, and to receive feedback.

Directions from I-185: Take Exit #34 and turn east toward Pine Mountain. Go approximately 5 miles and the Chalets will be on the left.

For more information please contact:
Gloria Weston-Smart, Keep Columbus Beautiful, (706) 653-4008
Lynda Dawson, Harris County Chamber of Commerce, (706) 663-2211
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<th>ADDRESS</th>
<th>EMAIL ADDRESS</th>
<th>PHONE #</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Lisa Selstrom</td>
<td>6024 T 2 Capital St, A., GA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lisa.selstrom@cox.net">lisa.selstrom@cox.net</a></td>
<td>404-463-0001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>S. Taylor</td>
<td>306 Box 1531, Cedar Creek, GA 31804</td>
<td><a href="mailto:s.taylor@tatterson.net">s.taylor@tatterson.net</a></td>
<td>706-771-6436</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elaine Armster</td>
<td>6012 T 2 Capital St, All, GA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:elaine.armster@tatterson.net">elaine.armster@tatterson.net</a></td>
<td>606-536-5120</td>
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<tr>
<td>Peter Bowden</td>
<td>PO Box 1760B, Columbus, GA 31912</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pbowden@columbusga.org">pbowden@columbusga.org</a></td>
<td>706-322-1613</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pam Feaghe (Keep Columbus Beautiful)</td>
<td>4730-1 Turnberry Lane, GA</td>
<td><a href="mailto:pfeghe@mc101.com">pfeghe@mc101.com</a></td>
<td>(66) 718-1382</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lynne Thewerson (McCland)</td>
<td>1475 Hickory 18, Pine Mountain, GA 31822</td>
<td><a href="mailto:lmcclain@pmecresort.com">lmcclain@pmecresort.com</a></td>
<td>706-663-2211</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jill Pahl Ward</td>
<td>788 Swell Hollow, Hamilton, GA 3181</td>
<td><a href="mailto:jpward@windspring.com">jpward@windspring.com</a></td>
<td>706-643-0040</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Scenic Byways Community Meeting
August 31, 2006
6:00 P.M.
Harris County Public Library

Attention
Residents & Property Owners of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties

Please know that the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission has applied for Scenic Byways Designation for I-185, Williams Road North to I-85. All GA DOT program requirements for our application have been met, therefore we are notifying you of an August 31, 2006 community meeting we've planned for public awareness and feedback. The targeted audience for the meetings are residents and property owners of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties. The meeting will be held on August 31, 2006 at 6:00 pm at the Harris County Public Library, 138 North College Street, Hwy 27, Hamilton, GA 31811.

During the meeting we will highlight the intrinsic qualities listed in our application which contribute to the scenic qualities of this corridor, and gather feedback to strengthen our Corridor Management Plan. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this very IMPORTANT public meeting!

For more information, please call Gloria Weston-Smart at 706-653-4008
Scheduled Radio/ Television Interviews

Project: Scenic Byways, August 31, 2006 Meeting

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program/Show</th>
<th>Place/Contact</th>
<th>Date/Time*</th>
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<td>Wynnton Road</td>
<td>.Aug. 31</td>
<td>Live</td>
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<tr>
<td>WTVM-TV 9</td>
<td>324-6471 Ainsley Bruister <a href="mailto:Abruister@wtvm.com">Abruister@wtvm.com</a></td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
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<td>Noon News</td>
<td>13th Ave.</td>
<td>.Aug 22,</td>
<td>Live</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRBL-TV 3</td>
<td>323-3333 Kevin Fries <a href="mailto:kfries@wrbl.com">kfries@wrbl.com</a> Tammy Terry <a href="mailto:tterry@wrbl.com">tterry@wrbl.com</a></td>
<td>11:45 a.m.</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Morning Show</td>
<td>576-3565 Angela Wynnton Road <a href="mailto:tthornton@dbicolumbus.com">tthornton@dbicolumbus.com</a></td>
<td>Send fax to Mrs. Davis @576-3683</td>
<td>Live</td>
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<tr>
<td>FOXIE 105</td>
<td>576-3012 Mr. Windsor 576-3000</td>
<td>Live</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunny 100/Beat 101.3/Rooster 106/Newstalk 540/Rock 103 Magic 98.3</td>
<td>576-3012 Mr. Windsor 576-3000</td>
<td>Live</td>
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<tr>
<td>WRCG TalkLine</td>
<td>Robbie Watson 324-0338</td>
<td>Live</td>
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<tr>
<td>Boomer 95.3</td>
<td>Shelby 324-0338</td>
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<td>Urban On Location TV-38</td>
<td>Jeanette James 243-2035</td>
<td>Tape on Aug. 24, 3:15 p.m. Air Aug. 27</td>
<td>Live</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Ledger Enquirer Contact : Chuck Williams 706-320-4485
Tim Chitwood 706- 571-8508

*** Please be at studio 5-10 minutes early!!!
Today is Thursday, Aug. 31, the 243rd day of 2006. There are 122 days left in the year.

On this date:
In 1888, Mary Ann Nichols was found murdered in London's East End in what is generally regarded as the first slaying committed by "Jack the Ripper."
In 1969, boxer Rocky Marciano died in a light airplane crash in Iowa, a day before his 46th birthday.
In 1980, Poland's Solidarity labor movement was born with an agreement signed in Gdansk that ended a 17-day-old strike.
Five years ago: Little League star Danny Almonte's perfect game and his Bronx, New York, team's records, including a third-place World Series finish, were ruled invalid after officials in the Dominican Republic, where

WHAT TO DO

TODAY
COMMUNITY MEETING: The Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission will hold a public meeting today on a proposal to obtain a Scenic Byways designation for Interstate 185 from Williams Road in Columbus to its merger with I-85 north of LaGrange. The 6 p.m. meeting will be in the Harris County Public Library, 138 N. College St., Hamilton. Call Gloria Weston-Smart at 706-653-4008.

PRE-SCHOOL ROMPERS: Children ages 4-5 are invited to participate in a program designed to capture their interest in language, games and imaginative play built on the Early Literacy Initiative principles. It starts at 10 a.m. at the Columbus Public Library. It's free. Call 706-243-2679.

ELECTIONS BOARD: The monthly board meeting of the Muscogee County Board of Elections and Registrations has been rescheduled from Sept. 7 to 2 p.m. today in the west wing office at the Government Center. Call 706-653-4392.

TOMORROW
USED BOOKS SALE: Altrusa International of Columbus conducts its annual Labor Day weekend used book sale starting Friday in the Daniel Educational Center, 1042 Manchester Expressway. The sale's schedule is: 6-9 p.m. Friday; 10 a.m.-8
Through a campaign called “Hands Across the Border,” local and bi-state law enforcement agencies are sending a clear message to motorists: slow down, buckle up and don’t drink and drive. A series of safety checkpoints will be set up throughout Georgia this week as part of the program, said a press release from the Georgia State Patrol.

Members of the Muscogee County Marshal’s Office, the Muscogee County Sheriff’s Office and the Columbus Police Department joined forces with law enforcement officials from Alabama and Georgia on Sunday night to support “Hands Across the Border” by setting up an 83-man checkpoint along the 13th Street Bridge.

I-185 may become Scenic Byway

The Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission has applied for Scenic Byways designation for Interstate 185 from Williams Road north to Interstate 85.

The commission reports that it has met all Georgia Department of Transportation requirements for the designation.

A community meeting for residents of Muscogee, Harris and Troup counties to provide information and obtain feedback is planned for 6 p.m. Thursday in the Harris County Public Library, 138 N. College St., Hamilton.

Officials plan to highlight the intrinsic qualities that contribute to the beauty of the highway corridor and gather feedback to strengthen the corridor management plan.

For more information, call Gloria Weston-Smart at 706-653-4008.

Harry Franklin

TURNER | Not first incident for judge

From C1

Russell Gabriel, director of the Criminal Defense Clinic at The University of Georgia. “I don’t know. It’s sort of a rhetorical question.”

Gabriel said that in his opinion it is somewhat absurd to have both laws on the books, though the existence of both charges gives prosecutors some discretion in how to charge someone.

“The law doesn’t always make sense,” he added.

Wednesday’s alleged altercation isn’t the first time Turner has been in trouble as a judge. Four years ago, while seeking a pay raise, he said in open court that the only way to get the Columbus Council’s attention was to set off a nuclear bomb on the roof of the Government Center.

Turner later apologized and won the council’s support for a raise.
NEWS RELEASE

TO: All News Directors and Assignment Editors
FROM: Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission
SUBJECT: Scenic Byways Public Meeting

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

For Immediate Release
August 25, 2006

Scenic Byways Community Meeting
August 31, 2006
6:00 P.M.
Harris County Public Library

Residents & Property Owners of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties

Please know that the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission has applied for Scenic Byways Designation for I-185, Williams Road North to I-85. All GA DOT program requirements for our application have been met, therefore we are notifying you of an August 31, 2006 community meeting we’ve planned for public awareness and feedback. The targeted audience for the meetings are residents and property owners of Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties. The meeting will be held on August 31, 2006 at 6:00 pm at the Harris County Public Library, 138 North College Street, Hwy 27, Hamilton, GA 31811.

During the meeting we will highlight the intrinsic qualities listed in our application which contribute to the scenic qualities of this corridor, and gather feedback to strengthen our Corridor Management Plan. Please mark your calendar and plan to attend this very IMPORTANT public meeting!

For more information, please call Gloria Weston-Smart at 706-653-4008
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<tr>
<td>Jay Foote</td>
<td>692 Bear Creek Ct</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Winter Springs, FL 32708</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Betty Zechary</td>
<td>8350 Lower Blue Springs Road</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Hamilton, GA 31811</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>T. R. Fogg</td>
<td>8705 GA Hwy 118</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Pine, GA, Hwy 31822</td>
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</tbody>
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Property Owner Notification
Attention Property Owner

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Gloria Weston-Smart
Keep Columbus Beautiful Commission
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<td>BILLY &amp; GLORIA GARNER</td>
<td>172 WHITE CEMETERY ROAD</td>
<td>PINE MOUNTAIN</td>
<td>GA</td>
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<tr>
<td>JAMES MARSH</td>
<td>250 WHITE CEMETERY ROAD</td>
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<td>JULIAN D. O'NEAL</td>
<td>15 HADLEY ROAD</td>
<td>PINE MOUNTAIN</td>
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<td>JOHN H. &amp; GLENDA E. BLACKWELL</td>
<td>218 BIRCHWOOD DRIVE</td>
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<td>KEITH &amp; JESSIE CROZIER</td>
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<tr>
<td>WILLIAM F. EATON</td>
<td>3219 WACO STREET</td>
<td>COLUMBUS, GA</td>
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Pre-Application Correspondence
Hi John,

Here’s the information regarding the Scenic Byways meeting tomorrow. State Coordinator, Elaine Armster will introduce the Scenic Byways program, highlight the seven scenic designations in the State, and talk about public involvement in the process.

Please call me with any questions or concerns you may have regarding the meeting.

Thanks for all you do!

Gloria
Hi Elaine,
Here's information regarding our meeting tomorrow at noon. Please call me with any questions or concerns. We look forward to seeing you tomorrow!

Scenic Byway Meeting
Wednesday, February 9, 2005, 12:00 Noon
Flournoy Development Company
900 Brookstone Centre
Columbus, GA
706-324-4000

Confirmed attendees: John Flournoy, Chairman Gateways Foundation; Susan Anderson, KCBC Chairperson; Stan Stovall, Gateways Foundation Board Member; Lisa Collins, Executive Director Uptown Columbus; Gena Taylor, Trees Columbus; Richard Bishop, Deputy City Manager; Scott Jones, CCG Urban Forestry & Beautification; Peter Bowden, Executive Director Columbus Convention & Visitors Bureau; Ed Wilson, Asst. to the Mayor, and Gloria Weston-Smart, KCBC Executive Director

Agenda

I. Introduction of Scenic Byways

II. Highlight of the seven scenic byways in the State

III. Scenic Byways unique qualities

IV. Public Involvement

V. Open Discussion
Notes from October 20, 2005 Scenic Byways Meeting, CCG Annex, Columbus GA

On Thursday October, 20 I met with Lisa Goodwin, CCG Deputy City Manager, Rick Jones and Allison Slocum, Lower Chattahoochee RDC Planner regarding scenic byway designation for I-185 @ Williams Road to I-85. During the meeting I gave a brief review from our prior meetings and announced that Sam Wellborn has secured the required resolutions from Muscogee, Harris and Troup Counties to support our application.

The application will emphasize two goals; eliminating billboards and enhancing beautification. The intrinsic qualities that will be highlighted in the application are:

- **Scenic Quality** - focusing on the landscape native plants and trees.
- **Historic Quality** - Historic Uptown Columbus, Columbus Riverwalk and the Historic Mills along the Riverwalk Ft. Beinning
- **Cultural Qualities** - Springer Opera House, Rivercenter for the Performing Arts, Historic Liberty District (list from other counties)
- **Recreational Quality** - Area Lakes, Callaway Gardens (list from other counties)

Allison stated that the committee needed members from the other counties, Gloria suggested working with the Keep Georgia Beautiful Affiliates (Keep Troup & Harris County Beautiful). Allison stated that both Troup and Harris already have ordinances prohibiting billboards, this would benefit our application. Allison stated that the committee members from the other counties will help us as we plan and implement community meetings for the property owners along the designated route. She also encouraged us to look into hiring a consultant to help writing the Statement of Significance and the Corridor Management Plan. Allison shared a corridor management plan for Russell-Brasstown National Scenic Byways.

Gloria asked Rick to supply the maps needed for the application, and stated that she would work with Peter Bowden to secure the brochures of interest points and/or letters of support.
Scenic Byways Meeting
Wednesday, January 25, 2006

Flournoy Development Company
900 Brookstone Centre
Columbus, GA 31904

Meeting Agenda

I. Welcome / Introduction

II. Update on Progress

III. Scenic Byways Application Information
   A. Intrinsic Qualities
   B. Statement of Significance (Letters of Support)
   C. Jurisdiction
   D. Community Participation
   E. Corridor Management Issues
   F. Maps
   G. Supporting Materials
   H. Other concerns

IV. Announcements / Other concerns

V. Adjourn
Happy New Year!

John,

Please know that we are moving forward on the Scenic Byways Application, the Keep Columbus Beautiful Commissioners approved the contract for the Jaeger Company to assist with the DOT Application process. We would like very much for you to attend a kick-off meeting with the stakeholders for this project. To accommodate your busy schedule, I would like to hold the meeting at Fournoy Development Company on Wednesday, January 25, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. The purpose of the meeting is three fold; to introduce the stakeholders to Diana Werling, Jaeger Company Consultant, to highlight the application process, and to accompany Diana on a driving tour of the proposed byway.

Please check your calendar and let me know if you’re available on January 25, at 10:00 a.m., also please let me know if we can hold the meeting at your office. We are planning to extend an invitation to the KCBC Executive Board, Gateways Foundation Board Members, Greater Chamber of Columbus “No Name Group”, and Representatives from the Harris and Troup Counties to attend the meeting. Therefore we will plan for approximately twenty-five attendees. If you know of a stakeholder in Troup or Harris that should be apart of this project please forward their contact information so that we can extend an invitation to them.

Also, because of the cost of this project, we would like to propose a joint fund-raiser with Gateways. We would like to start planning a mid-year car or truck raffle to support the Scenic Byways Project and Gateways Foundation. As you may know the Scenic Byways designation includes the development of a Corridor Management Plan. According to Allison Slocum, Rep. Lower Chattahoochee RDC, Rick Jones CCG, and the Jaeger Company the estimated cost of developing such a plan is approximately 20,000.

Please respond to this email at your earliest convenience, I need to confirm the meeting with Diana, extend the invitation, and coordinate the driving tour with those who are interested.
Dowdell Knob at F.D. Roosevelt State Park
Located 9 miles from the I-185 Scenic Byway