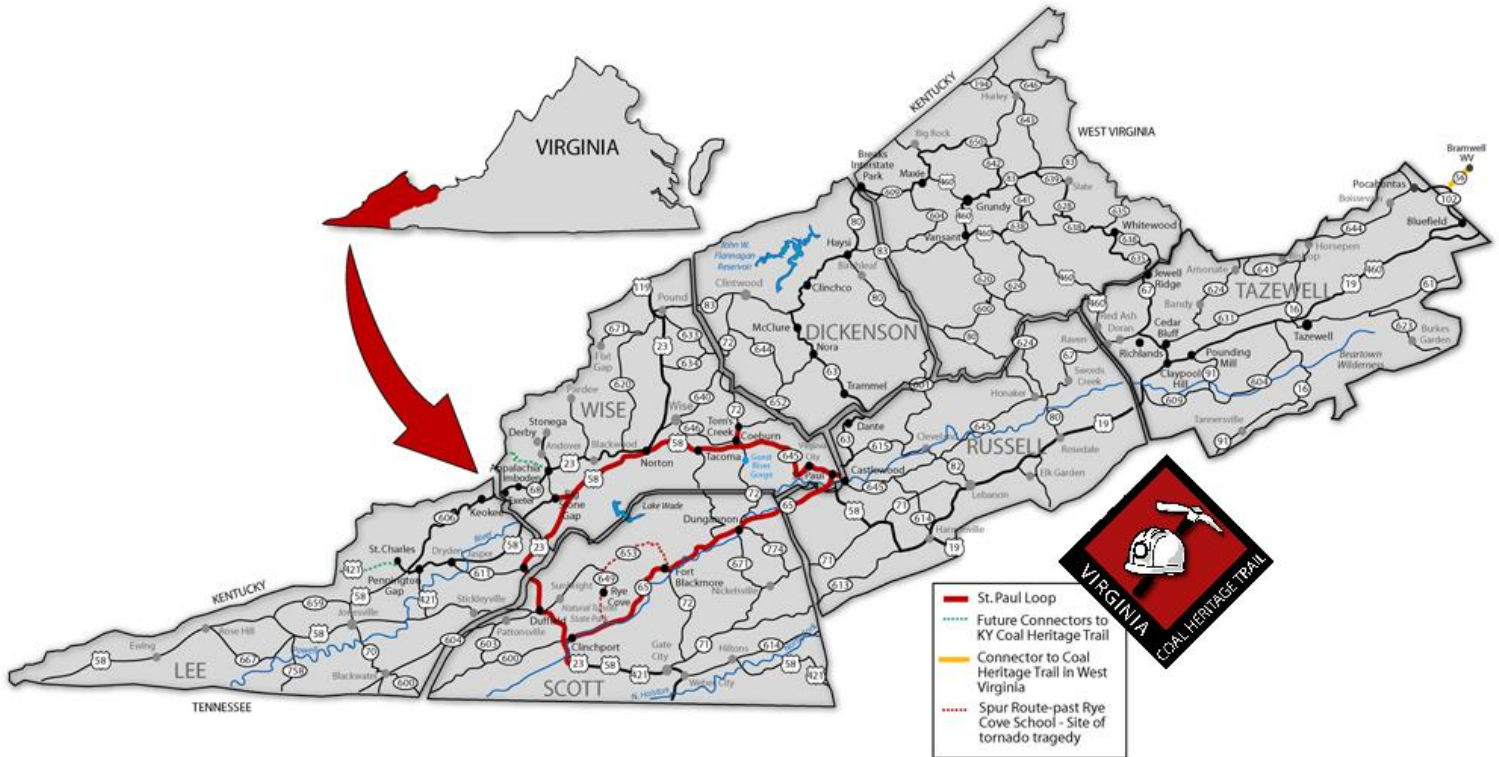




ST. PAUL LOOP
Part of the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail System



Starting Point of St. Paul Loop: At the intersection of 58A and 63 (Wise County) turn east on 58A at St. Paul (Russell County) towards Castlewood, south on Rt 65 Mew Road through the town of Mew (into Scott County) then south on Hwy 72 through Dungannon then left onto Rye Cove Road loop back to Hwy 72 to Fort Blackmore, Clinchport with side trip south on Hwy 23 to Copper Creek Railroad Trestle.

Then North on Hwy 23 through Duffield (into Lee County then into Wise County) past Big Stone Gap where road becomes Hwy 23/58A/Norton-Coeburn Hwy then splits. Turn east on Hwy 58A through Tacoma, turn onto Hwy 72 through Coeburn and Tom's Creek then back to Hwy 58A through Virginia City back to St. Paul.

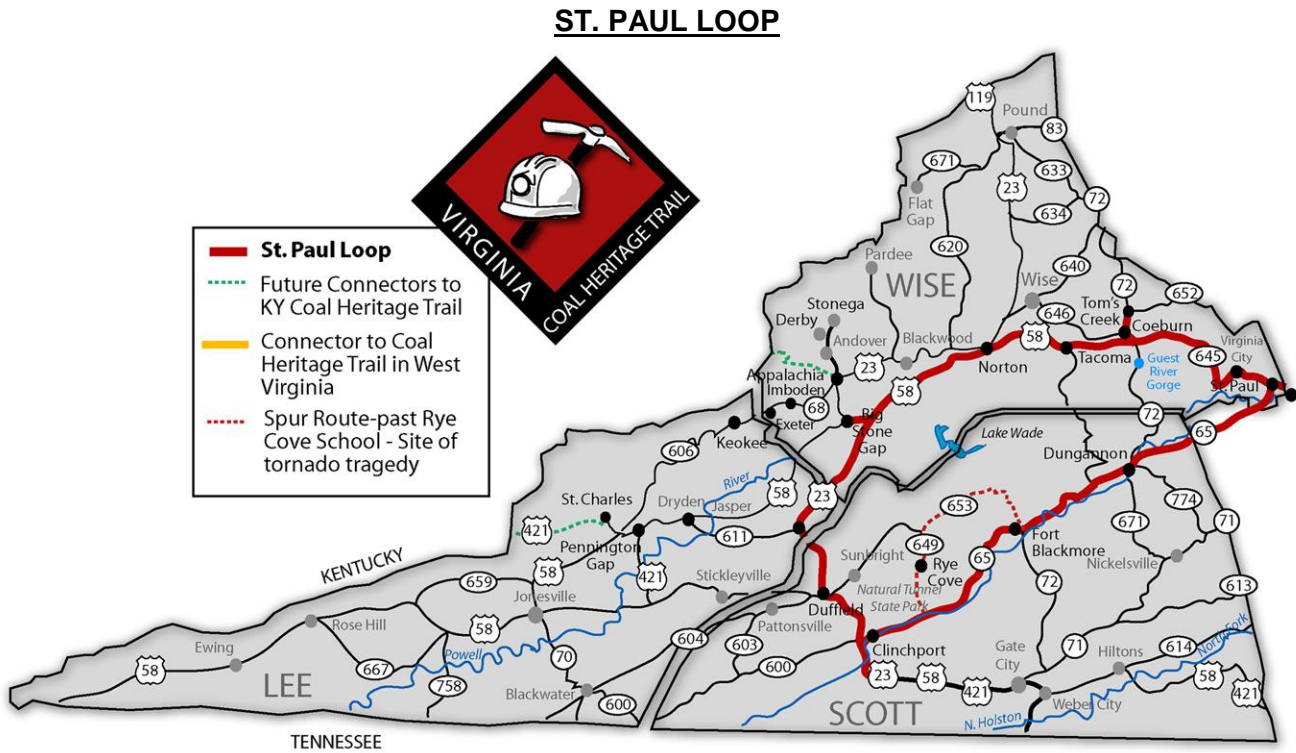
Please note: A scenic loop (noted by the dotted red line) was considered which takes the traveler off VA 65 in Scott County onto Hwys 653 and 641 taking one past the tragic site of the tornado which destroyed the community of Rye Cove including the destruction of the schoolhouse killing a number of students as well as residents in the area. The old school bell is located in front of the new school as a tribute to those who perished.

But after further review, it was felt that a wayside exhibit at the intersection of VA 65 and Hwy 653 which could then note the monument. It would then be the choice of the traveler whether or not to travel the route to see the bell.



CHAPTER III: ROUTE, MAPS & ROADS

St. Paul Loop



COUNTY/TOWN	HIGHWAY	MILE	TRAFFIC COUNT	DESCRIPTION
Castlewood - Russell County	Alt 58	3.5 miles	9218	Commercial zone
Russell County	65 (Mew Road)	4.8 miles	972	Agricultural area – 2 lane
Scott County	65	4.7 miles	972	Agricultural area
Dungannon - Scott County	65	.3 miles	972	Clinch River located in this area
Dungannon - Scott County	72 South	2.4 miles	1033	Commercial, , churches, homes, old depot, etc.
Scott County	65/72	14.0 miles		Curvy two lane road with center yellow line. Agricultural area.
Fort Blackmore - Scott County	65/72	.9 miles		Lots of kudzu , close to Clinch River
Fort Blackmore - Scott County	65	12.8 miles		Residential and commercial area with two lane road traveling out into county.

CHAPTER III: ROUTE, MAPS & ROADS
St. Paul Loop



Clinchport - Scott County	65	.5 miles		
Scott County	23	1.6 miles		
Duffield - Scott County	23	3.1 miles		Crooked Road Music Trail. 4 lanes with grass median.
Lee County	Hwy 23	4.5 miles		2-lane road divided highway with grass median
Wise County	Hwy 23/Alt 58			Scenic vistas. Divided highway with grass median.
Wise County	Hwy 23/Cantrell Highway	3.3 miles		Divided highway 58/23- 4 lane. Scenic vistas and overlook.
Wise County	Hwy 58A/23	6.1 miles		4-lane with yellow center line, scenic vistas, James Walker Robinson Memorial Scenic Overlook for Benges Gap
City of Norton	Hwy 58A/23 Connector	Exit 1		Takes one into downtown Norton and then picks up scenic byway towards Coeburn. <i>Request to extend byway into Coeburn and Tom's Creek is noted on the following page.</i>
Wise County	Hwy 58A/Norton-Coeburn Rd/23	5.1 miles		Travels past a tourism kiosk with Crooked Road Highway wayside exhibit and a section of the road is designated as "Senator Long Highway – Trail of the Lonesome Pines." Road is 4 lane with yellow center line.
Tacoma - Wise County	Hwy 58A/Norton-Coeburn Road/23	2.8 miles		Few commercial buildings along with Coal Tipple and railroad tracks.
Coeburn - Wise County	Hwy 58A/23	2.0 miles		Commercial area with strip malls, fast food, gas stations, pharmacies, etc. Highways 23/58A split east and west.
Wise County	Hwy 58A	11.7 miles		Wide shoulders, four lane with grass median. Steep grade 55 mile speed limit as one comes down the mountain. Pass by Virginia City sign and Dominion Coal Energy Development.



CHAPTER III: ROUTE, MAPS & ROADS

St. Paul Loop

St. Paul - Wise County	Hwy 58A	3.3 miles	Have options of reconnecting with sections of VA Coal Heritage Trail by taking Hwy 270 through St. Paul or continuing on Hwy 58A eastward and enter into Russell County.
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This road connects with the Pocahontas Trail at St. Paul.

A formal request has been made on behalf of the Coeburn Town Council and the Coeburn Economic Development Authority to include communities of Coeburn and Tom’s Creek be added to the Virginia Coal Heritage Trail as an extension on the St. Paul Loop.

The changes in the route (noted in **blue** on the map) would include:

- As one drives east on Hwy 58A from Tacoma towards St. Paul, take Exit 1 onto VA 72N/Downtown/VA158E for 0.3 miles, turn left on VA 813/2nd Street SW for 0.4 miles then right onto Front Street E/VA158 into the historic Town of Coeburn, home of Lays Hardware Center for the Arts.
- Instead of turning right onto Front Street, if one turned left onto Laurel Avenue/VA 72 for 1.6 miles then right onto Tom’s Creek Road for 4.3 miles to “arrive at the site of an operational coal tippie where many coke ovens once existed”. Tom’s Creek was known by all the other surrounding coal camps as the Cultural Center for the region. Still remaining are two historic railroad structures.



See APPENDIX K for a copy of the request.