

2020

North Ridge Scenic Byway Corridor Management Plan (CMP)

Ohio Department of Transportation

Updated *December 2019*



TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page #
<u>I. INTRODUCTION</u>	1
A. Byway Introduction	
B. Byway Route Map	
<u>II. BYWAY STRATEGIC PLAN</u>	3
A. Vision, Mission and Beliefs	
B. Accomplishments since last CMP	
C. Goals and Objectives	
<u>III. BYWAY ORGANIZATION</u>	7
A. Structure and Organization	
B. Committees, Representatives, Partners, Stakeholders	
C. Leaders' Contact Information	
D. Level of Participation in State/Regional Meetings and Trainings	
E. Byway Leadership Succession Plan	
<u>IV. BYWAY CORRIDOR CONDITIONS</u>	9
A. Road Conditions and Signage	
B. Primary and Secondary Intrinsic Quality/Resources	
C. Changes in Intrinsic Quality/Resources since last CMP	
D. Accessibility to Intrinsic Quality/Resources	

V. VISITOR EXPERIENCE **16**

- A. Interpretation since Designation
- B. Byway Story
- C. Future Interpretation
- D. Plans for Improving Visitor Experience
- E. Preservation

VI. MARKETING AND PROMOTION **17**

- A. Current and Future Planned Marketing Activities
- B. Recommended Products or Attachments for Media and Public Relations

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION **19**

- A. Ongoing Communication & Cooperation with Community Partners
- B. Public Meetings and Public Participation Opportunities
- C. Steps Taken to Update Byway Mission and Vision
- D. Narrative on Critical Issues and How They Will Be Addressed

VIII. APPENDIX **20**

- A. Sign Inventory (Excel Spreadsheet of GIS data)
- B. Most Current Byway Map
- C. Maps Identifying Primary Intrinsic Quality/Resource Locations
- D. Seasonal Byway Photographs – 2 per season
- E. Marketing Materials

I. INTRODUCTION AND MAP

A. Byway Introduction

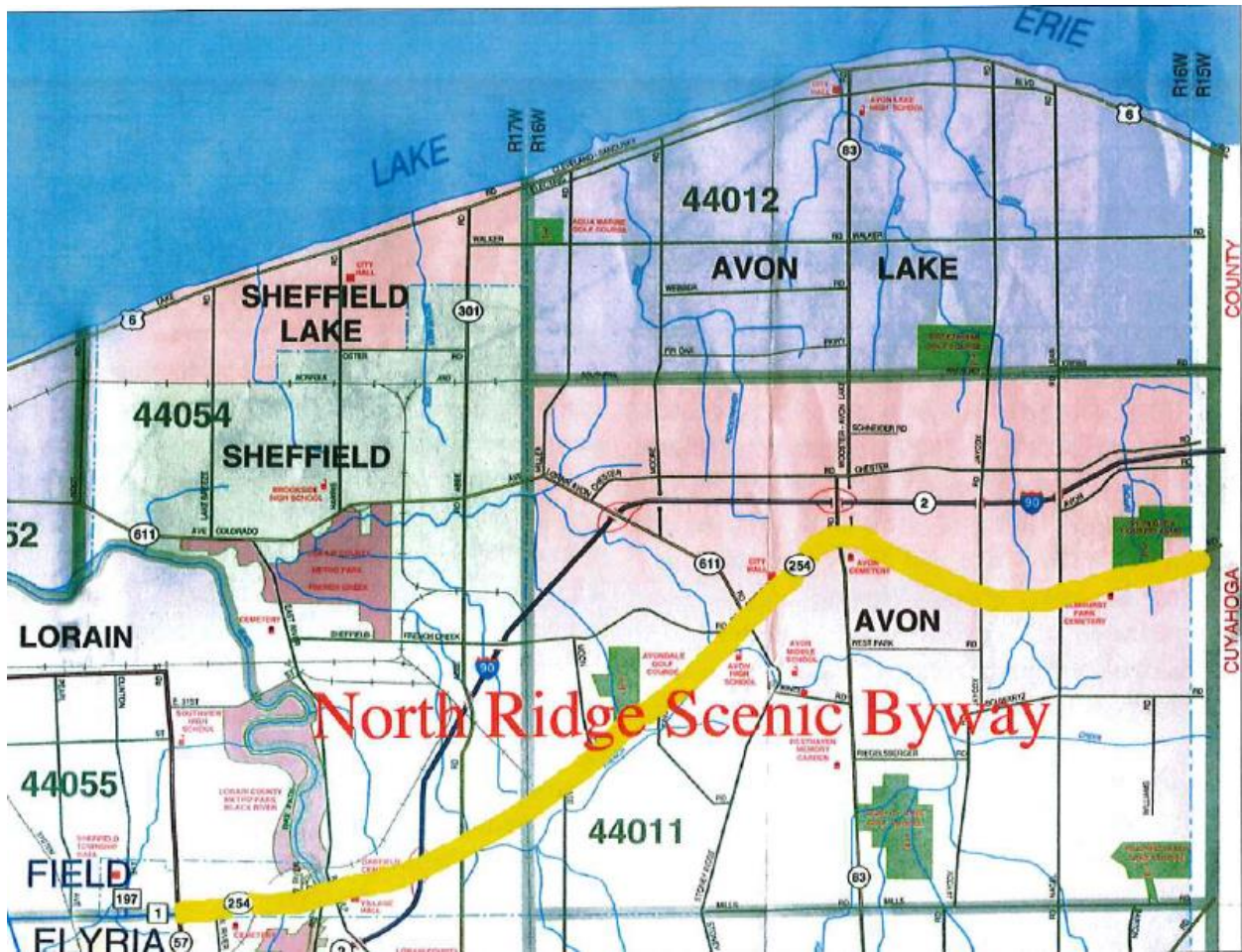
The North Ridge Scenic Byway located in northern Lorain County, Ohio, traverses the communities of Avon, Sheffield Village and Sheffield Township along Ohio Route 254. In August 2007 the Ohio Department of Transportation designated the entire 9-mile segment of Ohio Route 254 within Lorain County as the North Ridge Scenic Byway. Management of the Scenic Byway is the responsibility of the Sheffield Village Historical Society and the Avon Historical Society, working in concert with the Ohio Department of Transportation, Office of Environmental Services. The purpose of this document is to guide the management of the Scenic Byway over the next five years.

Variouly known as North Ridge and Detroit Roads, this historic highway passes through a diverse assemblage of agricultural, residential, commercial, and natural settings as it traverses the northernmost ancient beach ridge of a glacial-lake predecessor to Lake Erie. Travelers along this stretch of highway are treated to pleasing views of many cultural and natural features.

The communities of Avon and Sheffield are rich with human history that begins several thousand years ago with Native American Indian settlements on North Ridge and later along the Black River and French Creek. Soon after the War of 1812, hearty pioneers from New England and New York recognized the natural attributes here and began to settle the new land, naming it after their towns in the East. In the middle of the nineteenth century German immigrants purchased land and enriched the communities with their heritage. Churches and schools were built, and our rural communities flourished as they produced men and women of outstanding strength and character.

Visitors to the North Ridge Scenic Byway can view an array of working farms (many with early 19th century farmhouses), parkways, attractive commercial centers, and small-town neighborhoods with colorful antique shops, gift store, and restaurants. To assist visitors in their enjoyment of the Scenic, our Historical Societies have produced a brochure and a comprehensive guidebook to the features that can be viewed from North Ridge.

B. Byway Route Map



See also: <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/OhioByways/Pages/NorthRidge.aspx>

II. BYWAY STRATEGIC PLAN: VISION, MISSION, GOALS AND ACTIONS

A. Vision and Mission

Vision:

Today Avon and Sheffield are in transition as they become more modern residential and commercial centers. As they move forward, it is fitting to recognize the efforts of those who built these towns, and that we work to preserve and share the heritage of their contributions. We can learn much about ourselves and how to cope with our current challenges by understanding the hardships and joys of our rural ancestors. To this end the North Ridge Scenic Byway is dedicated.

Mission:

The Scenic Byway seeks to engender public awareness of the cultural and natural attributes associated with the Ohio Route 254 corridor through our communities. Preservation of historic buildings and sites along North Ridge has begun, but too late to save several noteworthy structures. Scenic Byway designation will do much to generate interest not only in the preservation of endangered historic buildings, but also will encourage further documentations of the cultural history of our community, thereby enhancing an appreciation of our heritage by residents and visitors alike.

The Northridge Scenic Byway proudly celebrates our history and showcases our communities for the enlightenment for visitors and residents alike. Our scenic byway provides an ideal avenue to promote our community's attributes for the economic, cultural, and social well-being and enrichment of our citizens, as well as drawing the attention and recognition of visitor and potential visitors and prospective residents to the quality of life to our communities can offer.

B. Accomplishments since last CMP

In 2019, the North Ridge Scenic Byway Commission was formed. It was designated by the City of Avon, Village of Sheffield, and Township of Sheffield to develop a management plan and oversee the promotion of the Scenic Byway (Route 254 within Lorain County) for the enjoyment and benefit of residents and visitors.

Our scenic byway provides an ideal avenue to promote our community's attributes for economic, cultural and social well-being and enrichment of our citizens, as well as drawing the attention and recognition of visitor and potential visitors and prospective residents to the quality of life our communities can offer.

In recognition of the founding of Sheffield in 1815, the Village of Sheffield dedicated a new Bicentennial Park and Founders Monument on August 2, 2015. The monument is a 10-foot high black granite spire with carved Sheffield Bicentennial seal and inscription lined in antique gold. The new park and monument are located on a parcel of land adjacent to the Sheffield Village Hall situated on the Scenic Byway. The historic, 1883, Queen Ann-style Village Hall is on the National Register of Historic Places.

As of March 2017, the Avon Aquatic Facility located at 36265 Detroit Road has been added to the North Ridge Scenic Byway. This is where the new safety services and post office have been located since 2008. In addition, Every Child's Playground a 1.6-million-dollar inclusive playground has been opened at this site with significant contributions by community businesses. In addition, on this property, in partnership with the Lorain County Library system, there is a story book walk that is updated monthly. There is also a History Walk that consists of 14 40 X 30 elevated plaques that outline the historical significance of Avon and the contribution of its residents since 1814. This History Walk Project has been made possible through the efforts of the Avon Historical Society, Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission, Avon High School students and others. This was completed in the Fall of 2017. Finally, there are future to build a new City Hall on this complex that is currently in discussion for naming rights. This site also holds a new Veteran's Memorial that consists of WWI through the War on Terror and pays respects to those Avon residents who have bravely given the ultimate sacrifice.

We have welcomed a new museum/research laboratory to the North Ridge Scenic Byway (September 2018) – Firelands Archaeological Research Center at 4944 Detroit Road in Sheffield Villages. The Center conducts archaeological excavation in our area in conjunction with the Cleveland Museum of Natural History. The center hosts public visitation to excavation sites and identification workshops for Native American artifacts, fossils, rocks & minerals. The Center also presents guest lectures at local organizations and libraries. The first of these was held August 6, 2019, titled “ The First People of the Black River Valley.” The Black River Valley and the Garfield Bridge are important components of the Byway.

The Historic Marker in downtown Avon (Norton S. Townshend, M.B.) was accidentally damaged and has been replaced. This marker honors Norton S. Townshend for his agricultural contributions to Avon. He was one of the founding fathers of The Ohio State University.

Quaker Steak and Lube on the byway in Sheffield Village holds weekly Bike nights and classic car shows are celebrated along the byway. They are held from May through October weather permitting.

In conjunction with the Avon Historical Society and the Avon Branch of the Lorain Public Library, we are fostering a program of oral histories that relates to the settlement and noteworthy events that have taken place in the vicinity of the Byway.

Also, as mentioned above, we are working with the Firelands Archaeological Research Center to present lectures at local libraries. The first is scheduled for August 6, 2019, titled, “The First People of the Black River Valley.” The Black River Valley and the Garfield Bridge are important components of the Byway.

The Amendment to the Avon City Charter of 2004 pertaining to the Detroit Road preservation, was upheld by vote of the citizens in 2017. The amendment limits State Route 254 to no more than 3 lanes, thus preserving century old homes for years to come. Detroit Road, aka state Route 254, passes through the French Creek District between state Route 83 and French Creek Road and is three lanes from Route 83 to Colorado Avenue, state Route 611. Widening the road would change the district and lead to the destruction of historic buildings, homes and existing businesses, which is one of the reasons the Charter Review Commission inserted language regarding the width of the road into the charter, reflecting the will of the citizens of Avon.

C. Goals, Objectives, Action Plan Priorities, Responsibilities, Timeline, and Funding.

The Historical Societies, managers of the Scenic Byway will continue to foster a close relationship with the administration of the City of Avon, the Village of Sheffield, and the Township of Sheffield—the communities along the Scenic Byway. This is exemplified by the Societies being included in the membership of key civic organizations, such as the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission and the Sheffield Bicentennial Commission.

Goal I: Explore Scenic Byway sponsorship

Objective	Person/group responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Obtain funding for byways goals and garner more stakeholders	<i>Paula Pitasky</i>	2020/2021	-Confer with Tom Barrett concerning the Adopt a Highway sponsorship program -Determine how many signs are along the byway -Develop a proposal for business community. -5-year term on sponsorships	TBD

Goal II: Develop a Logo

Objective	Person/group responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Brand the byway	<i>Paula Pitasky Matt Smith Ralph White Dr. Charles Herdendorf</i>	2020	-Define a word description of what the logo should represent -Work with a Graphic Designer or sponsor a competition. -Rebrand signage, brochures, web presence, etc.	TBD

Goal III: Update the Vision and Mission

Objective	Person/group responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Rewrite to be more succinct Vision to be a word picture of where you are going.	<i>Paula Pitasky Matt Smith Ralph White Dr. Charles Herdendorf</i>	2020	-rewrite together	NA

Goal IV: Develop a succession plan for the byway

Objective	Person/group responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Form a stronger, formal committee structure	<i>Paula Pitasky and Matt Smith- Avon Dr. Charles Herdendorf- Sheffield Kathy Keefer</i>	2020	-Each community/township to dedicate a scenic byway commission of members to serve on the joint commission.	NA

	Ralph White		-Set up a committee structure, leadership succession, regular meeting schedule, etc.	
Create an Archive	Paula Pitasky	2021	-dedicate a person from the new commission to keep data on server and file to store documents	NA

Goal V: Promote the Scenic Byway

Objective	Person/group responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Sheffield- Pioneer publication and web site Avon- Newsletter and web site as well as social medial feeds	Paula Pitasky - Avon Dr. Charles Herdendorf-Sheffield	Ongoing	-Link with each other and keep ODOT Story Map updated with succinct links to byway pages -Coordinate efforts with CVBs -Update printed material when there is need reprint. Consider sponsorships or grants.	TBD
Sheffield- Pioneer publication and web site (SheffieldVillage.com and SheffieldBicentennial.org) Avon- Newsletter and web site as well as social medial feeds	Paula Pitasky - Avon Dr. Charles Herdendorf-Sheffield	Ongoing	-Link with each other and keep ODOT Story Map updated with succinct links -Coordinate efforts with CVBs -Update printed material when there is need reprint. Consider sponsorships or grants.	TBD
Rededication of Scenic Byway when new signs are installed.	Paula Pitasky - Avon Dr. Charles Herdendorf-Sheffield	2020/2021	Once signage is complete, responsible parties will coordinate with Mayors of Avon, Sheffield Village and representatives to hold press event.	N/A

Goal VI: Install byway interpretive signs

Objective	Person/group responsible	Timeline	Action Plan	Funding
Install one panel in each of the two communities	Matt Smith	2022	-Identify locations -Write the byway story and have the panel designed. -Solicit funding required.	\$3,000 in each community

III. BYWAY ORGANIZATION: STRUCTURE, COMMITTEES, VOLUNTEERS, AND PARTNERS

A. Structure:

The management of the North Ridge Scenic Byway is an integral part and function of the Sheffield Village Historical Society and the Avon Historical Society. The communities have designated a Scenic Byway Commission as a managing organization. Meetings are held quarterly to discuss North Ridge Scenic Byway issues, primarily when special events are being held.

B. Description of Current and Future Byway Committee Representatives, Partners and Stakeholders

Stakeholder/Partner/Group	Email	Phone	Address
Avon Historical Society	info@avonhistoricalsociety.org	440-934-6106	36995 Detroit Rd Avon, OH 44011
City of Avon	paula.pitasky@gmail.com	440-670-5325	36080 Chester Rd Avon, OH 44011
Non-Profit	Ralph White/Dr. Charles Herdendorf		
Elected Official/Government Designee	Matt Bliss/Paula Pitasky		
Historian	Ralph White/Matt Smith		
Artisans	Anne Bort		
Private Landowner	Kathy Keefer		
Business	Clint Gault		
Lorain County CVB	visitors@visitloraincounty.com	440-984-5282	8025 Leavitt Rd Amherst, OH 44001

C. Primary and Secondary Byway Leader Contact Information

Ralph White	President of the Avon Historic Society	36715 Lakeland Drive, Avon, OH 44011. (440) 934-7720.- call first bigpup@centurylink.net
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Dr. Charles E. Herdendorf	President of the Sheffield Village Historical Society	4921 Detroit Rd, Sheffield Village, OH 44054 (419) 515-4151
Matt Smith- Secondary	Chair of the Avon Landmarks Preservation Commission	(440) 897-8047 Cell Bluegillmatt75@yahoo.net
Paula Pitasky- Primary	Paula Pitasky Community Liaison City of Avon	440-670-5325 Cell paula.pitasky@gmail.com

D. Level of Participation in State/Regional Byway Meetings and Trainings

Dr. Herdendorf attended a state byway meeting in Springfield (Clark County) about 10 years ago. He found that the meeting was not particularly useful and recommended that the time could be spend more productively working locally. The Byway Commission has discussed if a meeting is held locally, there would be interest in attending if budget and time allow.

E. Byway Leadership Succession Plan

The Scenic Byway Commission was re-established in order to requalify for byway designation in 2020. By gathering this group together, we have brought in new membership between all municipalities. These entities will fill any vacant positions by appointment. Also see goal 5.

IV. BYWAY CORRIDOR CONDITIONS: ROADWAYS, SAFETY, INTRINSIC RESOURCES, AND ACCESSIBILITY

A. Road Conditions and Signage

As a State Route, maintenance of the road surface, signage, and shoulders are the responsibility of the Ohio Department of Transportation in concert with the communities through which it traverses. Our function in this regard is to alert the appropriate agencies of any needed repairs or service, which is our ongoing policy.

Avon City Charter review in 2017 included an amendment State route no more than 3 lanes thus preserving century old historic homes.

There is a significant amount of congestion at peak conditions in the center of the byway. The City of Avon is working to address these problems. There will be significant infrastructure improvements along the byway in 2022-2024 with the help of grants from ODOT. Some of those improvements will be at State Route 83 and State Route 254. There will also be a roundabout at State Route 254 and Nagel Road.

The Village of Sheffield has experienced the same problems and has received authorization and funding to install a new traffic light with crosswalk at the intersection of State Route 254 (Detroit Road) and Transportation Drive.

i. Existing official ODOT byway signs.

See appendix A.

ii. Local byway signs.

Future signage will be dependent on funding by ODOT and sponsorship opportunities. See Sign Inventory in Appendix A.

iii. Interpretive signs.

See goal #5 and appendix.

iv. Future sign needs.

See goal #5.

B. List of Primary and Secondary Intrinsic Qualities/Resources

The byways primary intrinsic quality is the historic integrity of the byway. The secondary intrinsic quality is Cultural.

Primary Intrinsic Quality	Secondary Intrinsic Quality	Site and Location (GPS when available)	Description
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Archaeological	Historic	Burrell Orchard Site (33-LN-15) in Sheffield, 2.5 miles north of Byway.	Site of Late Archaic period seasonal base camp dating between 7000 and 2300 BC.
Scenic	Natural	Junction of East River and Detroit Roads at Garfield Bridge, Sheffield	Scenic path/overlook.
Archaeological	Historic	Garfield Bridge Site	During this bridge's construction, bulldozers exposed an Indian burial site.
Scenic	Natural	Detroit Road Bridge over French Creek, Avon	Several old farmhouses and barns were centered in the French Creek District of Avon, in the vicinity of where the stream meanders under the Detroit Road Bridge.
Historic	Cultural	Old Vincent Methodist Church 2283 North Ridge Rd, Mile Point 0.1	Constructed c. 1910 in the community of Vincent, a short distance east of the <i>Yellow Line</i> streetcar tracks. The streetcar service was built by Tom Johnson, founder of Johnson Steel Company, principally to carry workers from Lorain and Elyria to his new steel plant in South Lorain. Some folks still refer to the community of Vincent as <i>Stop 7</i> , in reference to the trolley line stop number. Today the Old Vincent Methodist Church building serves as a nursery school.
Cultural	Historic	Hawks Nest Greenhouse 2810 North Ridge Rd, Mile point 0.5	After World War II, the sandy soil of North Ridge proved ideal for growing tomatoes in greenhouses and many acres were encased in glass in these traditionally agricultural communities. Most of the remaining greenhouses have been converted to raise flowers and ornamental shrubs, and farm stands provide appealing seasonal offerings to passerby.
Historic	Cultural	Garfield Bridge Union of North Ridge and Detroit Roads, Mile Point 1.1	Known as the "Gashouse Hill bridge" locally, this steel truss structure had become old and rickety by the early 1930s and plans were made to replace it with a viaduct. The second bridge was completed in 1936 on newly dedicated S.R. 254. It was 1,470 feet long and 90 feet high above the riverbed. Eventually the steel viaduct succumbed to corrosion and metal fatigue. It was replaced in 2003. In 2008, the Lorain County Engineer placed a bronze plaque on the southeast bridge abutment to commemorate both 1936 and 2003 Garfield Bridges. This is the home of the Bicentennial Park

			and Founders Monument. Found on National Register.
Natural	Recreational	Bridgeway Trail- Black River Mile Point 1.1	The Black River Reservation of the Lorain County Metroparks is an 833-acre natural area that courses along the valley of the Black River from Lorain to Elyria, Ohio, passing under the Garfield Bridge in Sheffield. The Reservation’s prominent natural features, the Black River, cuts a scenic, meandering path through bottomlands, forest wetlands, and upland meadows while exposing impressive shale cliffs and evidence of many millennia of flow to Lake Erie, a mere seven miles downstream. Bridgeway Trail offers a four-mile-long hike/bike trail suitable for hikers, bicyclists, rollerblades, and other modes of non-motorized transportation.
Historic	Cultural	Lorain & West Virginia Railroad Trestle Black River- Mile Point 1.1	Constructed in 1906, an impressive, high-level trestle over the Black River was built to service the burgeoning steel mills in South Lorain with coal from the Ohio Valley. The roundhouse and switchyard were abandoned in the 1930s, and the trestle and mainline tracks were taken out of service in the 1960s.
Historic	Recreational	Logan Gas Company Works Intersection of Detroit and Gulf Roads Mile Point 1.2	On the southwest corner an experimental gas liquefaction plant once stood. The plant consisted of a compressor facility and utility building at the road level, and a pumphouse located near the base of the Black River bluff to obtain river water to cool the compressors. The road down to the pump station predates the plant and was originally constructed in the mid-1800s for the first bridge over the Black River. Once the plant was constructed, the road down the bluff became known as “Gashouse Hill,” a popular place for winter sledding.
Historic	Cultural	Reynolds-Hammer House 4747 Detroit Road Mile Point 1.3	This small Folk Victorian-style farmhouse was built circa 1860s or 1870s. The house features elaborate trim work on the front porch columns and scalloped shingles on the front gables. In recent years, this building has been converted to a charming shop known as <i>Ye Olde Village Kountry Store</i> , which specializes in Amish-style food and gifts.
Historic	Cultural	Sheffield Village Hall 4820 Detroit Road Mile Point 1.4	Built in 1883 as a schoolhouse, this brick structure is distinguished from typical late-19 th century one-room schools in that it has elaborate Queen Anne-style wood trim, especially at the peak of the front

			façade and in the ornate cupola bell tower. In 1935, the Board of Education, Sheffield Lake School District, transferred the schoolhouse on North Ridge to the newly formed Village of Sheffield to be used as a Village Hall and office for adjacent Garfield Cemetery.
Historic	Cultural	Garfield Cemetery 4820 Detroit Road Mile Point 1.5	The Garfield Cemetery was formally established in 1851 but had been used as an informal burial ground for several decades. The first interment was Captain Joshua Smith, a War of 1812 Veteran who died in 1817, and who has a monument erected in his memory. Many members of the early pioneer families are buried here. Found on National Register.
Historic	Cultural	Milton Garfield House & Farm 4921 Detroit Road, Mile Point 1.7	A large impressive Greek Revival-style house that was built in 1839 for Milton Garfield, the founder of Sheffield Township. The farm originally encompassed 200 acres on the north and south sides of North Ridge. This is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, with the house still being owned by the descendants of Milton Garfield himself. Found on National Register.
Historic	Cultural	Various Locations	There are multiple properties along the byway that are reputed to be a Sears, Roebuck & Co., or other type of package house. From 1908 to 1940, Sears, Roebuck & Co. sold approximately 75,000 kit homes through their mail order catalog and Modern Home sales offices- one was in Lorain in the late 1930s.
Historic	Cultural	George Root-Walter McAllister House 4944 Detroit Rd, Mile Point 1.7	This Colonial Revival-style home had its beginning as a small Vernacular-style farmhouse built by George Root in 1914 on the original farm of his grandfather, Milton Garfield. Today the building serves as the <i>Sheffield History Center</i> for the Sheffield Village Historical Society.
Historic	Cultural	Joseph Townsend House 5574 Detroit Road, Mile Point 2.8	Wood-frame house built circa 1855 in a typical Greek Revival-style with Italianate-style decoration on the front porch. Known as the Townshend House, in 1976 it was listed on the Ohio Historic Inventory (LOR-230-9).
Historic	Cultural	Burdett Farm 5555 Detroit Road, Mile Point 2.9	Italianate-style farmhouse and Vernacular-style barn built adjacent to the Lake Shore & Michigan Southern Railroad track circa 1890, which forms the border between Sheffield and Avon.
Cultural	Historic	Avon United Methodist Church	Avon United Methodist Church was organized in 1820. Their current Neoclassical-style brick church was completed in 1960.

		37711 Detroit Road, Mile Point 4.6	
Cultural	Historic	Avon Church of God 37445 Detroit Road, Mile Point 4.9	This Late Gothic Revival-style building was built in 1911 as the Avon Methodist Church, to replace the original 1855 wood-frame church that had been destroyed by fire. This century-old church building is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-102-3).
Historic	Recreational	Avon Isle Park Pavilion 37080 Detroit Road, Mile Point 5.1	The historic 50x70 foot dance pavilion is a blend of Neoclassical and Italian Revival styles. The pavilion was constructed in the mid-1920s by F.J. Roth in conjunction with the Knights of St. John. Avon Isle was a popular dance pavilion from the 1920s to the 1970s where a wide variety of civic and social events were held. It was a unique meeting place for men and women of diverse cultural backgrounds. The City plans to restore the dance pavilion as a civic center for the enjoyment of area residents.
Recreational	Cultural	Heritage Square Park 37001 Detroit Road, Mile Point 5.1	This cozy downtown park lies at the intersection of Detroit and Stoney Ridge Roads in Avon and was dedicated in 1999. The park features an elaborate Folk Victorian/Queen Anne-style octagonal gazebo completed in 2000. The park also proudly exhibits an Ohio Bicentennial Historic Marker dedicated to the accomplishments of Dr. Norton S. Townshend, a leader in progressive agriculture.
Historic	Cultural	Dr. Townshend Historic Marker 37001 Detroit Road, Mile Point 5.1	A bronze historic marker commemorating the life of Dr. Norton S. Townshend is located here. Dr. Townshend was instrumental in founding the Agricultural and Mechanical College at Columbus, Ohio in 1870, serving as its first professor of agriculture. Eight years later this land-grant institution became known as the Ohio State University, where Townshend Hall stands in honor of his founding role.
Historic	Cultural	Avon Old Town Hall of 1871 36995 Detroit Road, Mile Point 5.2	This building is a small, simple town hall that resembles a typical one-room schoolhouse of the late 19 th century. In the early years, a water well and pump were in front of the Old Town Hall that local people used for their water supply. The building is now owned by the City of Avon (1961). It is now the home of the Avon Historical Society in 1977. The Avon Old Town Hall of 1871 is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-103-

			3) and has been designated as a Lorain County Historic Landmark.
Historic	Cultural	Olde Avon Village 36480 Detroit Road, Mile Point 5.3	This charming enclave contains a cluster of historic structures, some in their original position and others moved here to avoid demolition, that provides the visitor with a fascinating opportunity to travel back to 19 th century Avon while shopping and dining. Includes the 1850s <i>Alten-Casper House</i> , 1850s <i>Gibbs-Binns House</i> , 1881 Nickel Plate Railroad <i>Avon Train Depot</i> with a 1918 <i>B&O caboose</i> , the 1840s <i>Lewis House</i> , 1830s <i>Blackwell Barn</i> , 1840s <i>George Clifton Barn</i> , and a replica late 1800s <i>Main Street</i> . Olde Avon Village also features a large glacial-erratic granite boulder, known as the <i>Rock of Avon</i> , dated by the Cleveland Museum of Natural History at 2 billion years old.
Historic	Archaeological	Avon Center [Mound] Cemetery 35995 Detroit Road, Mile Point 6.2	Avon Center Cemetery (also known as Mound Cemetery) is unique in that it is believed to be a prehistoric burial mound constructed by the Woodland Indians and later used as a cemetery by white settlers. Cemetery sexton, Alfred Walker, reported recovering several Indian skulls with some beads and arrowheads from the mound in 1900; however, no formal archaeological investigations have been conducted. Another interpretation is that the mound is the remnant of an ancient sand dune created over 12,000 years ago on the shore of glacial Lake Warren.
Historic	Cultural	Pickering Hill Farms Detroit Road, Mile Point 6.7	The farmhouses here were constructed circa 1920-1930. For five generations the Pickering family has operated the farm. John Pickering started farming the site upon his arrival from England in the mid-1800s. The present farm consists of over 70 acres of fruit and vegetables fields, open June through July.
Historic	Cultural	Holy Trinity Church and Rectory 33601 Detroit Road, Mile Point 7.9	Early 20 th century stone building is an ornate, impressive example of Victorian Gothic Revival-style church architecture. The sanctuary was completed in 1902, utilizing 22,000 tons of sandstone, mostly quarried in Amherst, Ohio. This church is listed on the Ohio Inventory of Historic Structures (LOR-87-3).
Historic	Cultural	Douglas Smith House	
Historic	Cultural	Halsey Garfield House	Found on National Register.

C. Changes in Intrinsic Qualities/Resources since last CMP

McAllister House (1929)	4926 Detroit Road	Purchased by Mike Bass Ford	Demolished
Joseph Townsend House (1855)	5574 Detroit Road	DESCRIPTION OF ISSUES	Zoned for commercial/Endangered

D. Accessibility to Intrinsic Quality/Resources: Pull-Offs, Parking, Rest Areas, Visitor Amenities, etc.

Sheffield Village Public Parking:

Black River Reservation Metro Park

Bicentennial Park

Sheffield Village Hall

Garfield Cemetery

Sheffield Crossing

City of Avon Public Parking:

Veterans Memorial Park

Every Child's Playground/Aquatic Center

Avon Isle

Little League Park/Olde Avon Village shared parking

Avon Commons

All interpretation, Pull-Offs, and visitor amenities along with associated parking, public restrooms and amenities are to be accessible per the Americans with Disability Act. This includes accessibility for persons with mobility, hearing, sight, and cognitive impairments. The 2010 US Census revealed that at least 56.7 million or 20 percent of the US population have some level of disability, about 20 million of which are mobility impaired Americans. Therefore, for the story of the byway to be told to all, new programs and improvements need to be accessible while existing sites should have transition plans in place by those who own and maintain them.

The byway organization will have a hand improving accessibility by raising awareness about the need to remove barriers to access and by installing all interpretive signs or other improvements according to the United States Civil Rights ADA laws. For free information and guidance, please contact the Great Lakes ADA Center at 800-949-4232 (V/TTY).

V. VISITOR EXPERIENCE: INTERPRETATION, STORIES, AND PRESERVATION

A. Interpretation since Designation

This has not happened to date other than the ODOT Story Maps. The All About Avon Site was created in 2019 and the byway will provide input for interpretation. The same will happen in Sheffield.

B. Byway Story

The North Ridge Scenic Byway is in northern Lorain County, Ohio, traversing the communities of Avon, Sheffield Village and Sheffield Township along Ohio Route 254. In August 2007 the Ohio Department of Transportation designated the entire 9-mile segment of Ohio Route 254 within Lorain County as the North Ridge Scenic Byway.

Variously known as North Ridge and Detroit Roads, this historic highway passes through a diverse assemblage of agricultural, residential, commercial, and natural settings as it traverses the northernmost ancient beach ridge of a glacial-lake predecessor to Lake Erie. Travelers along this stretch of highway are treated to pleasing views of many cultural and natural features.

The communities of Avon and Sheffield are rich with human history that begins several thousand years ago with Native American Indian settlements on North Ridge and later the Burrell Fort on French Creek. Visitors to the North Ridge Scenic Byway can view an array of working farms (many with early 19th century farmhouses), parkways, attractive commercial centers, and small-town neighborhoods with colorful antique shops, gift store, and restaurants. To assist visitors in their enjoyment of the Scenic, our Historical Societies have produced a brochure and a comprehensive guidebook to the features that can be viewed from North Ridge.

C. Future Interpretation

See Marketing goals

By placing the Byway guidebook on municipalities websites, it will allow the commission to update the book for future interpretative needs.

D. Plans for Improving Visitor Experience

The Byway Commission will recommend to the respective Mayors that new signage be obtained to bring awareness of the significance of the byway. A website landing page will also be formed with a description of things to experience along the byway. Promotion of the landing page will encourage residents and businesses to promote positive experiences along the byway.

E. Preservation

Continuing public awareness efforts by the Historical Societies and the commission.

Keeping the Avon City Charter language that State route be no more than 3 lanes is critical to preserve the historic properties along the road was significant to preserving the historical significance along the byway.

VI. MARKETING: PROMOTION, FEATURED ATTRACTIONS AND FUTURE PLANS

A. Current and Future Planned Marketing Activities

Working together, the Sheffield Village Historical Society and the Avon Historical Society produced a publication titled Guide to the North Ridge Scenic Byway/ The 284-page guidebook contains some 290 full color and 125 black & white illustrations of features within the Scenic Byway Corridor. The guidebook is designed to familiarize travelers along this corridor with the natural and historic setting, and to provide a mile point by mile point illustrated description of the most noteworthy features, both natural and cultural, that can be seen while traversing the Scenic Byway. Publication of the guidebook was made possible by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration, and National Scenic Byway Program. The guidebook is available for a \$20 donation to either the Sheffield Village or the Avon Historical Societies.

In September 2008, the Sheffield Village Council authorized Mayor John D. Hunter to issue a proclamation establishing the North Ridge Historic District encompassing all the Ohio Route 254 within the Village of Sheffield. The proclamation recognizes the historic character of the North Ridge Scenic Byway and how its establishment has promoted the educational, cultural, economic, and general welfare of the people of the Village and has fostered civic pride in the notable accomplishments of the founders. The Scenic Byway managers continue to use this recognition to encourage enlightened development along the Byway.

Future Planned marketing activities are outlined in goals 1,2, and 5.

B. Recommended Products or Attachments for Media and Public Relations

Byway Brochure, City of Avon newsletter, websites: www.cityofavon.com www.allaboutavon.org www.sheffieldvillage.com Guide to the North Ridge Scenic Byway, Images of America: Avon, Images of America: Sheffield, Sheffield Through Time
<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/OhioByways/Pages/NorthRidge.aspx>

i. Short description of byway for use in publications.

Proposed by the Historical Societies of Avon & Sheffield Village, endorsed by officials, in 2007, ODOT designated the entire 9-mile segment of Ohio Route 254 in Lorain County as the North Ridge Scenic Byway. Starting with the intersection in Sheffield Township Ohio Route 254 Traverse the east portion of the Township, the Village of Sheffield, and the City of Avon before passing into Cuyahoga County.

ii. Seasonal digital photographs (at least 300 dpi).

See photos in Appendix D

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/OhioByways/Pages/NorthRidge.aspx>

iii. Brief description of the top 5-10 unique/authentic attractions on the byway.

#	Name	Description	GIS
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1	Jabez Burrel House	A Federal style home (1820) constructed by Captain Jabez Burrell after coming from Sheffield, Massachusetts.	41.454934, -82.104382
2	Sheffield Village Hall	A Queen Anne style building (1883) known as the Old District Schoolhouse.	41.421523, -82.092483
3	Milton Garfield House	A Greek Revival home (1893) occupied by Milton Garfield, a pioneer settler and prominent settler in Sheffield.	41.422773, -82.089458
4	Townshend House	A Greek Revival/Italianate style (1855) home.	41.428120, -82.071126
5	Elbridge Moon House	A Victorian/Italianate style (1857) home.	41.428128, -82.071126
6	William Rink House	A Greek Revival style (1840) home.	41.441942, -82.047475
7	Truman Daily House	An Italianate style (1870) home.	41.448827, -82.039171
8	Mauer House	Built in 1920.	41.453303, -81.990729
9	Holy Trinity Church	A Gothic Revival style (1902) home.	41.454537, -82.031103
10	Jahannes Nagel House	A Greek Revival style (1849) home.	41.442562, -81.989077
11	Colvin Sweet House	Greek Revival style (1848) home.	41.456562, -81.971417
12	Burmeister Funeral Home	A Neoclassical style (1960) home.	41.458319, -81.969873

iv. Provide website/URL (if available) and local website/URL that manages byway.

<http://www.dot.state.oh.us/OhioByways/Pages/NorthRidge.aspx>

v. Marketing contact information:

Paula Pitasky

City of Avon

paula.pitasky@gmail.com

440-670-5325

VII. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION: COMMUNITY PARTNERS, PUBLIC FORUMS, AND CRITICAL ISSUES

A. Ongoing Communication and Cooperation with Community Partners

Presentations at Sheffield Village council meetings to inform Village leadership of Byway accomplishments and needs. Also supply council/membership with published materials pertaining to byway. November 18, 2019

B. Public Meeting and Public Participation Opportunities

1. Both Avon and Sheffield Village Council Meetings are open to the public. Residents and business owners are encouraged to attend.

2. Lecture/Historical Series at Lorain County Library System to discuss the significance of Byway and historical landmarks along the byway could be held. First presentation scheduled February 6, 2020. First title called: " Archaeology in your Backyard: Searching for the Ancient Peoples of the Black River Valley"

C. Steps Taken to Update Byway Mission and Vision

N/A

D. Narrative on Critical Issues and How They Will Be Addressed

The establishment of the Scenic Byway Commission will ensure long-term stability for the management and promotion of the byway. The Commission will work with ODOT to ensure completion of the goals by 2023.

VIII. APPENDIX

A. Ohio Byway sign inventory (Microsoft Excel Spreadsheet, GIS information formatted as latitude, longitude as per ODOT guidelines)

BYWAY SIGN INVENTORY—NORTH RIDGE SCENIC BYWAY

Sheffield Township (west to east)

Existing:

- 1. Below Rt 254 sign just east of Rt 57 junction

Needed:

- 1. Midway between West River Road junction and Garfield Bridge
- 2. West approach to Garfield Bridge

Sheffield Village (west to east)

Existing:

- 1. Below Rt 254 sign just east of Gulf Road junction
- 2. Below Rt 254 sign just east of I-90 junction
- 3. Below Rt 254 sign just east of Rt 301 (Abbe Road) junction

Needed:

- 1. Midway between Gulf Road & Abbe Road junctions
- 2. At Sheffield Village/Avon boundary

Avon (west to east)

Existing:

- 1. Below Rt 254 sign just east of Nagel Road junction

Needed:

- 1. Just east of Case Road junction
- 2. Just east of Long Road junction
- 3. Below Rt 254 sign at Stoney Ridge Road junction
- 4. Below Rt 254 sign just east of Rt 611 junction
- 5. Below Rt 254 sign just east of Garden Road junction
- 6. Below Rt 254 sign just east of Rt 83 junction
- 7. Just east of Jaycox Road junction
- 8. Below Rt 254 sign at Avon/Westlake boundary

Avon (east to west)

Existing:

- 1. Below Rt 254 sign at Avon/Westlake boundary
- 2. Below Rt 254 sign just east of Nagel Road junction

Needed:

- 1. Just west of Jaycox Road junction
- 2. Below Rt 254 sign just west of Rt 83
- 3. Below Rt 254 sign just west of Clifton Way junction
- 4. Below Rt 254 sign just west of Rt 83 junction
- 5. Below Rt 254 sign just west of Rt 611 junction
- 6. Just west of Long Road junction
- 7. Just west of Case Road junction

Sheffield Village (east to west)

Existing:

- 1. Below Rt 254 sign just west of Rt 301 junction
- 2. Below Rt 254 sign just west of I-90 junction
- 3. Below Rt 254 sign at east approach to Garfield Bridge

Needed:

- 1. At Sheffield Village/Avon boundary

Sheffield Township (east to west)

Existing: (none)

Needed:

- 1. Midway between Garfield Bridge and West River Road junction
- 2. Below Rt 254 sign at Rt 57 junction

Name	Latitude	Longitude
Norton S. Townshend, M.D. (1815-1895)	41.4513050	-82.0353390

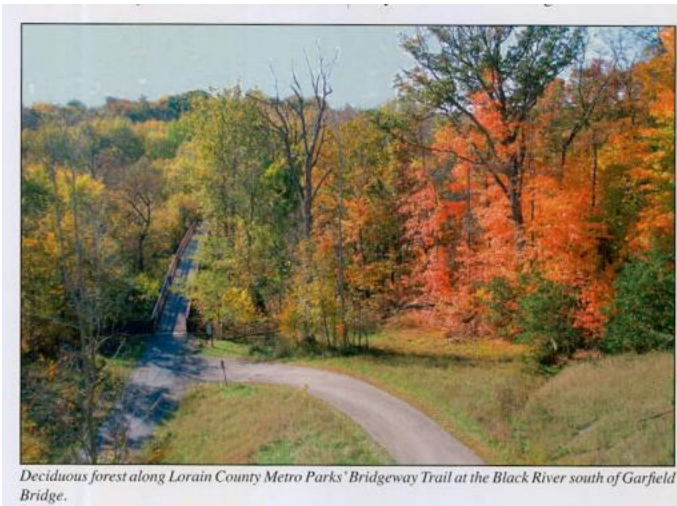
B. Most Current Byway Map



C. Maps Identifying Primary Intrinsic Quality/Resource Locations

None.

D. Byway Photographs- Include several images of your byway, at least one from each season.



Fall-Sheffield Township



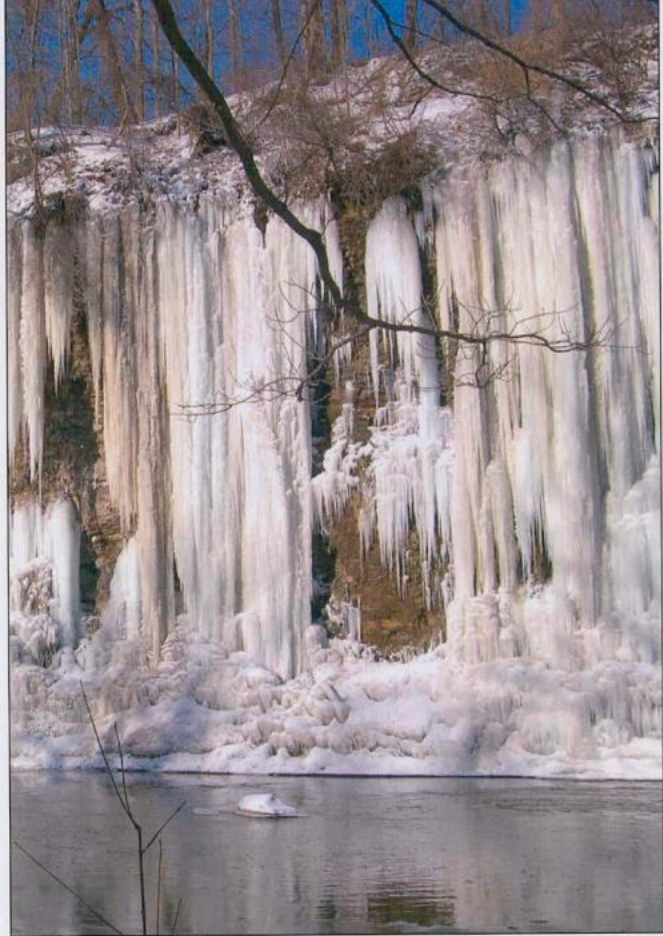
Autumn along the North Ridge Scenic Byway.

Fall-Sheffield Village



Soybean field on North Ridge.

Summer-Sheffield Village



Icicle formations on the Black River cliff at White Fort. Groundwater from the sandy soil of North Ridge forms a line of springs, known as "Fort Lot Springs," near the top of the bank where the sand meets the impervious shale. These can be viewed from the Bur Oak Picnic Area.

Winter-Sheffield Township



Winter at the Milton Garfield House.

Winter-Sheffield Village



Heritage Square Park gazebo—37001 Detroit Road.

Spring-Avon



Fall-Every Child's Playground Avon



Fall-Every Child's Playground/Aquatic Facility Avon



Fall-Veteran's Memorial, Avon



Fall-History Walk, Avon



Fall-History walk lecture series, Avon



Folk Victorian-style gazebo at the Milton Garfield House with inset of the Historic Landmark plaque awarded to the 1815 Milton Garfield farm by the Lorain County Historical Society.

Spring-Sheffield Village

E. Marketing Materials- If applicable.

Byway Brochure(attached)



Byway Brochure.pdf