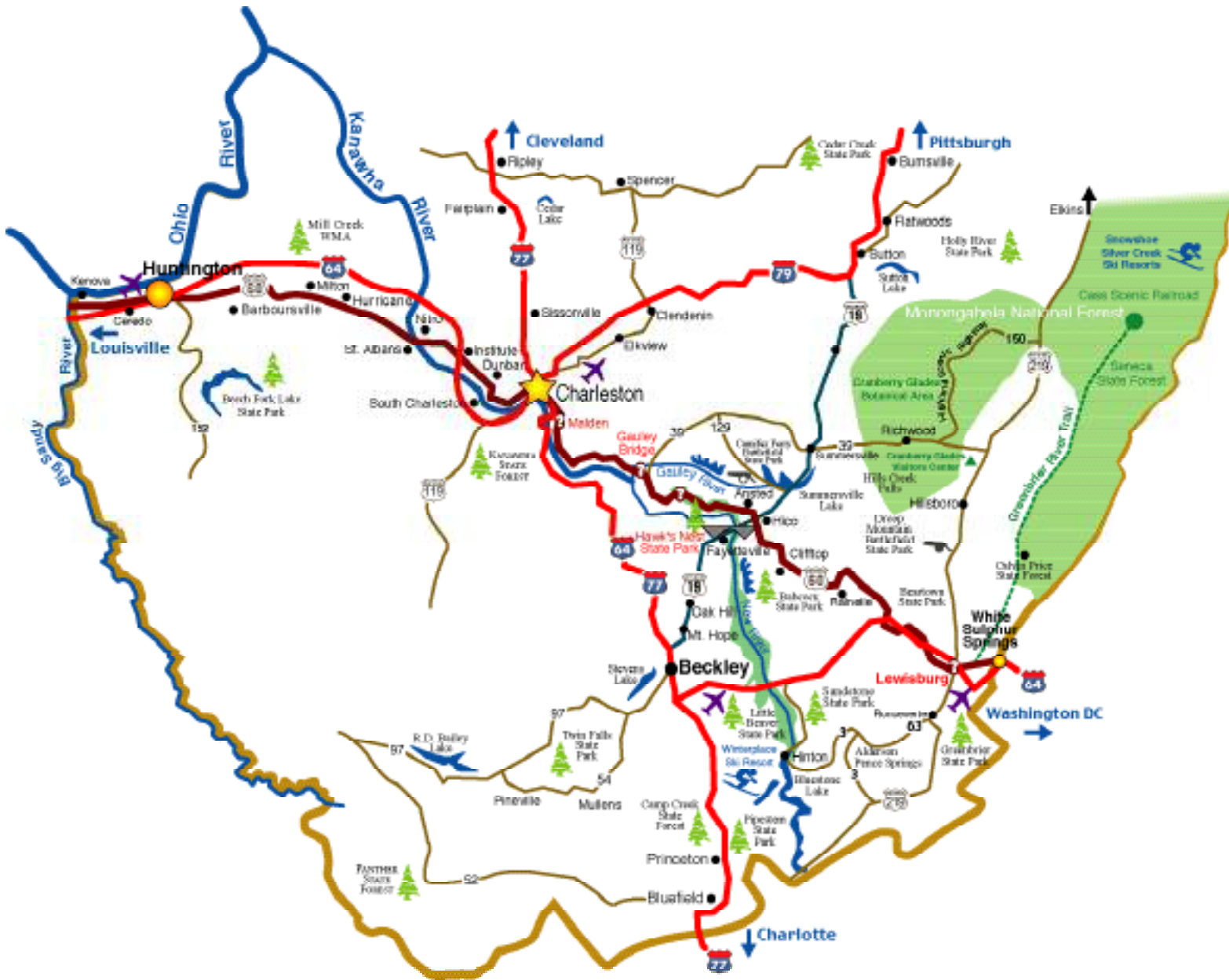


# Midland Trail Scenic Byway/US Route 60

Pathway to West Virginia's rich historic, recreational and scenic offerings

2.3

Location in West Virginia



# Location, Description & Boundaries

Draft June 2005

2.4

The Midland Trail stretches border to border across from Kenova to White Sulphur Springs via U.S. 60.

The course of the Midland Trail runs through the six WV counties of Wayne, Cabell, Putnam, Kanawha, Fayette, and Greenbrier, each with distinctive terrains, each with its different viewshed and land uses. This description moves eastward.

The Trail's western segment begins at the juncture of the Big Sandy and Ohio Rivers at the western most point in West Virginia, Virginia Point Park. From there it follows through the towns of Kenova and Ceredo, the later historically significant for its abolitionist role. As the Byway leaves Wayne and enters Cabell County (mile 5) it passes Camden Park, a 100+ year old amusement park with a wooden roller coaster. In Cabell it enters WV's second largest city Huntington and follows the south side of the Ohio River through town. At the east end of Huntington, Rt. 60 turns at 29th Street and follows the Guyandotte River to Barboursville. Milton is the last town in Cabell County.

While the area to this point is very commercial, as the Byway leaves Milton and enters Putnam County and Teays Valley it is a pleasant non-mountainous country road drive with some on-grade development.

At St. Albans, the first town in Kanawha County, the byway meets the Great Kanawha River on land surveyed by George Washington. It follows the south side of the Kanawha through South Charleston until it crosses the River at Patrick Street and follows the north side of the Kanawha River. At the State Capitol on the banks of the Kanawha River approximately 61 miles east of Kenova the state-designated section meets the Midland Trail National Scenic Byway.

MT National Scenic Byway continues to follow the Kanawha River for another 38 miles (MM 99) to its origin at the confluence of the New and Gauley Rivers at Gauley Bridge. From Charleston it runs through the bottom of the Kanawha Valley, surrounded by wooded mountains on both sides the entire way. The Valley's width in these areas generally runs one-half mile to one mile. Beginning about 34 miles east of Charleston and continuing for for

10+ miles the north side of the Byway is marked with beautiful dramatic outcropping of dramatic rock formations. Along the first five miles of this section (MM95-100) there are a dozen seasonal waterfalls visible along north side of the Byway, plus the phenomenal Kanawha Falls on the south side.

Between Gauley Bridge (Fayette County) and Rainelle (Greenbrier County) is a series of mountains: Gauley Mountain, Big Sewell, Little Sewell. The Trail runs along the sides of the mountains in this area and on Gauley Mountain overlooks the New River Gorge.

Here the viewshed stretches out to the horizon both at the Gorge and the plateau at the south foot of Big Sewell Mountain. Throughout most of the course in this segment, the Trail winds and curves, some places with tortuous, hairpin turns.

From Rainelle to the Virginia border, the Trail runs through flat, farm pasture land and gently rolling hills and knolls; again, the viewshed stretches for miles through broad verdant valleys. The topography here is limestone karst, with its characteristic sinkholes.

The Trail is two-directional. Visitors can begin at designated entries (Kenova, Charleston or White Sulphur Springs) or enter at a mid-point at such towns as Lewisburg, Hico, Milton, Barboursville, Hurricane, South Charleston or St. Albans. For consistency throughout the Plan, however, the Trail is described from its western terminus (Kenova, West Virginia) traveling east to its eastern terminus (White Sulphur Springs, West Virginia).

In addition to travelling the Trail proper, tourists enter the Trail from I-77 and I-64, and Routes 19, (Hico), 35 (St. Albans), and 34 (Hurricane). through what we term Trail Gateways. Route 19, which intersects the Trail at Hico, delivers tourists from I79 to the North and from I77 Beckley area from the south. North of the Trail, Rt. 19 runs past the town of Summersville, whose land uses are residential, commercial, recreational (Summersville Lake), and heritage (Carnifex Ferry Battlefield). To the south, 19 links the Trail with Beckley and I77 and the tourists who visit this area for rafting and sightseeing at the

New River Gorge Bridge. This vicinity would provide the link between the Coal Heritage and Midland Trails.

Corridor boundaries are generally defined by the "viewshed" from the road. A viewshed is the distance that is visible from a point on the roadway to the top of the steep mountains that line most of the Trail. In some instances the corridor boundaries widen to include important intrinsic qualities (i.e. scenic or historical sites). When this occurs, the boundary then follows the access routes leading to and from the historical or scenic sites and includes their viewsheds. For instance, just east of Charleston the Old Stone House, Hale House/Cabin Creek Quilts and Historic Malden are visible from the viewshed of the Route 60 four-lane, but to access it travelers must use "old Route 60". Also, a Byway spur would follow W.V. 35 and include its viewshed Nitro, Dunbar and Institute.

The viewshed's contribution to the context of the Midland Trail is the main reason for including it within the corridor boundaries. Since the physical setting is defined and views are limited by high ridges and narrow valleys, it provides a manageable size for maintaining a complementary context. The context of the historical areas should be preserved because it helps to interpret the sites effectively. Challenging visitors to envision the site in the era of historical significance is impossible if there are modern and unsympathetic buildings or signs that compete for the visitors' attention.

Huntington is a designed city with broad one-way avenues. Huntington is in the process of rerouting traffic on the Midland Trail. Historically Rt. 60 westbound traffic followed 3rd Ave. and 5th Ave was one-way eastbound. In the downtown area where 3rd Ave goes through the new riverfront development of Pullman Square and Harris Riverfront Park, 3rd Ave. will soon be 2-way traffic, eliminating the need for travelers to use the once one-way 3rd Ave to go west bound and 5th Ave for east bound.

**For exact route of extension see Extension Memo in Appendix**

Land use along the Trail is diverse. The western 75+ miles from Huntington/Kenova thru Charleston and on to Montgomery has highest degree of development on the Trail. Along the remaining 100+ miles of Fayette and Greenbrier counties the intensity and degree of development tends to be low.

Land use is divided into eight categories: commercial, residential, industrial, governmental, agricultural, educational, recreational, and heritage preservation. Context /Town Pages in Chapter 5 provide a close look at land uses. For a big picture view we divide the Byway in to three sections, west to east.

**Our Industrial West  
Advantage Valley &  
The State Capitol**

The western bookend of the Midland Trail is the Ohio River which creates the western border of WV at Kenova and Huntington. Continuing eastward through WV's fastest growing area, Putnam County and Charleston, our capital city, this 70+ mile section of the Trail is becoming known as Advantage Valley.

Along the way Route 60 passes through the Great Kanawha River Valley, where the nation's industrial past and present are celebrated in coal tipples, old salt works, chemical plants, locks and dams, mines and company towns, electrical power plants, roads, bridges and the passage to the Ohio River.



**The Recreation Center  
Fayette County & Area**

In the center, the Midland Trail passes over West Virginia's most beautiful and rugged mountain terrain. Fayette County, the Trail's recreational center, provides physical activities from the mild to the wild—fishing, whitewater rafting, horseback riding, and rock-climbing—draws visitors from around the world. This region's pristine vistas and breathtaking natural beauty are worth a Trail-hop alone. At Hico, U.S. 19 intersects the Trail, providing access to even more adventure.



**The Refined Pastoral East  
Greenbrier County & Area**

To the east, mountains melt into the Greenbrier Valley's broad, verdant fields and karst (limestone) topography. The Trail's rural east, Greenbrier County, presents the pastoral picture of piedmont farmland; unhurried life; Civil War sites; and quaint towns, such as Lewisburg, where historical preservation, amid genteel country living, is a way of life. The Virginia state border provides the eastern bookend of the Byway.



# Corridor Routing & Mileage

ROUTE REMARKS	COUNTY	BEG. MP	END MP	SEGMENT MILEAGE
U.S. 60	Wayne	0.00	5.6	5.6
<b>WAYNE COUNTY TOTAL</b>				<b>5.6</b>
U.S. 60	Cabell	0.00	26.79	26.79
<b>CABELL COUNTY TOTAL</b>				<b>26.79</b>
U.S. 60	Putnam	0.00	9.01	9.01
<b>PUTNAM COUNTY TOTAL</b>				<b>9.01</b>
U.S. 60 County line to State Capitol	Kanawha	0.00	19.0	19.0
<b>KANAWHA Co. TOTAL (WV Designated Section) *</b>				<b>19.0</b>

## WV Designated Section Byway Total 60.4

\* NSB begins at State Capitol 19 miles into Kanawha Co.  
Total Kanawha Co. mileage approx: 45.94

**AWAITING Detailed Segment INFO  
FROM WV DOH FOR  
WESTERN EXTENSION**

ROUTE REMARKS	COUNTY	BEG. MP	END MP	SEGMENT MILEAGE
<b>U.S. 60</b> @ State Capitol; joins I-77	Kanawha	19.00	20.83	1.83
<b>I-77</b> follows I-77	Kanawha	95.34	97.13	1.79
<b>U.S. 60</b> CR 60/12 (Old Midland Trail')	Kanawha	21.97	23.19	1.22
<b>CR 60/12</b> Midland Trail;WB from US 60 to CR 60/18	Kanawha	0.00	5.96	5.96
<b>CR 60/18</b> Midland Trail;WB from CR 60/18 to CR 60/20	Kanawha	0.19	0.45	0.26
<b>CR 60/20</b> Midland Trail;WB from CR 60/20 to US 60	Kanawha	0.00	0.51	0.51
<b>CR 70</b> US 60 to CR 60/21	Kanawha	0.00	0.08	0.08
<b>CR 60/21</b> CR 70 to CR 60/18	Kanawha	0.00	0.41	0.41
<b>CR 60/18</b> CR 60/21 to "Old Midland Trail"	Kanawha	0.00	0.19	0.19
<b>.S .60</b> to Charleston Urbanized Boundary	Kanawha	29.86	37.34	7.48
	Kanawha	37.34	44.55	7.21
<b>KANAWHA COUNTY TOTAL (NSB Segment)</b>				<b>26.94</b>
<b>U.S. 60</b> County line to Greenbrier County line	Fayette	0.00	46.06	46.06
<b>FAYETTE COUNTY TOTAL</b>				<b>46.06</b>
<b>U.S. 60</b> County line to I-64 @ Sam Black Church	Greenbrier	0.00	15.18	15.18
	Greenbrier	15.18	35.19	20.01
WV 63 @ Caldwell	Greenbrier	35.19	43.80	8.61
to I-64 @ White Sulphur Springs				
<b>GREENBRIER COUNTY TOTAL</b>				<b>43.80</b>
<b>NSB BYWAY TOTAL</b>				<b>116.80</b>