

September 1983 Meeting 81

SMOKY MOUNTAINS
BY

Approval - Naming of US 19 and US 19 Bypass from I-40 to West of
Bryson City the "Great Smoky Mountains Expressway"

Administrator Rose noted at its meeting on January 14, 1983 the Board authorized our Department to request approval of the American Association of State Highway & Transportation Officials (AASHTO) to redesignate US 19A between Lake Junaluska and Bryson City as US 19 Bypass. The AASHTO Executive Committee at its meeting on June 20, 1983 approved the elimination of the US 19A designation and recognized the establishment of the US 19 Bypass routing.

Mr. Rose said many of the local officials along the US 19A routing were not satisfied with the US 19 Bypass designation and requested consideration be given to redesignating US 19A as US 19 Expressway. He said this request was carefully considered and discussed with AASHTO officials but AASHTO policies do not recognize an Expressway routing designation and this request could not be honored.

Administrator Rose then recommended the Board officially name the highway consisting of the I-40 Connector at Clyde, the portion of US 19 between the I-40 Connector and Lake Junaluska, the US 19 Bypass between Lake Junaluska and Bryson City, and the short expressway portion of US 19 west of Bryson City the "GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY". He noted these highways are modern four-lane facilities with control of access and should help indicate to the traveling public that this route is composed of better highways than US 19 through Cherokee. Mr. Rose noted several letters from area groups have been received in support of this action.

A motion was made by Board Member Davis, seconded by Board Member Daniels, and the vote was unanimous to approve the name "GREAT

RECOMMENDED NAMING OF US 19 AND US 19 BYPASS FROM I-40 TO
WEST OF BRYSON CITY, HAYWOOD-JACKSON-SWAIN COUNTIES

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Many of the local officials along the US 19A routing were not happy with the US 19 Bypass designation and requested consideration be given to redesignating US 19A as US 19 Expressway. This request was carefully considered and discussed with the AASHTO officials. However, the AASHTO policies do not recognize an Expressway routing designation and this request could not be honored.

It is recommended the Board of Transportation officially name the highway consisting of the I-40 Connector at Clyde, the portion of US 19 between the I-40 Connector and Lake Junaluska, the US 19 Bypass between Lake Junaluska and Bryson City, and the short expressway portion of US 19 west of Bryson City as the "GREAT SMOKY MOUNTAINS EXPRESSWAY". This is shown on the attached map. These highways are modern four-lane facilities with control of access and should help indicate to the traveling public that this route is composed of better highways than US 19 through Cherokee. Also, it is recommended the Board of Transportation authorize the Department to erect appropriate signs along this route at the time the existing US 19A route signing is changed to US 19 Bypass. These signing changes will be accomplished during the next few weeks.

Also, attached for your information is a copy of several letters in support of this action.

Attachments (6)

September 16, 1983