

Connecting Routes – Land-based Trails, Byways, etc.	
Purposes & Defining Characteristics	<p>Regional driving or biking routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • link Gateway sites, regional information centers and/or a hub within a particular region or sub-region • serve to give people a primary land route for accessing other Gateways in a particular region <p>Thematic driving or biking routes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • link Gateways in one or more regions related to specific interest areas or themes • function as connecting routes and as interpretive experiences <p>Trails and walking tours:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • link Gateways along a longer route or within a smaller geographic area • provide specific opportunities for experiencing and interpreting Bay sites and themes <p>In all Cases:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • explore the Bay area below the fall line or the rivers of the upper watershed • the basic infrastructure exists capable of sustaining the type of access and use anticipated • public support for the route exists and an organization or collaborative process for coordinating or managing the route exists
Achieving Network Goals	<p>Interpretation: Land-based connecting routes introduce visitors to a range of interpretive themes, depending on the focus of the route. Some routes follow one theme; others link people with diverse sites in an area. Interpretive themes are conveyed in the context of overarching and principal Bay themes through route maps and guides and signage, materials and programs at the linked Gateway sites.</p> <p>Orientation & Access: Network visitors find information for using connecting routes at all Gateways. In addition to a Network map and guide, the information includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • regional maps and guides detailing routes, sites and primary themes represented within the region • thematic maps and guides for routes connecting thematically related sites • trail or walking tour maps and guides • directional signage along all routes and interpretive signage along walking routes <p>Connecting routes provide physical access to other Gateways. Most, if not all routes will make use of existing public rights of way.</p> <p>Restoration & Conservation: Like water trails, some land-based trails develop and provide on-going opportunities for people to volunteer in restoration or conservation projects. These opportunities are linked to interpretation of relevant Bay themes. Land trails emphasize low-impact use and foster stewardship of the trail, the Bay and local watershed resources.</p>

