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Scenic News:

Clear Channel [found to have unlawfully cut](#) public trees in New York state...

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Rutland, Vermont [blooming with](#) crabapple trees...

Berkshire Eagle editorial: digital billboards [would dramatically alter](#) landscape...

Giant billboard pole hovering over Peabody, MA for two years [is coming down](#)...

Cross [latest attempt](#) at stealth cellphone towers...

Citizen looks to beautify Hickory, NC with new [traffic light structures](#)...

Inside Business 360: Why billboards are [no longer a feasible way](#) to advertise...

Billboards [come down](#) in San Luis Abispo as part of city's general plan...

Editorial: [Don't let billboard industry](#) run Jacksonville...

Scenic America will appeal dismissal of digital billboard lawsuit

On June 20 a federal judge [dismissed](#) Scenic America's [lawsuit](#) challenging the 2007 Federal Highway Administration decision to allow digital billboards along roadways governed by the Highway Beautification Act.

After careful review, Scenic America has decided it will file an appeal to the D.C. Circuit Court of Appeals. A notice of appeal will be filed by August 19.



"Scenic America's mission compels us to fight for the public's interest in America's roadways and landscapes rather than stand idly by while our own government hands them to the outdoor advertising industry," said Mary Tracy, president of Scenic America.

For an overview of the case to date, [click here](#) to read a summary by Ryke Longest, Duke University Clinical Professor of Law, and Liz Wangu, Duke Law Student.

Study shows \$12.7 million annual impact of Utah's Scenic Byway 12

Utah's [State Road 12](#), a designated [All-American Road](#) in the National Scenic Byway Program, provides a direct economic benefit of \$12.7 million annually to the communities along its route, according to [a new study](#).

The study found that in 2013 there were 117,000 trips on the highway attributable to travelers' desire to visit the scenic byway, and 47 percent of those travelers considered the road's National Scenic Byway designation extremely important when they planned





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Scenic America
1307 New Hampshire Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20036

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their trip.

The average group traveling the byway was composed of three people that spent 4.2 days in the area and \$854 at area businesses. The study found that the byway is responsible for creating as many as 422 full-time equivalent jobs.

Previous studies of Scenic Byways have found that travelers enjoy exploring historic and cultural attractions along commercial-free corridors.

[Click here to download the study.](#)

Washington, DC plans to put all city power lines underground

On May 3, 2014, The Electric Company Infrastructure Improvement Financing Act of 2013 (also known as the "Power Line Undergrounding Law") [became law](#) in the District of Columbia. The law will result in the undergrounding of most power lines in the city over the next 7 to 10 years.

Residents and city officials have discussed power line undergrounding for many years, but were finally spurred to action by a series of severe-weather events in 2012 that resulted in widespread power outages in the city.



The undergrounding project is expected to [significantly reduce](#) the frequency, severity and duration of electric service outages caused by weather events, as well as provide aesthetic improvements to the city's streetscapes as poles and wires disappear overhead.

The law calls for residential customers to see a rate increase of approximately \$1.50 per month, with a maximum increase of \$3.25 after seven years, or about a 3.23% increase in rates. Low-income customers will be exempt from this rate increase. The impact on commercial customers will vary based on class of service and will average between 5 and 9.25%.

phone: 202.463.1294
email: scenic@scenic.org
web: www.scenic.org