

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION
NATURAL BEAUTY ROAD PROCEDURE**

Directive

To establish procedures to be followed in considering petitions in requisitioning the designation of a Natural Beauty Road under Public Act 451 of 1994, part 357.

Information

Initiating citizens should be invited for a preliminary meeting with Staff to review the statutory requirements under the Act. Staff should advise whether the proposed road is designated “County Local” as Act requires. An explanation of the petition’s requirements for the particular circumstances will be provided to the initiating citizens. Petitioners are encouraged to discuss their proposal with the appropriate Township officials and property owners along the roadway prior to submitting the petition.

Procedure

The following procedure is understood to comply with Public Act 451 of 1994 and is to be followed by those individuals and units cited below.

Responsibility

Action

Petitioner

1. Submits petition to the Grand Traverse County Road Commission (GTCRC).
2. Sends copy of petition to the appropriate township(s) to have each signature on the petition checked against county records of property ownership; at least 25 persons must be freeholders in the township(s) in which the road is located in accordance with Public Act 451.

GTCRC Admin Staff

3. Reviews petition for propriety and sufficiency and ensures submittal includes all necessary documentation per GTCRC Policy. If deficient returns to petitioner with comments otherwise, refers petition to GTCRC Eng Staff for processing.

GTCRC Eng Staff

4. Requests resolution by township(s) indicating degree of support, if such has not yet been received.
5. Checks road in question to determine “County Local” classification per latest certification map. Public Act 451 precludes designation of “County Primary” Roads.
 - a) If not a County Local Road, returns petition to primary petitioner with letter of explanation.
 - b) Otherwise, if it is a County Local Road and on the County Boundary, check the current certification map to determine which county had maintenance responsibility and authority to designate as a Natural Beauty Road.
 - c) If it is a County Local road, which is a township boundary, petitions must be submitted by at least 25 freeholders of each township; both townships will be invited to comment on designation at the public hearing.
 - d) If it is a County Local road which traverses two (or more) townships, the road will be broken into segments at the township lines and separate petitions from each township will be requested for each segment, to be followed by separate hearings and Board decisions.

<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Action</u>
GTCRC Admin Staff	6. Prepares Board Resolution to accept or reject petitions; 25 or more valid signatures are automatic acceptance.
GTCRC Board	7. Accepts validity of petitions and authorizes staff to establish a Natural Beauty Road public hearing. Otherwise, rejects and refers petition to GTCRC Admin Staff for return to citizen representative accompanied with letter of explanation.
GTCRC Admin Staff	<p>8. If Board accepts petition, determines names and addresses of owners of property along roadway segment proposed for designation to be used for the public notice.</p> <p>9. Schedules a public hearing at the local township hall(s) or other suitable place within the township(s) by discussing possible dates with citizen representative, township supervisor(s) and/or township clerk(s) and makes room reservation(s) in accordance with Public Act 451 of 1994. (Public hearing must be scheduled within six (6) months of date or receipt of the petition in accordance with Public Act 451).</p> <p>10. Prepares official notices indicating public hearing purpose, location, and time, and requesting official comments.</p> <p>11. Arranges for newspaper (at least one) of general circulation in the County to publish an official notice at least once each week for two (2) successive weeks not less than ten (10) days before the hearing in accordance with provisions of Public Act 451 of 1994.</p> <p>12. Sends an official notice to township for posting in township hall.</p> <p>13. Sends an official notice to citizen representative of petitioners.</p> <p>14. Notifies property owners by mail to notify of proposal for designation and time of scheduled public hearing.</p> <p>15. Posts official notices in five (5) public and conspicuous places along the section of road in question not less than ten (10) days before the hearing in accordance with Public Act 451 of 1994.</p> <p>16. Sends official notices and invitations to comment to all appropriate utility companies and to those public agencies owning frontage on the road.</p>
GTCRC Eng Staff	17. Prepares roadway evaluation in correlation with guidelines.
GTCRC Bd/Staff	<p>18. Conducts public hearing and tape records proceedings in accordance with Public Act 451 of 1994.</p> <p>19. Prepares public hearing summary report for GTCRC records which documents support for, or opposition to, the request. Also, staff will indicate the degree to which the road meets or doesn't meet the guidelines set forth in the <u>Guidelines for Granting and Withdrawing Designation of a Natural Beauty Road</u>.</p>
GTCRC Adm Staff	20. Staff prepares alternate resolutions for both acceptance and denial; Board decision must be made within 30 days of public hearing in accordance with Public Act 451 of 1994.
GTCRC Board	21. Entertains discussion and reaches decision on designation during appropriate meeting in accordance with Public Act 451 of 1994.

<u>Responsibility</u>	<u>Action</u>
GTCRC Admin Staff	22. Files a true copy of approved resolution with Office of County Clerk in accordance with Public Act 451 of 1994. 23. Notifies the following of the road designation, if approved: Township Clerk & Supervisor All utility companies Petitioner's representatives All GTCRC Departments Michigan Dept. of Natural Resources Newspaper
GTCRC Eng Staff	24. Prepares & sends letter of explanation to citizen representative and Township, if designation is denied. 25. Prepares Natural Beauty Road signs and erects one on each end of the designated road in accordance with Public Act 451 of 1994. 26. Conducts five (5) year review of Natural Beauty Road through roadway evaluation and guidelines to determine if continuation of designation is appropriate. 27. Presents findings of this review to the Board.
GTCRC Board	28. If Board determines that withdrawal of the designation may be warranted, a public hearing is scheduled in accordance with procedures previously outlined.
Board	29. Within 30 days following the public hearing, the Board reaches a decision to revoke or maintain designation.
GTCRC Admin Staff	30. If Board's decision is to revoke designation; a notice is filed with the County Clerk and published in a newspaper of general circulation, once each week for two (2) successive weeks.