

Section A. - Program Requirements: *(Attach Verification of Scenic Byway Program Authorization)*

State: Washington	Start Date of State Scenic Byway Program: 1967	
Scenic Byway Agency: Heritage Corridors Program, Washington State Department of Transportation		
State Scenic Byways Coordinator: Judith S. Lorenzo	E-Mail: lorenzj@wsdot.wa.gov	
Phone: (360)705-7274	FAX: (360)705-6839	
Street: 310 Maple Park Drive		Suite/ Room #: SLA09
City: Olympia	State: Washington	Zip Code: 98504-

Section B. - Project Name and Location: *(Attach Verification of Byway Designation)*

Project Name: Mt. Baker Highway: Interpretive Signs & Sites	Project Number: 07
Scenic Byway(s) Name & Route #: Mt. Baker Highway - State Route 542	Date of State Byway Designation: 1967
Project Location: County(s) & Region in State <i>(include maps)</i>	
U.S. Congressional District(s) - Representative(s) & District Number(s): Jack Metcalf 2nd Congressional District	
Byway Designated because of the following Quality <i>(Check all that apply)</i>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Scenic <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Archaeological <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historical <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreational <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Natural	

Section C. - Project Abstract: *(Brief Project Description: Maximum 5 Sentence)*

The Mt. Baker Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan developed and published in 1997 identifies a distinct and all too noticeable lack of corridor gateway and trailblazer signs, in addition to interpretive signs and sites. This project will help create an identity for the corridor and assisting visitors unfamiliar with the area that they are on a very special scenic byway, as well as provide interpretive signs about intrinsic resources. Two Gateway signs will be located at approximately between mileposts 1.0 and 2.5, and at milepost 34.0; three Trailblazer signs will be located at mileposts 9.2, 12.0, and 22.0. Four interpretive panels will be installed at mileposts 35.4, 35.5, 46.85 and approximately 47.5 at four interpretive sites, that are directly adjacent to the right of way of SR542. In addition specific site planning will result in an interpretive detailed plan for each site. These tasks all are items that are identified in the CMP and implement the corridor goals.

DETAILED PROJECT DESCRIPTION

- A.** Mt. Baker Highway (SR 542) is designated by the State of Washington as a State Scenic and Recreational (S&R) Highway. The section from milepost 7.7 to milepost 57.2 was designated in 1967, and the section from milepost 0.0 to 7.7 was added in 1993. The last 24 miles of the highway are also designated a National Forest Scenic Byway (1989). The Mt. Baker Highway possesses 5 of the six possible intrinsic qualities: scenic, cultural, historical, recreational, and natural. These qualities are identified and described in the Mt. Baker Highway Corridor Management Plan developed in 1997 by the Whatcom County Council of Governments.
- B.** Mt. Baker Highway originates near sea level at Interstate 5 in the City of Bellingham and travels east to its terminus at Artist Point, elevation 5,200 feet (see project location maps). The first 4 miles travel through Bellingham and its surrounding suburban area. The next 39 miles climb gradually while following the Nooksack River Valley. This section is dominated by farms, small timber and recreational communities, and privately owned forest land. The last 24 miles of the highway is in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest.

In 1997, a Scenic Byways Corridor Management Plan was completed for SR 542 using a National Scenic Byways Program grant. This application is partially the result of information gathered during preparation of that plan.

The town of Glacier is located approximately half-way up the highway. Glacier is the last town before entering the national forest and ascending the mountain. It is also the first place bus loads of tourists and recreation enthusiasts stop on the way down the mountain. The Mount Baker is unique in that the eastern terminus of the route is a recreation area. The highway goes no further. Travelers count the resources available to them as part of their visitor experience. Currently, there are no interpretive facilities, and there are no public restrooms. This project will begin the process of correcting those deficiencies.

- C.** Mt. Baker Highway is located in Whatcom County, in the northwest corner of Washington State (see project location map). The project is located approximately in the center of the route serving intense recreational demand associated with Mount Baker and its large ski area. This project will involve local jurisdiction representatives, agencies, and private citizens through a public participation process. Participants in this project will include Whatcom County Council of Governments, U.S. Forest Service, Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife, and the Whatcom County Parks Department.

INTERPRETIVE SIGNS & SITES

SIGNS:

Installation of signs directing visitors to, and within, the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest, the Mt. Baker Recreational Area, the North Cascades National Park, and attractions within them.

The Mt. Baker Highway is designated a Washington State Scenic & Recreational Highway and National Forest Scenic Highway but lacks adequate signing. Few signs and little interpretation exist along the byway to inform the public of recreational, cultural, historical and scenic attractions. Task I will begin to address these deficiencies.

Interpretive, gateway, informational, directional, prominent feature, trailhead, trailblazer, and “You are Here” signs will be installed along the highway to enhance the visitor experience. The signs to be installed are identified taken from the draft Mt. Baker Scenic Byway Implementation Plan (1989) and the Mount Baker Highway Corridor Management Plan – Sign Plan (1997).

The proposed signs will be located at or near the following mile posts:

- MP 1.0 – 2.5 Mt. Baker Scenic & Recreational Highway gateway sign
- MP 9.2 Scenic & Recreational Highway trailblazer sign (jct. w/SR9 North)
- MP 12.0 Scenic & Recreational Highway trailblazer sign (jct. w/SR9 South)
- MP 22.0 Scenic & Recreational Highway trailblazer sign (jct. w/SR547)
- MP 34.0 Mt. Baker National Forest Scenic Byway gateway sign
- MP 35.4 Horseshoe Bend Trail. Single board kiosk with porcelain sign.
- MP 35.5 West Church Mountain Goat observation interpretive sign and site development plan
- MP 46.85 Silver Fir Marsh interpretive sign and site development plan
- MP 47.5 Miner’s Cabin interpretive sign and site development plan

All signs installed will be done so in accordance with the WSDOT “Byway Logo Signing Guidelines.”

Sign locations and costs (Budget Summary):

Type of Sign	Milepost Location	Land Ownership & Name of Site	Costs			TOTAL:
			Design	Mfg.	Install	
1. Byway Gateway Signs	MP 1.0 – 2.5	Private - Mt Baker Scenic Byway (Willing Property Owner)	\$500	\$3,000	\$750	
	MP 34.0	U.S. Forest Service - Mt baker Scenic Byway-Mt Baker – Snoqualmie National Forest	500	3,000	750	
		TOTAL:	\$1,000	\$6,000	\$1,500	\$8,500
Trailblazer Logo Signs	MP 9.2	(jct. w/SR9 North)		1,500	350	
	MP 12.0			1,500	350	
	MP 22.0	(jct. w/SR547)		1,500	350	
		Design of Logo & Sign	1050			
		TOTAL:	\$1,050	\$4,500	\$1,050	\$6,600
3. Interpretive Panels						
Site #1	MP 35.4	Horseshoe Bend Trail. Single board kiosk with porcelain sign.	400	2,000	500	
Site #2	MP 35.5	West Church Mountain Goat Interpretive Center	400	2,500	500	
Site #3	MP 46.85	Silver Fir Marsh Interpretive Trail and Viewing Platform	400	2,000	500	
Site #4	MP 37.5	Miners Cabin Interpretive Site	650	2,000	750	
		TOTAL:	\$1,850	\$8,500	\$2,250	\$12,600
		TOTAL SIGNAGE COSTS:	\$3,900	\$19,000	\$4,800	\$27,700
4. Site Interpretive Planning Work						
Site #1	MP35.4	Horseshoe Bend Trail Interpretive Site	5,000			
Site #2	MP35.5	West Church Mountain Goat Interpretive Center	5,000			
Site #3	MP46.85	Silver Fir Marsh Interpretive Trail and Viewing Platform	5,000			
Site #4	MP37.5	Miners Cabin Interpretive Site	5,000			
		TOTAL INTERPRETIVE PLANNING COSTS:	\$20,000			
					TOTAL PROJECT COST:	\$48,700.00

SITES:

Some important features of the visitor experience in the Mt. Baker Scenic Byway receive more focus than others. The following task will outline recommendations that improve and draw attention to less commonly known areas to both enrich the visitor experience and to promote greater understanding of the byway's ecosystem. This group of interpretive sites and trails will provide a huge benefit for visitors and for the byway itself. There are, currently, few wildlife viewing areas or interpretive sites along the byway. Those that do exist are not integrated into any sort of system and are not particularly accessible. Scenic Byway funds from this application will be used to design, construct and install interpretive signs at each of the four site locations and complete site planning for each of them. Funding for site improvements will be pursued from multiple sources in the future.

These interpretive sites, when built will educate byway visitors regarding the corridor's ecosystem and identify sights and sounds through out the byway.

Selection of this project will begin the process of developing and improving these sites to a high standard as recommended in the CMP. Quality improvements will make the sites available to the public for years to come and prove to be low-cost investments with huge long-term returns.

Interpretive sites:

West Church Mountain Goat Interpretive Center
Horseshoe Bend River Interpretive Trail
Artist Point Summer Mountain Goat Interpretive Site
Silver Fir Marsh Interpretive Trail and Viewing Platform

These sites will provide specific information relating to key species and habitats present in the corridor as part of an integrated program with viewing opportunities of diverse, unique, and sensitive wildlife and their habitats.

The cost of improvement planning for these sites is \$5,000 per site for a total of \$20,000. This aspect of the project will ensure the sites are ready for improvement when other funding programs, including 1999 Scenic Byways grants, are available.

Section E. - Work Plan and Time Table (Must correlate to the Project Budget Summary)

MO.	10/98	11/98	12/98	1/99	2/99	3/99	4/99	5/99	6/99	7/99	8/99	9/99	10/99	11/99	12/99	1/00	2/00	3/00	→	9/00
NO.	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	→	24
Participant Coordination Meetings - WCCOG & USFS co-Lead																				
Interpretive Site Planning & Design - USFS Lead																				
USFS Sign Design - USFS participation																				
Non-USFS Sign Design - WCCOG Lead																				
														USFS - U.S. Forest Service, Mt. Baker Ranger District WCCOG - Whatcom County Council of Governments						

Section F. - Project Budget Summary (A cost breakdown for each line item)

Project Breakdown				Third Party Donations <i>To be completed when State share includes third party donations</i>		
PROJECT NUMBER & NAME Mt. Baker Highway: Visitor Experience Plan	Total Project Cost (100%)	Federal Share (80% max.)	State Share (20% min.)	Third Party Match Source(s)	Match Type	Match Value
Interpretive Signs	\$ 28,700	\$ 22,960	\$ 5,740			
Interpretive Site Planning	\$ 20,000	\$ 16,000	\$ 4,000			
Total Requested Scenic Byway Funds	\$48,700	\$ 38,960	\$9,740			

Section G. - Matching Funds Certification: (State Scenic Byway Agency)

I certify that all of the matching funds for this project are available as required by law as of the date below.

Name:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

Section H. - Project Coordinator: (Person/agency managing project)

Name: Gordon Rogers, Planning Director	E-Mail: Error! Bookmark not defined.	
Phone: (360) 676-6974	FAX: (360) 738-6232	
Agency/Organization and Street: Whatcom County Council of Governments; 2011 Young Street		
City: Bellingham	State: WA	Zip Code: 98225

Section I. - Project Priorities: Check all that apply

<input type="checkbox"/> Projects associated with a National Scenic Byway or an All-American Road and that is consistent with the corridor management plan for the byway.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Projects along a State-designated scenic byway that are consistent with the corridor management plan for the byway, or are intended to foster the development of such a plan, and are carried out to make the byway eligible for designation as a National Scenic Byway or an All-American Road.
<input type="checkbox"/> Projects involving the planning, design, and development of a State scenic byways program.

Section J. - Project Type: *Check one project type only.*

<input type="checkbox"/> Plan, design, and develop the State scenic byway program	Construction Projects: <input type="checkbox"/> Shoulder improvements <input type="checkbox"/> Pedestrian and bicyclist facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Passing lanes <input type="checkbox"/> Rest areas <input type="checkbox"/> Turn-outs <input type="checkbox"/> Overlooks <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interpretative facilities <input type="checkbox"/> Construction plans are attached and the environmental review process status is addressed in the project discussion.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop and implement corridor management plans	
<input type="checkbox"/> Develop and implement marketing program	
<input type="checkbox"/> Highway improvements to enhance recreation area access	
<input type="checkbox"/> Safety improvements	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Develop tourist information and byway interpretation	
<input type="checkbox"/> Protect byway resources (scenic, cultural, historic, recreational,	

Section K. - Attachments

<p>Attach the appropriate verification of state scenic byways program documentation, state byway designation verification, maps, site plans and detail drawings, photos and other visual aids.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Interpretive Sign & Site Map Corridor Management Plan Document
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Section L. - Grant Applicant Signature: *(State Scenic Byway Agency)*

Name:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

Section M. - FHWA Division Recommendations

Project Meets Scenic Byways Grant Requirements <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
Federal Funding Recommendation: <i>(If "no" or "partial" recommendation, please use comment section or attach explanation)</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Total Funding \$ <input type="checkbox"/> Partial Funding \$ <input type="checkbox"/> No Funding	
<i>Comments:</i>	
Name:	Title:
Signature:	Date:

