

June 19, 2020

Mayor John Haila and Ames City Council
P O Box 811
Ames, IA 50010

Dear Mayor and Council Members:

We are excited to let you know that we have applied for a National Scenic Byway designation through the Federal Highway Administration's National Scenic Byway Program (NSBP). This program, although still intact, had sat dormant since 2012. The Reviving America's Scenic Byways Act of 2019 was passed by Congress and signed into law on September 22, 2019 allowing for new nominations.


Since September, we have been collecting information, photos, and writing the text for the application. We identified eight (8) locations in Iowa that help us tell the story of the Lincoln Highway, the first improved transcontinental road in the nation, and its importance in transportation history as well as how it changed America by enticing citizens to travel and encouraged economic development in the communities it stitches together.

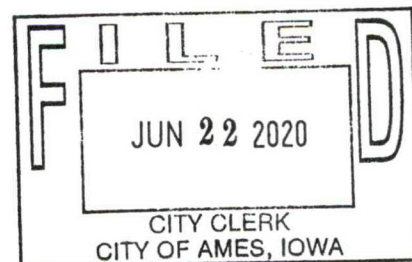
Eight locations were featured in the application. They are: The Sawmill Museum and Mississippi River Bank, Clinton; Youngville Station/Café, rural Benton County; Preston's Station, Belle Plaine; Lincoln Highway Bridge, Tama; Reed-Niland Corner, Colo; Chicago at Northwestern Railroad Depot, Carroll; Brick street, Woodbine; and Harrison County Historical Village and Welcome Center, Missouri Valley. There were so many to choose from on the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway, but we were limited to eight. Of course, these sample places along the Byway help tell the story of the early road and how it developed.

Adding to the Iowa Byway designation for the Lincoln Highway, if approved as a National Scenic Byway, the Lincoln Highway will hold a higher distinction. Presently, the program receives no federal funding, but just this week an amendment for funding was added to the current transportation bill in the U.S. Congress.

When the bill passes, it will be a great boost for the Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway program and your community as we continue to add interpretive panels for historic places, help with historic structure restoration, and someday as a big idea-build a large museum and travel center.

This designation will bring economic development once again to our fabric of communities along this 460 mile Byway, including yours. We will keep you posted.

Sincerely,

Jan Gammon, Coordinator
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