

## APPENDIX C: News Articles

During the course of this planning process a number of newspaper articles appeared in local publications concerning this project. A small sampling of these articles are found below:

TUESDAY, JUNE 24, 2003

**The Times Tawas office** is at  
504 Lake St., P.O. Box 836,  
Tawas City, 48763.  
Phone: (800) 727-7661 or (989) 362-7661.

To **subscribe** to The Times or  
to **place an ad**, call (800) 875-4444.

---

# Leaders seek input on US-23 Heritage Route

By Eric English  
TIMES WRITER

**STANDISH**

If you think the US-23 highway along Lake Huron should have more tree-lined boulevards or scenic turnouts, there is still time to make your opinion known.

Public meetings are taking place to take comment on making US-23 a new state "Heritage Route" from Standish to Mackinaw City to promote shoreline tourism.

"We're looking for a vision. What is the vision of people in the Standish community for this highway?" said Thomas Ferguson, director of the Michigan's Sunrise Side Travel Association.

Ferguson is one of several people overseeing the Heritage Route planning process that has been under way for more than a year. As part of that process, public hearings to discuss people's ideas for the Heritage Route are being held in different communities along the route, he said.

A meeting was scheduled from 10 a.m. to noon today in the Arenac County Building. A public hearing is also scheduled for 10 a.m. to noon on July 1 at the Iosco County Courthouse.

Ferguson said any public testimony taken will be included in the application for US-23 to receive federal Heritage Route designation. The application is due Sept. 30.

"We want to hear what they have to say. There's no such thing as a bad idea," Ferguson said.

In previous public hearings held farther north, some people called for more highway beautification and better access to the inland waterway near Cheboygan, he said.

Heritage Route designation will give US-23 projects that fit within the vision a better chance of winning state and federal funding, Ferguson said. That could help to pay for better landscaping or other highway features near development sites, he said.

The Michigan Department of Transportation previously awarded a \$107,000 grant to help with the Heritage Route planning. The highway's official designation is expected by year's end and people will then begin to see road signs promoting the Heritage Route, Ferguson said.

The Heritage Route will not affect local zoning or increase regulations, but it will add "scenic beauty" to the list of transportation department considerations in future road planning.

Ferguson said only a few highways have been granted a Heritage Route designation. That's because the planning process takes so much work, costs a lot and requires cooperation from all of the municipalities along the route, he said.

The federal government created the heritage route program in 1993 as a way to promote regional roads for their historic, scenic and recreational value. The US-23 route along Lake Huron features panoramic views of the water and many resort towns.

*- Eric English covers regional news for The Times. He can be reached at 1-800-727-7661.*

THE BAY CITY TIMES

# Northeast

PAGE 8 C

NEWS TIPS  
Call Kelly Adrien Frick at (989) 864-0636  
or send e-mail to:  
kfrick@bay-times.com

---

## Senate backs US-23 Heritage Route effort

By Eric English  
*Tawas review*

Plans to make US-23 along Lake Huron the state's newest "Heritage Route" to promote tourism are getting a boost from the state Legislature.

The state Senate approved a resolution June 25 recommending the highway from Standish to Mackinaw City become a state Heritage Route.

The resolution also calls on the Michigan Department of Transportation to provide signs marking the route as the "Sunrise Side Coastal Highway Recreational Heritage Route" as soon as possible.

The Michigan House of Representatives adopted a similar resolution supporting a US-23 Heritage Route in May.

"These resolutions lend additional credibility to the overall plan. It shows we have the support of the Legislature," said Thomas Ferguson, director of the Michigan's Sunrise Side Travel Association.

State Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, and state Rep. Dale Sheldrown, D-West Branch, recently visited Tawas City to present the Senate resolution to Ferguson.

Ferguson is one of several people overseeing the Heritage Route planning process for US-23. An application for federal approval of US-23 as a Heritage Route will likely be ready by October, he said.

As part of the planning process, public hearings to discuss people's ideas for the Heritage Route were held in different communities along the route. Some people called for more highway beautification and better access to the inland waterway near Cheboygan.

The Michigan Department of Transportation previously awarded a \$107,000 grant to help with the Heritage Route planning.

Heritage Route designation will give some US-23 projects a better chance of winning state and federal funding for things like landscaping and scenic overlooks.

The federal government created the Heritage Route program in 1993 as a way to promote regional roads for their historic, scenic and recreational value. The US-23 route along Lake Huron features panoramic views of the water and many resort towns.

- Eric English covers regional news for The Times. He can be reached at 1-800-227-7662.

## LOCAL NEWS

### Heritage

**Continued From Page 1**

destination. Ferguson said Woodrow Avenue between Detroit and Pontiac has been designated a Heritage Route and federal monies are used for enhancement and marketing. Likewise, he said the most recent Heritage Route in Michigan is M-119 between Harbor Springs and Cross Village along Lake Michigan.

Similarly, federal dollars would come to the counties along the route once Heritage Route designation is secured. Those dollars would be used for enhancement and marketing. Scott Thayer out of the Michigan Department of Transportation in Alpena said MDOT supports the proposed federal designation.

Ferguson said the intent is to keep what is already in place and establish a management plan to help in decision making.

A management plan for the Heritage Route is being drafted through the East Central Michigan Planning and Development Regional Commission (ECMPDR), Northeast Michigan Council of Governments and the Michigan Sunrise Side.

When asked what makes US-23 a special thing in Iosco, the nearly 20 county residents suggested lakes, wildlife, quaint towns, historical sites, fishing, beaches, bird watching, cross country skiing, golf, scenic overlooks, campgrounds, biking, lodging and strong communities.

They also were asked how to they envision the route in 15 years. Answers included scenic portions maintained, non motorized trails, more access to the lake, beautification of the highway, open up the waterfront, open up other scenic vistas, upgrade the highway, decorative lighting and regulation of billboards.

It also was suggested that a guide, or perhaps even a designated highlight designated areas as motorists traveled through the corridor.

The next meeting in Iosco



# Iosco County News Herald

Vol. 22, No. 15
Wednesday, July 2, 2003
East Tawas, MI 48736
(USPS 268-520)
75 Cents

## Planners seek input on proposed Heritage Route

**By John Morris**

**TAWAS CITY** - Some Iosco County residents envision a new-lined US-23 with scenic views of Lake Huron and Tawas Bay, speed lanes and historical landmarks.

Those were just some of the suggestions during preliminary discussions Tuesday morning to begin a vision statement for the proposed Heritage Route along US-23 through Iosco County. About 30 persons, mostly governmental leaders and at the local and county levels, attended the meeting in the Iosco County Building in Tawas City.

Planning for the proposed 200-mile Heritage Route from Standish to Mackinaw City - to be called the Sunrise Side Coastal Highway - has been underway for the past several months. The East Central Michigan Planning and Development Regional Commission, based in Saginaw, called Tuesday's meeting to ask for public input on a vision for the Heritage Route through the county.

Similar meetings have been held within six counties to make up the proposed Coastal Highway. Officials will send an application to the federal department of transportation for the designation on Sept. 30.

Tom Ferguson, executive director of the Michigan Sunrise Side Travel Association, said the proposed designation begins as a way to promote Northeast Michigan as a tourism. See Heritage, Page 7



**BEGIN PLANNING** - County residents met to give input into the planning process for the proposed Heritage Route along US-23. Pictured above are, from left, Tom Ferguson of Michigan Sunrise Side, County Commissioner John Mackering and Paul Orsattoli of the East Central Michigan Planning and Development Regional Commission. - Photo by John Morris

INDEX	
Area	10
Beach	19
Charity	10
Community	10
Environment	10
Heritage	8
History	10
Opinion	10
Outdoors	10
People	10
Special	10