



# Midland Trail Scenic Highway

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## Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association Fact Sheet

### South Charleston Mound Wayside Exhibit

The South Charleston Mound wayside exhibit is the first of 6 exhibits planned by the Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association along the 180-mile scenic U.S Route 60 highway. The exhibits will be featured at sites along the Midland Trail.

The Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association is commissioning original works of art to interpret more than 25 centuries of Midland Trail history. The artwork will be incorporated into the wayside exhibits, a curated work of art, and a book, *The Illustrated History of the Midland Trail*.

Funding for the wayside exhibits project is being provided by grants from The U.S. Department of Transportation National Scenic Byways Program, the West Virginia Department of Highways Scenic Byways Program and the West Virginia Humanities Council. Each exhibit is supplemented with local match. The Greater Kanawha Valley Foundation and the Sustainable Kanawha Valley Initiative provided the local match for the South Charleston Mound wayside exhibit.

The South Charleston Mound wayside exhibit includes one large illustrated exhibit panel featuring an illustration by Bruce Erikson and four interpretive panels, with one featuring original art by Aaron Kenstler and one featuring art reproduced with permission from the National Parks Service and the Ohio Historical Society.

The Midland Trail South Charleston Mound Interpretive Center at 313 D Street features exhibits and displays of artifacts detailing the life of the Adena in South Charleston. The center is open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday and from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturdays. For more information, call 304-720-9847.

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Support for the South Charleston Mound project came from the following individuals:

Darla Spencer and Bob Maslowski, consulting archeologists for the project.

Billy Joe Peyton, consulting historian for the overall project

Bruce Erikson, illustrator

Aaron Kenstler, illustrator

Karen Ebert Allen, West Virginia Division of Highways Scenic Byways Program

Harold Simmons, West Virginia Division of Highways

Frank Mullens, mayor of South Charleston

Bob Anderson, South Charleston Convention and Visitors Bureau

Margie Spence, South Charleston Historic Landmarks Commission

Gloria Shirkey, Midland Trail South Charleston Mound Interpretive Center

### **Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association**

The Midland Trail Scenic Highway Association (MTSHA) was established in 1988 by the mayors of the small towns along U.S. Route 60 who wanted to ensure their towns would remain viable after Interstate 64 was built.

The Midland Trail was originally conceived by George Washington, who successfully petitioned the Virginia Assembly in 1785 to build a “mid-land” route across the Virginias. The road was completed to Cedar Grove in 1790. The association will celebrate Midland Trail’s 225<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2015.

In 1926, Midland Trail was commissioned to become US Route 60, one of America’s first transcontinental highways stretching from the Atlantic Ocean near Newport News, VA to the Pacific Ocean at Los Angeles, CA.

In 2000, Midland Trail was designated as a National Scenic Byway from the Capitol east to the Virginia border and a State Scenic Byway from the Capitol west to the Kentucky border.

Midland Trail Scenic Highway is a 180-mile linear community of more than 40 towns and villages along U.S. Route 60 in West Virginia, bookended by Camden Park and The Greenbrier, and passing by the Capitol and Hawks Nest.

The MTSHA offices are located on the Midland Trail at 2504 Kanawha Blvd. East, Charleston, WV 25311.

Visit [www.midlandtrail.com](http://www.midlandtrail.com) for more information about our Association, projects, and attractions.