Visit Smyth County and Tazewell County and Back of the Dragon

Back of the Dragon crosses for 32 miles between Smyth County and Tazewell County on Virginia State Route 16. There are 260 curves that lure motorcyclists and sports car enthusiasts from all over the Commonwealth.

It was Larry Davidson, a local businessman, who came up with the idea to brand this stretch of road. Davidson, an avid motorcyclist, also enjoyed riding U.S. Route 129, which is famously called "Tail of the Dragon." Davidson thought that since both roads offered exhilerating rides, the biggest difference between Route 129 and Route 16 was marketing.

Recognizing the potential to boost tourism, county board members supported the idea. A ribbon cutting event was held on Oct. 22, 2012 to commemorate the road's new name.

Photos courtesy of Cameron Davidson/Virginia Tourism Corporation