

Gateway to History

A Mississippi Scenic Byway

TO: Supervisor, Baxter
Supervisor, Bishop
Supervisor, Griffin
Supervisor, Jones
Supervisor, Steen

FROM: Phyllis Doby
Chairperson
Gateway to History, a Mississippi Scenic Byway
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SUBJECT: Proposed projects within Gateway to History

DATE: February 29, 2016

Gateway to History came before the Board on July 21, 2014. During the meeting we presented a detailed Corridor Management Plan to the supervisors and asked for their financial support. The financial support was for a website, brochures, advertising banners and assistance in opening the Welcome Center. There was no opposition to our request, as reflected in the minutes, but the Board asked for additional time to review the Management Plan.

Since our initial meeting with the Board, Gateway to History has successfully implemented a website to inform the public of daily opportunities along the route as well as special events. With the help of politicians, community volunteers and historians, we were able to open our Gateway to History Welcome Center on the historic square of Canton. Brochures are available at this location as well as other sites along the Byway. All of this was made possible by two grants from Mississippi Tourism Bureau.

Gateway to History has created a beautification project called Historic Enhancement Landscape Program (HELP) within the Byway. This program is to inform various garden clubs, churches, civic organizations and schools the importance of saving and protecting historic landscapes within our Byway. Recently, we held a daffodil planting along the Byway and we enlisted several Boy Scout groups to assist in the replanting of heirloom daffodils donated by families and developers. We have planted over 10,000

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daffodil bulbs along the Byway. In November, 2015, Gateway to History received recognition from the National Scenic Byway Foundation for this program.

To date, we have eleven (11) State-designated Scenic Byways, one (1) National Scenic Byway and one (1) All American Road. We hope you will give financial support to your Byway. We need monies for beautification and for future events, thereby creating tourism dollars for your county. A detailed landscape budget will be presented at the meeting.

If you have any additional questions or comments, please feel free to contact me prior to the meeting.

Thank you for your time.

Phyllis Doby
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