

## **LADY SLIPPER SCENIC BYWAY**



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March 18, 2009

Dear Byway Landowner:

As a landowner living along the Lady Slipper Scenic Byway, you are probably aware that you live in an area with some of the most abundant and beautiful colonies of showy lady's slippers (our state flower) in Minnesota. Because of the special nature of this highway, the Byway Leadership Board, formally known as "The Scenic Highway Inc." was formed in 2003 as a 501(c) 3 organization. The mission of this board is to "guide the development of a Corridor Management Plan and oversee its implementation by establishing partnerships among individuals and organizations to insure that the values of the community are being incorporated into the creation and management of the Byway." As President of the Byway Leadership Board that I am writing to you today. We hope that the work we do will enhance the quality of life for residents and the experience of visitors to the area alike.

As you may know, highway reconstruction for the Scenic Byway has been in the planning stages for many years. The Environmental Assessment for the project was completed in 2006, and the Highway Department plans to do the work in four stages. Site preparation for the first stage (beginning at the Beltrami/Cass County border) is slated to begin this coming summer or fall. The Highway Department will do vegetation clearing to "Natural Preservation Route" specifications. It will be impossible for the construction to be done without disturbing many of the lady slipper colonies. As the goal of the Byway Leadership Board is to maintain a nearly uninterrupted presence of showy lady slippers along the highway, we have mapped all the colonies with GPS coordinates and plan to move them to a temporary location before the site preparation is done for each stage of the project. This location will have similar habitat qualities to their present locations. When the construction is finished, lady slippers will then be returned to the locations from which they were taken. This method has been used successfully for a previous highway construction project near Baudette.

We hope this letter will help keep you up-to-date on the plans for the Lady Slipper Scenic Byway. If you have any questions or concerns, please feel free to contact us via our website or call 218 835-3116.

Sincerely,

Mike Supan  
President

