



COUNTY OF ALBEMARLE
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TO: Mark Graham, Andrew Gast-Bray
FROM: Dan Butch; Senior Planner – Transportation
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DATE: January 10, 2019
SUBJECT: Consideration of Route 810 in Albemarle County for Designation as a Scenic Byway

Background

Staff has been asked to consider potentially designating Router 240 (Crozet Ave) and Route 810 (White Hall Rd/Brown's Gap Turnpike/Blackwells Hollow Rd) as Virginia Byways. This request initially came from Greene County staff but has been considered by Albemarle County in the past and is supported by Supervisor Mallek, whose District these roads fall in. On January 9, 2019 this was discussed with the Board of Supervisors during the Transportation Planning Quarterly Report where they supported staff to initiate the process. The first step is to request an eligibility study to be performed by VDOT & DCR to determine if the roads could be considered for Virginia Byway designation. The following presents an overview of the program and designation process.

This route was recommended by DCR's 2013 Virginia Outdoors Plan as a potential Virginia Byway. The interest is to collaborate with Greene County to designate Rt 240/Rt 810 as a Virginia Byway from Crozet to Stanardsville in Greene County. This designation would connect other Virginia Byways in Albemarle County: Rt 250 Rockfish Gap Turnpike and Rt 676 Garth Rd. The US Bike Route 76 also travels on Rt 810 White Hall Rd from Garth Rd south to Buck Rd in Crozet. The proposed segment of Rt 240 (Crozet Ave) passes through the downtown Crozet Historic District, changes to Rt 810 (White Hall Rd) passing scenic farmlands, vineyards, and orchards while it becomes Brown's Gap Turnpike passing bed and breakfasts, artisan studios and artisanal farms where it changes names once more at Dolye's River bridge to become Blackwells Hollow Rd heading northwest along the mountain foothills into Greene County. The entire proposed corridor is approximately 30 miles between Rt 250 in Western Albemarle and Rt 33 in Greene County.

Program

Virginia Byway Program: The Virginia Byway Program considers a road having relatively high aesthetic or cultural value, leading to or within areas of historical, natural or recreational significance for inclusion in the Byway system.

Program Goals: To promote local tourism by providing an awareness of local significance and aesthetic opportunities regionally.

Eligibility:

- Scenic value
- Minimum 10 miles in length
- Diversity in experience
- Links access to historical, natural or recreational significance
- Route bypasses major roads to provide leisure motoring/travel.
- Local zoning/land-use efforts to protect aesthetic and cultural value

Benefits:

- To continue to coordinate and promote Virginia tourism
- Economic benefits to community

Process:

- Locality must submit a request to VDOT or DCR to conduct a byway evaluation
- VDOT & DCR then reviews traffic data and does field visit and performs study
- Results and recommendations of study shared with locality
- Locality may hold public hearing about potential designation
- Locality sends VDOT a resolution from Board of Supervisors supporting designation after optional public hearing
- VDOT & DCR forward recommendation and resolution to the Commonwealth Transportation Board who approves the designation
- VDOT erects Virginia Byway signage along the corridor and adds road segment to informational material

Pros:

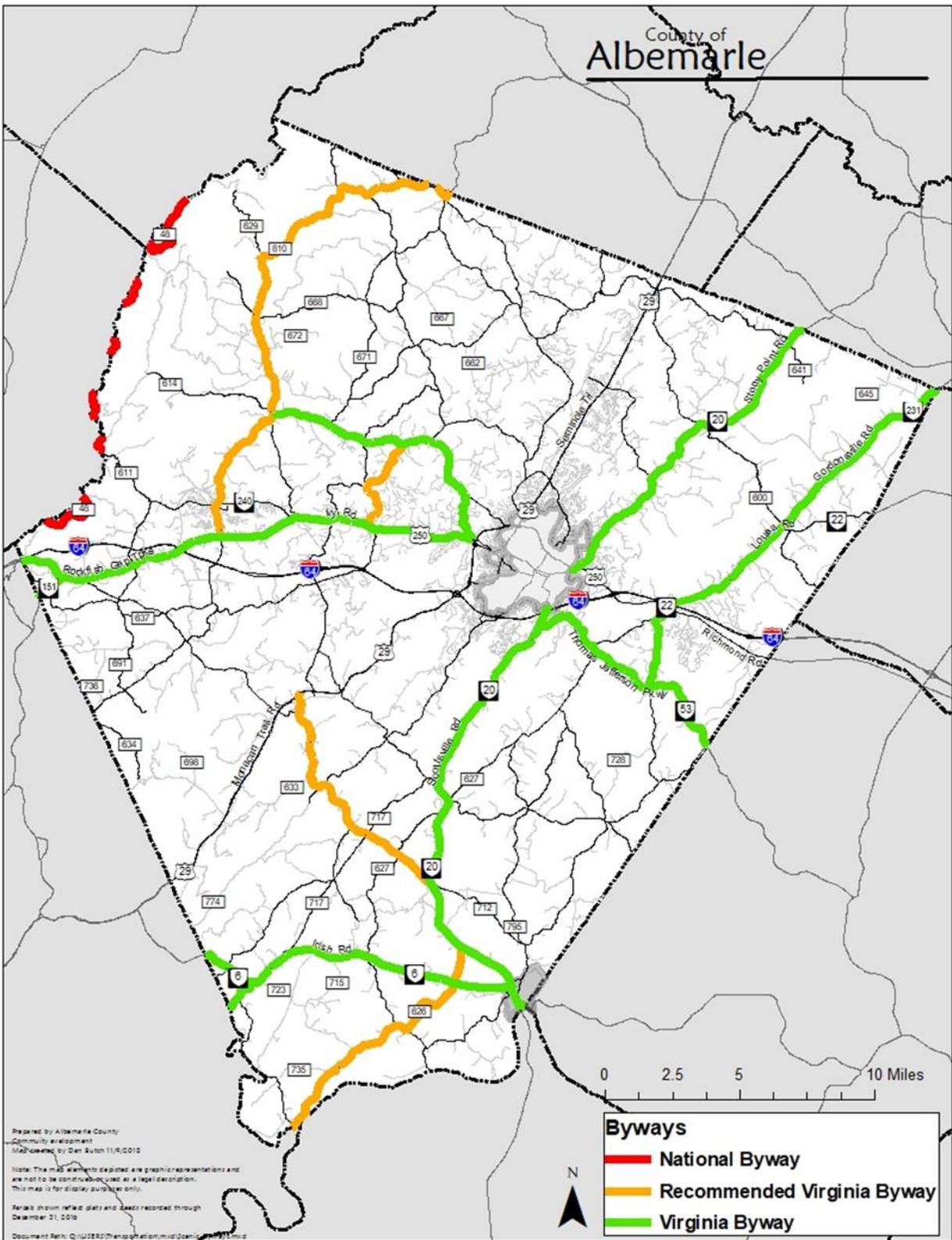
- ↑ Does not affect land use
- ↑ Does not limit road improvements
- ↑ Is eligible for federal scenic byway funds
- ↑ Promotes tourism

Cons:

- ↓ Might limit the placement or removal of outdoor signage
- ↓ Must have local government endorsement
- ↓ Other limitations with visual aesthetics

The following map shows current Albemarle County Virginia Byway designations and recommendations:

County of Albemarle



Prepared by Albemarle County
Community Development
Map created by Ben Sutton 11/9/2012
Note: The map elements depicted are graphic representations and
are not to be construed or used as a legal description.
This map is for display purposes only.
Parcels shown reflect plat and deed recorded through
December 31, 2010
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Byways

- National Byway
- Recommended Virginia Byway
- Virginia Byway