



Memo

To: County Council
From: Community & Economic Development
cc: County Attorney
Date: October 17, 2017
Re: Morgan Loop Scenic Byway

Overview

The Utah Scenic Byway program is a "statewide partnership intended to provide educational, economic and recreational benefits to travelers...through the unique designation of the most outstanding tourism and transportation corridors in Utah." This program is authorized under Utah Administrative Law, Title 72 Chapter 4.

The proposed 32.9 mile "Morgan Loop Scenic Byway" incorporates State Routes 66 and 65, which pass through Morgan and Salt Lake Counties. The two roadways are distinct in their rural and scenic nature. SR66 also provides the only year-round access to East Canyon State Park.

The proposed route is distinctive in that it has three National Historic Trails that are adjacent to portions of the roadway and are of local and national interest. These are the Mormon, Oregon and Pony Express National Historic Trails; each has landmarks worth preserving along this roadway.

At their September board meeting, the Utah Office of Tourism/Utah Department of Transportation Scenic Byway committee, voted to move the application forward due to the above factors and asked that Morgan County move forward with its application for the proposed "Morgan Loop Scenic Byway."

Considerations

The designation of scenic byway protects intrinsic qualities along the roadway, as well as the rural nature of the community, by preserving the areas that are most accessible to visitors. There are six categories to consider with the preservation of a scenic byway. The scenic, natural, historic, cultural, archaeological, and recreational assets. Natural scenic and recreational are

abundant along the route; the Wasatch Range and the opportunity to view wildlife as well as recreation areas strongly favor this route for scenic byway designation.

The majority of the proposed 32.9-mile "Morgan Loop Scenic Byway", is located primarily within the boundaries of Morgan County. The county has approximately 24.7 miles that stretch from I-84 to Big Mountain. The Salt Lake County section of roadway, 8.2-miles, has Affleck Park and Little Dell Reservoir. Salt Lake County manages both of these active recreation areas. The majority of the National Historic Trails is between the Big Mountain section and Salt Lake County section of roadway.

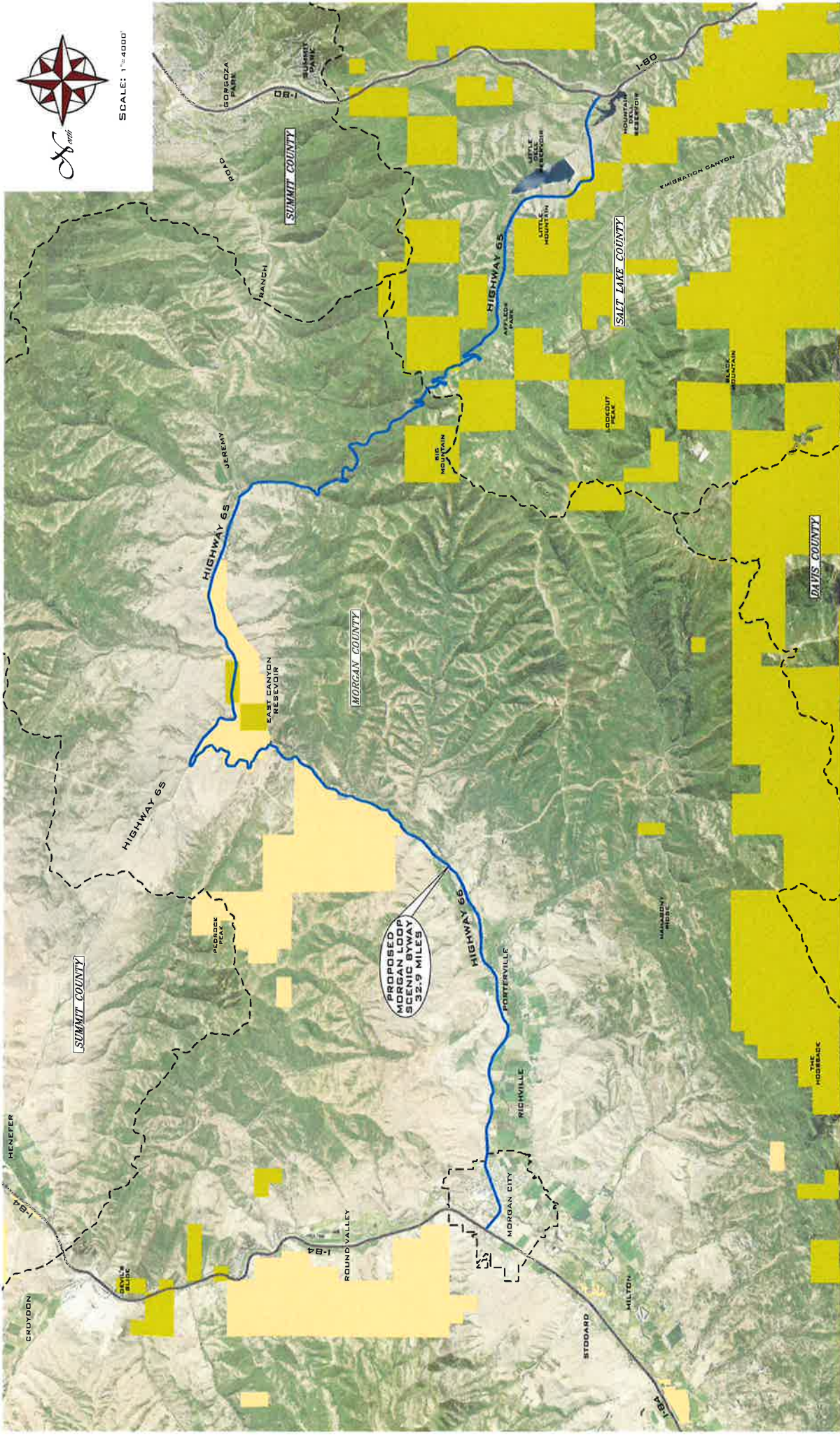
Cooperative management of the scenic byway is done with local, state, and federal stakeholders. Stakeholders include the following: Morgan County, Salt Lake County, Morgan City, Morgan Chamber, WFRC, UDOT, Utah Office of Tourism, Department of Natural Resources, US Forest Service, National Park Service, and the Bureau of Reclamation

Summary

The "Morgan Loop Scenic Byway" connects I-84 to I-80, a portion of SR-65 is closed for part of the year; the overall route is very accessible to recreation and other opportunities to the major metro areas along the Wasatch Front. The value in preserving this as a scenic byway is the reduction of future billboard placement along this route, the preservation of the rural nature of the northern and eastern part of the county as well as the ability to access grant funding not typically available for roadway and economic development.

The "Morgan Loop Scenic Byway" offers the county the ability to access grants, which support the following areas: tourism, historic preservation, land and water conservation, transportation, wayfinding, and assistance for rural business development.

The packet with a letter of support for the "Morgan Loop Scenic Byway" is due November 6, 2018 to the UoT/UDOT Committee. Letters of support have been collected from the following partners: Morgan City, Salt Lake County, East Canyon State Park, and the Morgan Chamber in support of this designation.



SCALE: 1"=4000'



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PROPOSED MORGAN LOOP SCENIC BYWAY
MORGAN, UTAH