

## NEWS RELEASE

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### **Old Red Trail gets “Scenic Byway” designation**

The winding 108-mile stretch of old U.S. Highway 10 from Mandan west to Dickinson, also known as the “Old Red Trail,” is North Dakota’s tenth and newest “Scenic Byway” as designated by North Dakota Department of Transportation (NDDOT) director, Francis Ziegler.

“The new scenic byway designation provides an opportunity to celebrate the historical significance of the Old Red Trail. It was a vital transportation route as North Dakota was settled and now as the state’s longest scenic byway, giving homage to the beautiful prairie landscape and unique sights intrinsic to North Dakota’s wide-open spaces,” Ziegler said.

Named the “Old Red/Old Ten Scenic Byway,” the route includes the 10-mile Almont loop. The designation is the culmination of the efforts of the Old Red Trail Committee, North Dakota Parks and Recreation and NDDOT. The Old Red Trail Committee is represented by volunteers from Mandan, New Salem, Almont, Glen Ullin, Hebron, Schnell Recreation Area, Richardton, Taylor, Gladstone and Dickinson. The group began meeting in an endeavor to develop a rural revitalization project in May of 2006. The committee’s mission is to create awareness of Old Red/Old 10 Scenic Byway as an alternative to Interstate travel.

The Scenic Byways and Backways program is provided through the cooperation of NNDOT and North Dakota Parks and Recreation Department. North Dakota is part of a national effort to identify and promote scenic roadways. Local organizations can nominate, manage and promote a Scenic Byway or Backway. While the program does not provide funding, scenic byway grants are available through the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the benefits are well worth the investments made locally. Applications for designation are accepted every two years, with the next nomination cycle coming in 2010.

“This action is an indication of the value the Scenic Byways and Backways program brings to local communities,” said ND Parks and Recreation director Doug Prchal. “It’s especially interesting to note that Old Highway 10 becomes the tenth Scenic Byway in the state and is also the longest.”

More information on the Old Red /Old 10 Scenic Byway can be found at [www.olderdtrail.org](http://www.olderdtrail.org). Further information on the Scenic Byway/Backway program is available at [www.parkrec.nd.gov](http://www.parkrec.nd.gov).