



LADY SLIPPER SCENIC BYWAY

Jim Worcester
Beltrami County Highway Engineer
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Bemidji, MN 56601

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Blackduck, MN 56630
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January 11, 2008

Dear Mr. Worcester:

This letter is from the Lady Slipper Scenic Byway Board of Directors in support of your application for funding to develop wayside rest areas along the byway corridor.

For the past fifteen (15) years our organization has been working with a variety of partners and organizations to develop this 28 mile roadway into a unique asset for the region. One of the most important issues surrounding this road has been safety for travelers. The byway is a beautiful stretch of road that winds through many lakes, wetlands and recreation sites. However, the shoulders are narrow and there are several key locations where travelers frequently pull off the road to view and experience some of the byway amenities. This poses significant risks to the travelers, as the road is narrow and there is little room to park a car, or recreational vehicle along this roadway. Additionally, because of the many hills and turns, travelers have little time to react when approaching vehicles parked along the roadway.

Creating the pullover rest areas identified in the funding application will significantly reduce the risk to visitors and motorists along the byway. The three (3) areas identified, Pennington Bog area, Mississippi River site and the unique wetland area adjacent to the byway, are the most frequently visited sites along the road where people park and walk to experience them. Creating these rest areas so people can park their vehicles without posing a risk to them, or other travelers along the byway, will greatly reduce the likelihood of injuries and fatalities.

We strongly support this proposal and feel improving the safety of motorists along this roadway should be of the highest priority.

Sincerely,

Mike Supan
President