

APPENDIX E: ALTERNATIVE DESIGN FOR ROADWAYS

The Massachusetts Executive Office of Environmental Affairs has recently undertaken a Historic Parkway Initiative in which two demonstration projects are being completed to improve historic parkways in the State. One of these projects is to restore the Mount Greylock Scenic Byway. This project involves rehabilitating and reconstructing in a historically accurate and environmentally sensitive manner the length of the byway that is within the Mt. Greylock State Reservation. This initiative will restore the structural and aesthetic integrity of historic stonework, retaining walls, and guardrails that were first constructed by the President Roosevelt's Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. The goal of this project is to repair the road and improve traffic safety while returning the Byway to the look and feel that it had 70 years ago. To accomplish this, several of the techniques mentioned above will be investigated. While this roadway's function as a parkway is different than Route 112, which does serve as a primary transportation Route for trucks, it serves as a positive example where the historic features of the road are being considered and prioritized during the redesign of the roadway. This project will provide invaluable information on the availability and cost of historic and aesthetic roadside features, perhaps even wooden rail retaining walls. The rehabilitation project has begun in the summer of 2007. Mount Greylock Scenic Byway is owned and maintained by the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and is subject to different design standards than the Route 112 Scenic Byway.

