



Delaware Bayshore Byway Designated a National Scenic Byway

**Remarks by Steve Borleske, Chairman of the Byway Management Team
Press Conference 4-22-2021**

- Good Morning! My name is Steve Borleske. I am a long term volunteer of Delaware Greenways and have been part of the Delaware Greenways team that has helped develop and managed the Byway for over ten years. I currently serve the Chair of the Byway Management Team.
- Today we celebrate a Delaware Treasure becoming a National Treasure. The Delaware Bayshore Byway has been designated a National Byway! What started as a Scenic Route 9 project based on fifty miles of a picturesque coastal road has grown into a National Scenic Byway showcasing over 100 miles of the Delaware coastline, many coastal communities and natural attractions. We are excited about the future opportunities this designation will catalyze.
- As with so many good things that happen in Delaware, the Byway is the result of a large partnership among Delaware Citizens, not-for-profit organizations and local, State and Federal government.
- DelDOT started the State Byways program in 2000 and has been a strong supporter and active partner of the program ever since. Route 9 was designated a scenic Delaware Byway in 2007. The current 100 mile coastal route of New Castle to Lewes was officially approved in 2020.
- A key byway milestone was the DNREC launch of the Delaware Bayshore Initiative in 2012 to boost conservation, strengthen Tourism and local economies. The concept of the Byway as the gateway to the Delaware Bayshore was born. The Byway has evolved to a scenic route with over 19 Discovery Zones of quaint coastal towns, serene wildlife areas and many nature-based recreation opportunities.
- Together, DelDOT, DNREC and Delaware Greenways built a team of local citizens and community leaders, stakeholders of nature based not-for-profit organizations and our State and local tourism experts. We now have a large diverse group of people involved in the Byway that work together to ensure that we maintain the delicate balance of protecting our natural environment while we develop regional ecotourism and boost local economic development.
- I would like to say thank you to all the Delaware Bayshore Byway supporters. We look forward to your continued support and help.