

CHAPTER IV
Community Participation Program

Community Participation is vital to developing an effective CMP

The development of the Corridor Management Plan (CMP) for the SC 46 Bluffton Scenic Byway is a grassroots effort that involves many individuals, groups, organizations and agencies. In order to make the CMP an effective management tool, it is important to understand what local residents and business owners think about the road and what qualities they want to protect and enhance. It is also important to let those who live and work in the area express opinions and affect decisions about the goals, objectives and strategies outlined in the CMP. Grassroots development of management strategies ensures the continued interest of local individuals, groups, organizations and agencies in their implementation. The different methods for including community stakeholders in the development and implementation of the CMP are outlined in this chapter.

Community Involvement Strategies

- Public meetings
- Site visits with stakeholders
- Explanatory newspaper articles
- Networking via e-mail
- Inviting public participation through mailings
- Updating information through both press releases and the internet
- Meeting individually with corridor stakeholders, agencies, organizations and concerned citizens

Even before WMTH Corporation was hired and the first public meeting held, the local newspapers helped create an awareness of the many unique and important features along the corridor and how truly at risk they were of irreversible changes occurring through explosive population growth of the area. *See end of Chapter for copies of articles.*

Corridor Management Plan Schedule

In January 2006, WMTH Corporation signed a contract with the Town of Bluffton and attended the Old Town Master Plan charettes which specifically focused on transportation and tourism. This helped to determine what might have relevance in the big picture of developing a plan for the rest of SC 46.*

**Please Note: During this same time period, Dover, Kohl and Partners of Coral Gables, Florida were hired to assist the community in developing the Old Town Master Plan for the downtown area of Bluffton, much of which lies along the scenic byway route. Recommendations from the Old Town Master Plan were considered when developing this plan.*

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During this trip, a preliminary review of the proposed route was assessed and a strategy developed to best accomplish the goals set forth in the contract with the city.

Public Participation

Phase I:

The initiative “kicked off” in March of 2006 with two meetings. The first was held on March 3rd. Those in attendance included Town and government officials, state transportation representatives, heritage council and a few concerned citizens.

First Public Meeting - March 6th 2006

The first public meeting was held on March 6th. Over 3,000 invitations were sent from a list provided by the Town of Bluffton. Posters were also distributed throughout the community and there were two notices in the local papers. Over 50 people attended.



Attendees at that meeting included landowners, government officials, civic group members, business owners, developers, political leaders, historians, residents along the corridor and interested citizens. *List of attendees is available upon request.* Community members were asked to share favorite features and discuss major issues and concerns associated with the road. They listed the following priorities:

- Slow down the traffic.
- Make this a pleasure drive.
- Save the trees and canopies.
- Make entranceways to development aesthetically pleasing.
- Add a bicycle path.
- Preserve the scenic beauty of the route.

At this first meeting, saving the live oak trees was the primary concern of many in the audience. Bill Hodgins, a noted arborist stated it best when he said, *“Live Oaks spend their first 100 years growing and the next 100 years dying”*, making the point that a tree maintenance plan was greatly needed for the corridor.

The group listed **protection** and **enhancement** as the two primary reasons for establishing SC 46 as a national scenic byway and developing a plan to manage it. They then listed a few of the outcomes they would like to see for their efforts as well as the current problems and detractors along the route.

Anticipated Outcomes as listed by the group:

1. Slow down the traffic. Make this a pleasure drive.

Advantages

- a. Reduces safety concerns for motorists, bicyclists as well as pedestrians when one gets downtown.
- b. Will reduce pass thru traffic and trucks.
- c. Might allow future developments not to have such long deceleration lanes.

Disadvantage

- a. Takes longer to get anywhere. Is the public willing to abide by this? How slow? 45 miles? 35 miles per hour and 25 downtown?

1. Could deter travelers from coming through Bluffton.

2. Develop parks and pull-offs and provide picnic areas.

3. Provide interpretive information at each of the parks and pull-offs along the corridor itself creating a greater awareness of its important features and reasons to preserve and protect it.

4. Slow down the traffic and encourage people to take the route, not as a pass thru to get someplace else, but as a destination in itself.

5. Require esthetically appealing entranceways into new developments.

- a. The entrance way to these developments should be showplaces in themselves.

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What takes away from the scenic drive on SC 46?

Below is a list of what those in the group perceived as detractors along the route.

1. Major Development – 8 new developments on about 4 miles of the road
2. Clear cutting in areas
3. Billboards
4. Traffic and congestion
5. Cluttered areas.
6. Litter
7. High speed of Traffic
8. Erosion
9. Safety issues
10. Needed road repair
11. Heavy construction trucks using the roads

Action Plan developed in first town meeting:

1. A request was made to help expand the list of citizens that want to be kept informed of what is happening along Hwy 46 in regards to the scenic byway and, more importantly, would like to provide oversight and input as an inventory is compiled and recommendations for the corridor management plan are developed.
2. A preliminary inventory list was provided of the current assets along SC 46 that made it eligible for National Scenic Byway designation. A request was made for all in attendance to review the list and add to it features or offerings along SC 46 that may or may not be visible by those passing by.
3. A request for ideas of what this Scenic Byway should be called, suggestions for a logo and recommendations for what should be included in a vision statement which best captured the ultimate goal of the group's intent.



MEMORABLE QUOTE FROM FIRST MEETING

“Live Oaks spend their first 100 years growing and the next 100 years dying.”

Following the meeting, the team of WMTH Corporation toured the route with two town planners, one county planner and a developer and discussed the proposed development along the corridor, current transportation issues and proposed changes to the road system. What became evidently clear was the explosive growth taking place within the community, resulting in a need for the SC 46 CMP. *See Chapter III - Situation Analysis* for more on this.

The following day, a driving tour of the corridor was conducted by both a historian and a long time resident of Bluffton with one of the team members of WMTH to note and document significant historic sites along the corridor.

Phase II:

A second public meeting was held on May 1st and a follow-up meeting on May 4th. Invitations were sent out to those who attended the first meetings as well as through e-mail and notices were again placed in the local newspapers.

The purpose of these two meetings was to review the inventory along the corridor to determine what might have been missed or overlooked as well as to involve the public in the:

- Development and ranking of goals, objectives and strategies,
- Creating a logo for the Scenic Byway,
- Determining a vision statement,
- Describing SC 46 Bluffton Scenic Byway

Second Public Meeting - May 1st 2006

Nearly 30 people were in attendance at this meeting. A PowerPoint was presented featuring the inventory of the corridor highlighting every ½ mile along both sides of the road for the entire length of the proposed route. A hard copy was provided to each person in attendance and they were asked to provide comments by the next meeting of anything forgotten or overlooked.

A second handout was provided to all in attendance with ideas and suggestions for the logo, vision statement, goals and tagline which they were to review and come up with suggestions and ideas by the next meeting. *A copy of the handout is provided at the end of this chapter.*

Below is an overview of the variety of issues discussed at the second meeting on May 1st:

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- A recommendation for greater mixed use roadways which would encourage and promote more active lifestyles especially for children who could ride their bikes to school and adults who could walk to school.
- A recommendation was made by the consultant to create a visitor information center for the Scenic Byway within the Promenade Development, currently under construction and strategically located at the eastern end of the proposed route. A second location for a visitor center was suggested within the proposed commercial tract at the corner of Hwy 170 and SC 46 between the New River Development and Palmetto Bluff on the western end.
 - Concern was expressed that there already was a visitor center for the community located in the Heyward House, a house museum in the heart of Old Town. Relocation of the welcome center could cause substantial financial strain to the organization.
- One resident strongly encouraged that the voice of the residents who lived along SC 46 was heard. She made a very good point for consideration of the residents on 46. Many of them are elderly and that is their home. *"They should have as much say if not more because they have to literally live with those decisions."*

Other comments included:

- Let them stop but send them home at night.
- Police on the corner to slow people down and redirect those who are just using this as a pass through to Hilton.
- Why change Old Town? We don't need more visitors.
- Alljoy has nothing to gain with people coming through there.
- That a bike trail is great but some people are using it as a turn around.
- Create a sense of rush them through, show it off, then send them home.
- We are not interested in attracting tour buses. This is a small Town.
- Concern for litter.
- Funding opportunities available by becoming a scenic byway.
- Nonstop traffic through.
- What we are looking at is changing the quantity and the quality of the traffic coming through.

Important Lesson from the 2nd meeting...
Don't forget the residents.



One of the homes located right on SC 46



The homeowner invites the consultant in for a visit.

Third Public Meeting – May 4th 2006

At the May 4th meeting, the group revisited some of their comments from the previous meeting and stated they were not opposed to visitors. They just did not want to become a tourist community. They wanted visitors to come who respected the area. All agreed they wanted the focus to be on nature and ecotourism and to try to attract those visitors who are interested and respectful of the environment. These comment helped direct what eventually became their mission statement.

The following was decided by those in attendance and then mailed to those who had attended the first and/or second meeting as well as placed on a website and available in written form in the Bluffton Town Hall for others to review and critique.

Below is an overview of the outcome of the second and third public meeting, a copy of which was provided to each of the individuals who attended the meetings as well as being featured on the SC 46 website.

Designating SC 46 as a National Scenic Byway

Outcome of Second and Third Public Meetings held May 1st & 4th 2006

The purpose of the two meetings this week was to decide on the following which are a few of the requirements for National Scenic Byway designation.

- Determining a name for the scenic byway
- Developing a tagline

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- Creating a logo
- And deciding on a vision statement

The following are the recommendations of those in attendance:

Recommendation for a Name for the Scenic Byway

Suggestions included:

- SC 46 Scenic Byway,
- Bluffton Scenic Byway,
- State of Mind Scenic Byway,
- May River Scenic Byway
- Bluffton SC 46 Scenic Byway,
- Bluffton's State of Mind Scenic Byway.

Final Recommendation of those in attendance:

Bluffton Scenic Byway

Tagline for Scenic Byway

Suggestions included:

- Adopting the existing tagline for Bluffton is "Bluffton is a State of Mind"
- New idea: "A Privilege to Visit"

Final Recommendation of those in attendance:

Bluffton is a State of Mind...
A place to protect and a privilege to visit.

Suggestions for Logo:

A few suggestions for Logo drew from the existing logo for the Town of Bluffton:



Existing Logo for the Town of Bluffton



Concept 1



Concept 2



Concept 3



Concept 4

Final Recommendation for Logo:



There were some discussions whether or not to change the date of establishment from 1825 to the date in which it actually becomes a national scenic byway but this was tabled for another day.

Two Examples of A Vision Statement:

- *“To protect the Corridor’s scenic, experiential, and natural qualities; to support the crossroad community plan; to safeguard the community’s sense of small town character; and to manage existing and potential threats along the Corridor.”*

- *“To work together to create a plan which will truly make a difference in protecting and enhancing the Corridor’s scenic quality, natural environment (including birds & butterflies); its historic, small town atmosphere; and the peace, serenity, and quiet of its open, rolling grasslands and riparian areas; also including a means to appropriately address potential threats, such as traffic, development, utilities, and herbicides.”*

Final Recommendation for Vision Statement:

“To protect and enhance the Corridor’s natural, scenic, and experiential qualities; to safeguard the community’s sense of small town southern charm and unique character; and to manage existing and potential threats along the Corridor... Always remembering Bluffton as a state of mind and a privilege to visit.”

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Recommendation for Goals:

- Goal 1: Conserve and enhance the natural and scenic resources that make this area such an important place to protect and a privilege to visit.
- Goal 2: Protect cultural and historic qualities of the region that reflect the way of life.
- Goal 3: Maintain and improve services and facilities, for residents and visitors, that are consistent with small town, rural character and local values.
- Goal 4: Improve safety along the Scenic Byway for all users without jeopardizing intrinsic qualities.
- Goal 5: Continue to build partnerships and foster cooperation among agencies and organizations to ensure that the goals of the Scenic Byway are in harmony with existing programs that protect and enhance the intrinsic qualities along the roadway.

While in the community, WMTH representatives met with individuals, groups and government officials on specific areas of interest and concern. *A list of those who attended the meetings is included in the appendix.*



A third document was e-mailed as well as mailed to all who had expressed an interest in the initiative. Included in it were the five primary goals with objectives under each one and strategies by which to obtain both.

Fourth Public Meeting and Final Presentation

On July 24th, 2006, a fourth town meeting was held in which interested citizens came to discuss final details of the Corridor Management Plan and offer their support. Over 400 signatures on petitions in support of SC 46 becoming a scenic byway and the recommendations and goals set forth in the corridor management plan were submitted.



On July 26th, a final meeting was held with representatives from the Town of Bluffton Planning Board in which WMTH Corporation presented a PowerPoint highlighting many of the recommendations included in the CMP. Following the presentation, a vote was taken to accept the primary goals and recommendations of the corridor management plan and submit it to the Town of Bluffton for final approval and adoption upon completion of final revisions.

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The public was kept informed and engaged throughout the entire process through a variety of media sources. Examples of each are provided on the following pages.

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

S.C. 46 could become scenic byway

BY JUSTIN PAPROCKI, *The Island Packet*
Published Thursday, February 23, 2006



Photo: A school bus lets out a student along S.C. 46 in Bluffton on Wednesday afternoon. Some in the town hope to have the roadway declared a scenic highway to preserve what's left of its beauty. *Jay Karr/The Island Packet*

BLUFFTON -- Bluffton leaders are beginning on the long road to protect the what's left of the natural look along S.C. 46.

Consultant WMTH Corp. of Bowling Green, Ky., will tour the highway in early March. They'll also meet with town leaders and residents to develop a plan that could lead to the designation of the highway as a national scenic byway. With development creeping further west, the town is focused on getting the designation as a means to save the oak canopy and other natural features on the highway from U.S. 278 to the Jasper County line. Receiving the designation could open up federal-grant opportunities for various purposes, including protecting or improving the scenic quality along the road, heightening safety or establishing more directional signs.

Overall, town leaders say it gives local jurisdictions a greater handle on the future of the road. "It will give us more control over the highway," said planning commission chairman Don Blair. The designation won't give the town or county power over state Department of Transportation decisions to widen areas of the road, as safety always will be the top priority, said Bluffton community development director Marc Orlando. What it can do is give more leeway for how those improvements are made. For example, a safety railing placed roadside could be required to be made of something more aesthetically pleasing than the standard metal look.

To determine what can be done along the road, WMTH will meet with transportation, county, town and community representatives starting March 8. On March 13, a public-input session is planned. The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration determines the designation, requiring the highway to have historical, cultural, natural, scenic, recreational or archeological value.

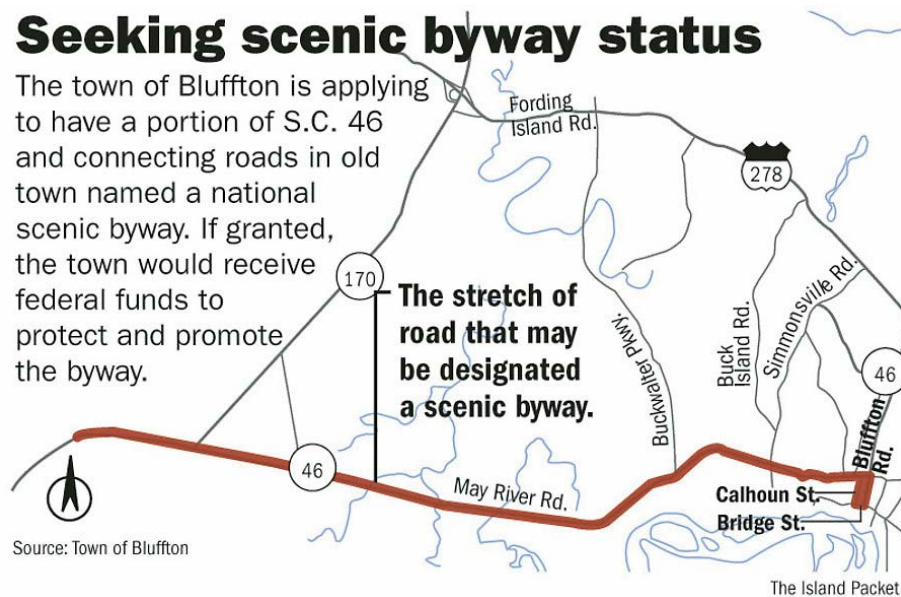
As a requirement for the scenic-byway designation, the town must submit a plan detailing a vision for the highway. The process is similar to what was done in the recent old town master planning sessions, where ideal development was mapped. Orlando said he's unsure when the highway plan will be complete.

The town hired WMTH for \$29,000. Orlando said the consultant was hired specifically for its expertise in getting highways the scenic-byway designation.

More Newspaper Articles...

Seeking scenic byway status

The town of Bluffton is applying to have a portion of S.C. 46 and connecting roads in old town named a national scenic byway. If granted, the town would receive federal funds to protect and promote the byway.



Source: Town of Bluffton

The Island Packet



THE ISLAND PACKET

Founded 1970
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MARCH 14, 2006
Southern Beaufort County's Newspaper
www.islandpacket.com

S.C. 46 is scenic byway material, consultants say

Tree canopies, buildings give route an edge

BY JUSTIN PAPROCKI
THE ISLAND PACKET

BLUFFTON — S.C. 46 has the right qualities to become a national scenic byway, according to consultants hired to develop an application for the designation.

Representatives from WMTH Corp. told residents Monday evening that they like the chances of the route qualifying for the federal program, which would make it eligible for federal money to help preserve its scenic qualities.

WMTH wrapped up its first visit to the area in what will be a months-long process to map the qualities and develop a vision for the route, which are required for the designation. Nothing is certain at this point, but the route's tree canopies and

historic buildings give it an edge. "I believe it would qualify at this point," said Debby Spencer, president of business and tourism development for WMTH.

The U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration determines the designation, requiring the highway have historical, cultural, natural, scenic, recreational or archeological value.

That means consultants have to develop an inventory of each historic house, each oak canopy and each scenic quality that makes it unique, Spencer said.

Consultants are considering including Boundary and Calhoun streets and other adjoining roads as part of the byway to make it long enough for the designation. Scenic

Get involved

- **Want to contribute?**
To offer feedback for the plan, contact town planner David Jirousek at 706-4510 or e-mail at djirousek@townofbluffton.com.
- **On the Web:**
 - www.wmthcorp.com
 - www.townofbluffton.com

byways have to be at least eight miles long.

The byway would not include the portion of S.C. 46 extending from U.S. 278 to May River Road because scenic byways cannot contain four lanes.

Consultants are looking for community feedback to learn the history behind the routes. And showing that residents are interested in the designation is crucial for it to happen, Spencer said.

"Perhaps what's most important is community involvement," she said "(Judges) need to see that the community is passionate."

The designation would open an array of funding possibilities, including money to protect the scenic quality along the road or heighten safety.

The next round of nominations begins in early 2007 with designation decided in 2008.

Because only a portion of the road is within Bluffton limits, Beaufort County also is involved in the process, as well as state transportation officials.

The town paid WMTH \$29,000 to develop the designation application.

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More Newspaper Articles...

Comments on S.C. 46 scenic plan requested

Copies available
online or at Bluffton
Town Hall.

BY RICHARD BROOKS
BLUFFTON TODAY

Bluffton officials and consultants are looking for public comments on a draft copy of the S.C. 46 corridor management plan.

Comments need to be submitted by July 14 to be included in the second draft, according to Debby Spencer, president of WMTH Corp.

A presentation and discussion of the draft plan is scheduled for July 24 at the Bluffton Town Hall, according to David Jirousek, the town's long range planner.

The last three chapters of the plan are the most important for the public to review because they contain recommendations for action, Spencer said.

The ninth chapter covers goals, objectives and strategies. Chapter

Review the plan

To review the S.C. 46 corridor management plan, click on www.trailsrus.com/sc46. If you are unable to download the plan, contact David Jirousek at the Bluffton Community Development Department, 706-4510, ext. 14, and he will provide a copy.

To comment on the federal scenic byway designation for S.C. 46, contact Jirousek or Debby Spencer, WMTH Corp. president, at (270) 781-6858 or click on www.wmthcorp.com

The consultants met with Bluffton residents in March and again the first week of May to draft a list of goals, objectives and strategies such as slowing traffic, saving the tree canopy, adding pathways, making development entrances attractive and preserving the route's scenic beauty.

The firm also compiled an inventory of significant natural or man-made scenic sites along the S.C. 46 route.

The Town Council approved a \$29,000 contract with WMTH Corp. on Jan. 18.

The National Scenic Byway designation would make S.C. 46 eligible for a share of \$25 million in grant funding under the National Scenic Byway Program, according to Jirousek.

The funding could be used to strengthen the town's economy through heritage and ecological tourism, he said.

10) is about transportation recommendations. The 11th chapter contains the action plan.

The corridor management plan drafted by WMTH Corp. of Bowling Green, Ky., is a prerequisite for the town to apply for federal scenic byway status for S.C. 46.

Contact reporter Richard Brooks by phone at 815-0818 or e-mail at richard.brooks@blufftontoday.com

THE ISLAND PACKET
Founded 1970
256
MAY 3, 2006 Southern Beaufort County's Newspaper www.islandpacket.com

Byway plan detours into old town

BY JUSTIN PAPROCKI
THE ISLAND PACKET

Seeking scenic byway status

The town of Bluffton is applying for a portion of S.C. 46 and connecting roads in old town to be named as a national scenic byway. If granted, the town would receive federal funds to protect and promote the byway.

Source: Town of Bluffton

If you go

A meeting to get public input on the national scenic byway designation for S.C. 46 will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday at Town Hall, 20 Bridge St. For more information, call town planner David Jirousek at 706-4510 or consultant Debby Spencer at (270) 792-5300.

The Federal Highway Administration makes the designation based on historic, cultural, scenic, recreational or archeological value. The next round of nominations begins in early 2007 with a final decision in 2008.

A meeting will be held at 6 p.m. Thursday to garner more public input about the route.

Contact Justin Paprocki at 706-8143 or jpaprocki@islandpacket.com. To comment on this story, please go to islandpacket.com.

ON THE WEB

WMTH Corp.

- www.wmthcorp.com

Town of Bluffton

- www.townofbluffton.com

BLUFFTON — Old town could get a boost with a proposed national scenic byway route running through the heart of Bluffton.

As part of the effort to name S.C. 46 a national scenic byway, consultants hired by the town to help push for the designation have suggested the route include Boundary and Calhoun streets.

Debby Spencer of the consulting firm WMTH Corp. said the inclusion of old town with its historic buildings and eclectic stores will increase the chances that the designation will be approved and bring more attention to old town.

With a designation, the route will be eligible for federal grants to promote and protect it, including money to market it as a destination.

"This is a way for people to drive to Bluffton," Spencer said. "It's not a scenic drive through Bluffton to get to another community."

Although minimally involved in the designation process so far, the Old Town Bluffton Merchants Society sees the designation as a means to draw more people to old-town businesses, said executive director Sarah Bergin. Combined with the development of a master plan for future development, the byway designation could work to promote old town as the heart of Bluffton, she said.



The proposed route would be along S.C. 46 from the Jasper County line east until it turns north at Bluffton Road. The route then would loop down Boundary Street across Bridge Street and along Calhoun Street.

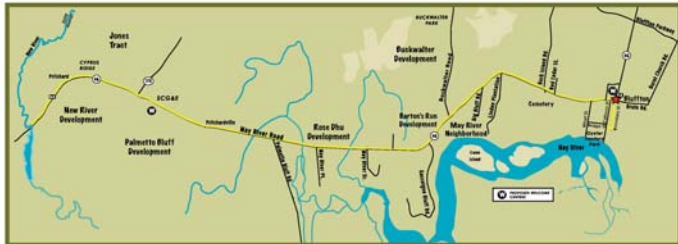
The consultant proposed including All Joy Road as part of the designation but scrapped the plan after residents said they didn't want to bring attention to their neighborhood.

Spencer said she has faith the route will be approved.













"I don't perceive any problem at all," she said. "I think it's a wonderful drive."

INFORMATIONAL BROCHURE

<div style="text-align: center;"> <p>SOUTH CAROLINA</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>SCENIC BYWAY</p>  <p>SC 46</p> <p>Bluffton Scenic Byway 20 Bridge Street Bluffton, SC 29910 (843) 706-4510 ext 14</p> <hr style="border-top: 1px dotted black;"/> <p>www.trailsrus.com/sc46</p> </div>	<p style="text-align: center;">National Scenic Byway Designation</p> <p>The purpose of the National Scenic Byway Program is to recognize and protect roads that have outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational and archaeological qualities.</p> <p>SC 46 from the Jasper County line in South Carolina to Hwy 278 was designated a state scenic byway in 1987. It is the goal of those within the Bluffton area to establish SC 46 now as a national scenic byway and develop a corridor management that provides a comprehensive understanding of the route and the local community's plan to enhance and preserve it.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Immediate Action to Take</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Start a petition that includes a list of everyone who desires for SC 46 to become a 2-lane scenic byway. Include names, addresses, phone numbers and email addresses if available. • Write a letter stating why you want SC 46 to be designated a National Scenic Byway and the importance of adopting a corridor management plan to protect & enhance it. 	<p style="text-align: center;">Recommendations for SC 46</p> <p>Goal 1: Conserve and enhance the natural and scenic resources that make this area such an important place to protect and a privilege to visit.</p> <p>Goal 2: Protect cultural and historic qualities of the region that reflect the way of life.</p> <p>Goal 3: Maintain and improve services and facilities, for residents and visitors, that are consistent with small town, rural character and local values.</p> <p>Goal 4: Improve safety along the Scenic Byway for all users without jeopardizing intrinsic qualities.</p> <p>Goal 5: Continue to build partnerships and foster cooperation among agencies and organizations to ensure that the goals of the Scenic Byway are in harmony with the existing programs that protect and enhance the intrinsic qualities along the roadway.</p> <div style="text-align: center;"> <p>See Website at www.trailsrus.com/sc46 for details.</p>  </div> <p style="text-align: center;">The Vision</p> <p><i>"To protect and enhance the Corridor's natural, scenic, and experiential qualities; to safeguard the community's sense of small town southern charm and unique character; and to manage existing and potential threats along the Corridor..."</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Always remembering Bluffton as a state of mind and a privilege to visit."</i></p>
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Some of the Sights Along the Way

 Historic Bruin House	 Post Office	 Welcoming Face	 Egg N' Tricillies Shop
 Bluffton Oyster Company	 Squat & Gobble Restaurant	 Historic Church	 Live Oak Canopy
 Wetland Area	 The Cannery	 Heyward House Museum	 Fritchardville Merchandise


In the Fall of 2005, the firm of **"We Make Things Happen" (WMTH) Corporation** was hired by the Town of Bluffton to work with the community and stakeholders in developing an application for National Scenic Byway designation of SC 46 and, in the process, preparing a corridor management plan for the route.

Get Involved!


- Bluffton Scenic Byway
- 20 Bridge Street
- Bluffton SC 29910
- Dave Strouck (843) 706-4510 (Ext. 14)
- dstrouck@townofbluffton.com
- "We Make Things Happen" Corporation
- P.O. Box 51153
- Bowling Green, KY 42102
- Debby Spencer (270) 781-6858
- spencerdebby@aol.com

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PRESS RELEASES



"We Make Things Happen"



PRESS RELEASE


For Immediate Release: April 27, 2006
WMTH Corporation: Debby Spencer
Office (270) 781-6858
Cell (270) 792-5300
Fax (270) 781-2949

COMMUNITY MEETING REGARDING SC 46 MASTER PLAN FOR NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAY DESIGNATION


WMTH Corporation of Bowling Green, Kentucky, will hold a second meeting with the citizens of Bluffton on Monday, May 1, 2006 at 6pm at the Town of Bluffton's Town Hall to review what has been compiled thus far for developing a Master Plan for SC 46 and designating it a National Scenic Byway. At this meeting questions will be asked that require public input. Monday morning, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday will be dedicated to meeting with individuals who have specific interests and concerns along the route.

A follow-up meeting will be held on Thursday, May 4 at 6pm to gather additional input, final comments and suggestions. A final report will be developed from the information received and presented at a meeting in the near future.


A successful Scenic Byway requires public input and support. To this end, the public and media are invited and encouraged to attend both meetings. For more information contact David Jirousek, Community Development at (843) 706-4510, ext 14 or Debby Spencer, WMTH Corporation at (270) 792-5300.



P.O. BOX 51153 BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42102
270.781.6858 | 270.781.2949 FAX
www.wmthcorp.com



"We Make Things Happen"



PRESS RELEASE


For Immediate Release: July 17th, 2006
WMTH Corporation Debby Spencer (270)781-6858 work (270)792-5300 cell
Town of Bluffton Dave Jirousek, Long Range Planner (843)706-4510 ext 14

Town Meeting on SC 46 Corridor Management Plan
Next Monday


Mark your calendars! On Monday, July 24th at 6:00 pm, a town meeting will be held in the Town Hall to discuss the corridor management plan for SC 46 and make final changes in the document before presenting the plan to the Planning Commission on July 26th. It is very important that all interested citizens attend. A preferred route for the scenic byway will also be determined at the meeting on the 24th.

The SC 46 Corridor Management Plan in its entirety is available for review at <http://www.trailsrus.com/sc46/> or contact David Jirousek, Long Range Planner for the Town of Bluffton by e-mail djirousek@townofbluffton.com, phone (843)706-4510, ext 14 or visit Town Hall and he will provide a copy to you.


On Wednesday, July 26th at 5:30 pm, a 30-minute overview of the Corridor Management Plan will be presented prior to the scheduled Planning Commission Meeting.



P.O. BOX 51153 BOWLING GREEN, KENTUCKY 42102
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"We Make Things Happen"



PRESS RELEASE


For Immediate Release: June 30th, 2006
WMTH Corporation Debby Spencer (270)781-6858 work (270)792-5300 cell
Town of Bluffton Dave Jirousek, Long Range Planner (843)706-4510 ext 14

CORRIDOR MANAGEMENT PLAN FOR SC46 AVAILABLE FOR COMMENT ONLINE

WMTH Corporation has submitted to the Town of Bluffton the first draft of the Corridor Management Plan for SC 46, one of the requirements for National Scenic Byway designation. The Corridor Management Plan is available for review at <http://www.trailsrus.com/sc46/>. It is important that everyone review the document and provide their comments, suggestions and recommendations.

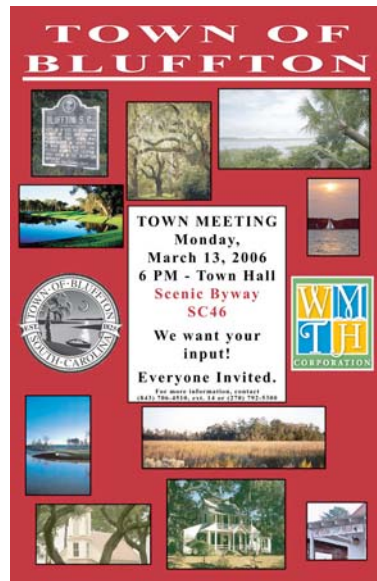
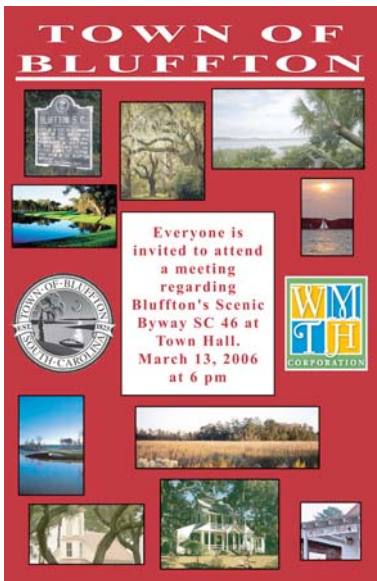
If for any reason, you are unable to download the Corridor Management Plan, please contact David Jirousek, Long Range Planner for the Town of Bluffton by e-mail djirousek@townofbluffton.com, phone (843)706-4510, ext 14 or visit Town Hall and he will provide a copy to you.

On July 24th, a town meeting will be held in the Town Hall to further discuss the Plan, and finalize on the route and what will be presented to the Planning Commission on July 26th. If you want your comments and suggestions to be included in the document, please submit them by July 14th.

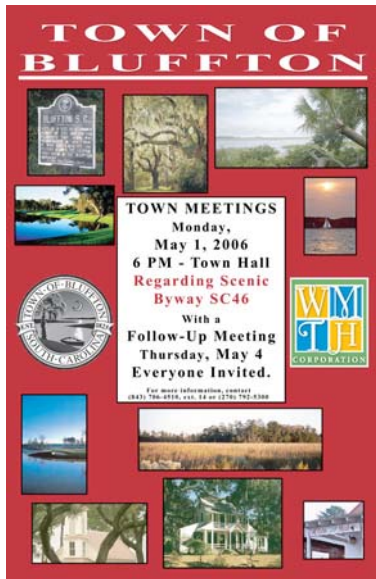


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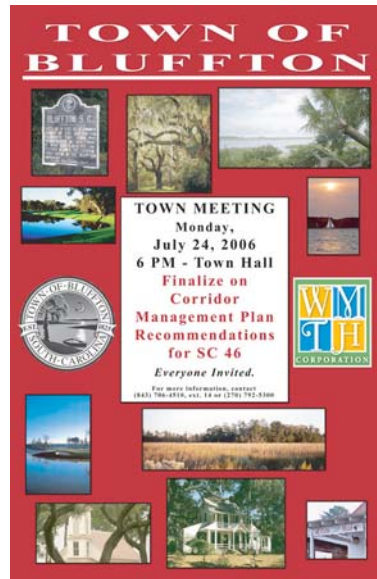
POSTERS



Posters for March Town Meeting



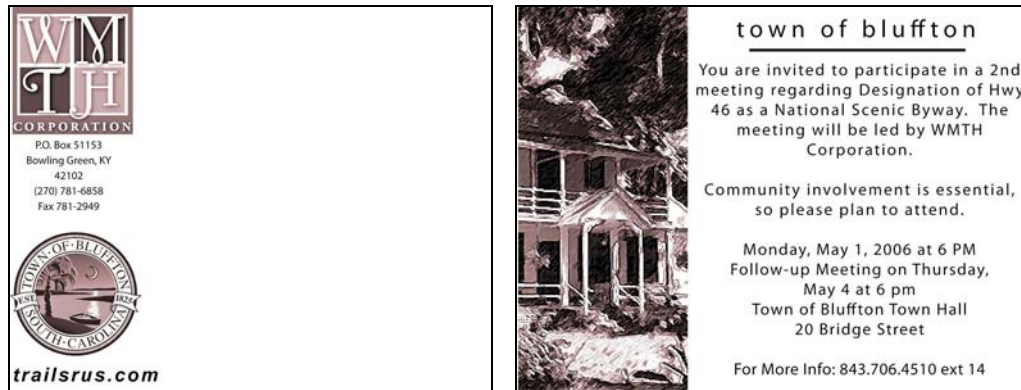
May Town Meeting



July Town Meeting

Chapter IV Community Participation Program

INVITATIONS



Sample of Invitation sent to interested citizens inviting them to attend the second meeting.

Invitations similar to the ones pictured above were mailed out to over 3,000 residents prior to the first meeting from a master list provided by the Town of Bluffton. For the remaining meetings, only those who either attended a meeting or requested to be added to the master mailing list, were sent an invitation.

Prior to each meeting, news releases were sent to local papers and posted in public places along with posters stating the date and locations of the meetings as well as the purpose.

On-going involvement after the CMP is adopted

Many entities are responsible for managing resources and providing services along the corridor. But most important is continued public participation in the implementation of the strategies of the CMP so that the original goals and objectives are not forgotten. The establishment of both a SC 46 Scenic Byway Advisory Group (which could eventually become an established "Friends of SC 46 Scenic Byway) and the SC 46 Scenic Byway Advisory Committee are recommended. See Chapter XI – Action Plan for more information on how to form both of these organizations.

Continued community participation can also be invited through a variety of activities such as:

- Scenic Byway Day – a fun-filled annual event can highlight the ways the Scenic Byway benefits the community.
- Education and Media Relations – Education campaigns at schools and in the community can improve awareness of roadway safety and create interest in resources and appreciation of the resources along the road. Newspapers and radio stations can be encouraged to do stories occasionally on how the Scenic Byway benefits the overall quality of life, the rich history, and the fragile eco system along its route.
- Newsletter and Website – A newsletter and/or website can heighten community awareness of the goals of the Scenic Byway program and assist in implementing the Corridor Management Plan and both monitoring and changing it as needed as elements occur that may or may not have been an issue at the time the plan was written.