

# **HISTORIC ROUTE 20**

## **Iowa**



# **A guide for the implementation of Historic Route 20 signs in**

**The City of Dubuque**

**The County of Dubuque**

**Iowa**

## **Introduction**

The Historic Route 20 Association Inc, a 501 (c) 3 non profit organization, has been actively working to designate the original 1926 alignments of Highway 20 from Dubuque to Sioux City as *Historic Route 20, Iowa*. This would be, once completed, an Iowa DOT State Scenic Historic Auto Route. This study will offer the recommendation of the organization as to the placement of the Historic Route Wayfinding Signs.

## **Objective**

To promote travel & tourism and economic development by placing wayfinding signs (Historic Markers) on the original 1926 alignments of US Route 20 in Iowa.

## **Goals**

To work with the 13 counties and 35 towns and cities on the former US 20 in Iowa to erect Historic Route 20 signs on their respective sections of highway by passing resolutions to support the Historic Route designation.

To increase travel and tourism on the former US 20 across Iowa

Bring people back into the small towns

To connect with other communities and states that are on US Route 20

To make Historic Route 20 a tourist destination, similar to the iconic Route 66

## **Project Implementation**

The Historic Route 20 sign implementation is divided into two phases.

Phase 1 – Begins in the City of Dubuque at Old Highway Road and current US Highway 20 and continues westward to Dyersville. (Maps A.1-A.2)

Phase 2 – Begins at the Julien Dubuque Bridge into Downtown Dubuque to Old Highway Road.

The two phases are for budget cost considerations. The passing of the resolution only needs to be contingent on the future implementation of Phase 1 which would comply with Iowa DOT requirements to allow for a consistent, continuous historic alignment to connect the entire State of Iowa.

\*The Cities of Epworth, Farley and Dyersville and Delaware County have already passed resolutions stating support for the historic route within their borders.

The Historic Route 20 Association refers the user of this study to the Historic Route 20 Iowa Study completed in 2017 for additional information – [www.historicUS20.com/iowa.html](http://www.historicUS20.com/iowa.html)

**A RESOLUTION TO IDENTIFY THE FORMER ALIGNMENTS OF  
U.S. HIGHWAY ROUTE 20  
IN THE STATE OF IOWA  
as  
HISTORIC US ROUTE 20 (IOWA)**

The Iowa Department of Transportation requires all towns, cities and counties located along the former alignments of U.S. Highway Route 20 that are Public State Highways to submit a resolution to agree to the designation and placement of Historic Route 20 markers on the Public State Highway.

The Iowa Department of Transportation is also requesting all towns, cities and counties located along the former alignments of U.S. Highway Route 20 that are Local (Town, City or County) Maintained Highways to submit a resolution to agree to the designation and placement of Historic Route 20 markers on their respected maintained highways to ensure complete continuity of the designated Historic Route. Locations where the Historic Route is on a local highway do not require the DOT designation for placement of signs, the determination is based at the local level.

This resolution would request the Iowa Department of Transportation, upon receipt, to identify and designate that section of former U.S. Highway Route 20, as determined by the 1927 State of Iowa Highway Map, that is still a publicly maintained highway and that is of interest to the applicant, Historic US Route 20 (Iowa).

This resolution supports that the costs covering the purchase and placement of the Historic Route markers be delegated to the interested local agency<sup>1</sup> and not the Iowa Department of Transportation – unless stipulated by Iowa DOT.

**1927 Iowa State Highway Map Link:** <http://www.iowadot.gov/maps/msp/historical/pdf/1927-front.pdf>

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A Resolution of \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa - Declaring Support and Intent of the Placement of Historic Route 20 Signage on the Town/City/County/State Maintained Road

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Highway Route 20 was created in 1926 from Boston, MA to Yellowstone National Park, WY; and

**WHEREAS**, By 1943, U.S. Highway Route 20 was extended to Newport, OR – a distance of 3,365 miles; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Highway Route 20 extended 333 miles between Dubuque and Sioux City, Iowa; and

**WHEREAS**, U.S. Highway Route 6 was decommissioned in most of California in 1964, making U.S. Highway Route 20 the longest highway in the country; and

**WHEREAS**, Over the years, U.S. Highway Route 20 has conveyed commerce and pleasure travelers whose needs were met by nearby cities and counties; and

**WHEREAS**, The State of Iowa has been working since 1952, to relocate U.S. Highway Route 20 to a four lane highway; and

**WHEREAS**, Though largely supplanted by the four lane highway route, the original segment of U.S. Highway Route 20 remain, although most are no longer identified as such; and

**WHEREAS**, Former U.S. Highway Route 20 served as the main street of many Iowa cities and towns along its length and, though no longer designated as former U.S. Highway Route 20, these segments represent both state and local historic significance; and

**WHEREAS**, the Historic US Route 20 Association, Inc., is a nonprofit 501 (c)3 organization aimed to promote tourism and economic development along the original 1926 alignment of US Route 20; and

**WHEREAS**, The Historic Route 20 Association, Inc., provides historic route markers to act as a wayfinding tool to guide tourists and travelers on the 1926 alignment to a local agency; and

**WHEREAS**, Designation of a Historic Route and the permission of placement of historic markers on State Public Highways must come from the Iowa Department of Transportation; and

**WHEREAS**, Without formal designation, the history and contribution of these segments of U.S. Highway Route 20 to the development of the state would remain less known; and

**WHEREAS**, Recognition of these segments will foster the economic health and cultural preservation of small communities and towns located along the highway; and

**WHEREAS**, It is fitting that a means to designate these historic sections of former U.S. Highway Route 20 be established; now, therefore, be it

**RESOLVED** by the \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa, hereby recognizes the original 1926 segment of former U.S. Highway Route 20 in the \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa as *Historic Route 20 (Iowa)* for its historical significance and importance in the development of Iowa; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa commits to the permitting and placement of Historic Route 20 Markers within its borders, including the State DOT Highway; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the Iowa Department of Transportation, upon receipt of this resolution by all interested local agencies along the original segment of U.S. Highway Route 20, to designate that section of highway as *Historic Route 20 (Iowa)*; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, That the local agency is responsible for the costs and placement of historic route markers on their sections or portions of former U.S. Highway Route 20 – unless stipulated by the Iowa Department of Transportation to the local agency, and be it further

**RESOLVED** the Clerk of \_\_\_\_\_, Iowa transmit copies of this resolution to the Historic US Route 20 Association and the requesting local agency.

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT HEREBY RESOLVED BY THE \_\_\_\_\_ of the \_\_\_\_\_, IOWA** that we are in support of the recognition and designation of Historic Route 20 and the placement of Historic Route 20 Markers.

PASSED AND APPROVED this \_\_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_\_, 2018

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

- IowaDOT is requesting and requiring ALL towns, cities & counties where the historic alignment passed to submit a resolution to agree to place Historic Route 20 signs on their sections of highway, whether it is state maintained or local.
- The state is looking for continuity – if traffic is diverted from the current Route 20, the path back or across Iowa needs to be complete.
- IowaDOT will grant Historic Route status to the entire route if the required resolutions are received.
- Towns may put up signs without State approval on non IowaDOT highways. i.e. local, county, city roads with local permissions.
- Any IowaDOT maintained highways must wait until their designation is granted. i.e. Iowa 57, current US 20
- All signs and installation, including maintenance, will be the responsibility of the local entity interested and not IowaDOT.
- IowaDOT will only allow large signs on the State highways. (Smaller reassurance signs may be placed on local roads)

## Maps and Appendices

The following maps were prepared by the Historic US Route 20 Association as an informational resource for the City and County of Dubuque, IA and all interested parties in the designation of Historic Route 20.

The historic alignments are based on the 1927 Iowa State Highway Map and other local maps.

The location and placement of Historic Route markers listed in this study is suggested but may be changed based on local input and or regulations.

The Iowa DOT requires a complete and consistent route to ensure travelers and tourists do not get lost for the designation Historic Route 20 to occur. Since Dubuque is at the eastern end of the proposed Historic Route, Historic Route 20 is proposing a Two-Phase Implementation.

**Phase One** - To connect with the remainder of the Historic Route in Iowa, the eastern beginning/end of Historic Route 20 would begin at Old Highway Road at the intersection of the present US Highway 20 (Dodge St.). The historic route would then continue on Old Highway Road to Epworth, Farley and end at Dyersville. The independent cities mentioned, and Delaware County have already passed resolutions and are responsible for signage on their sections of city roads continuing into the next county.

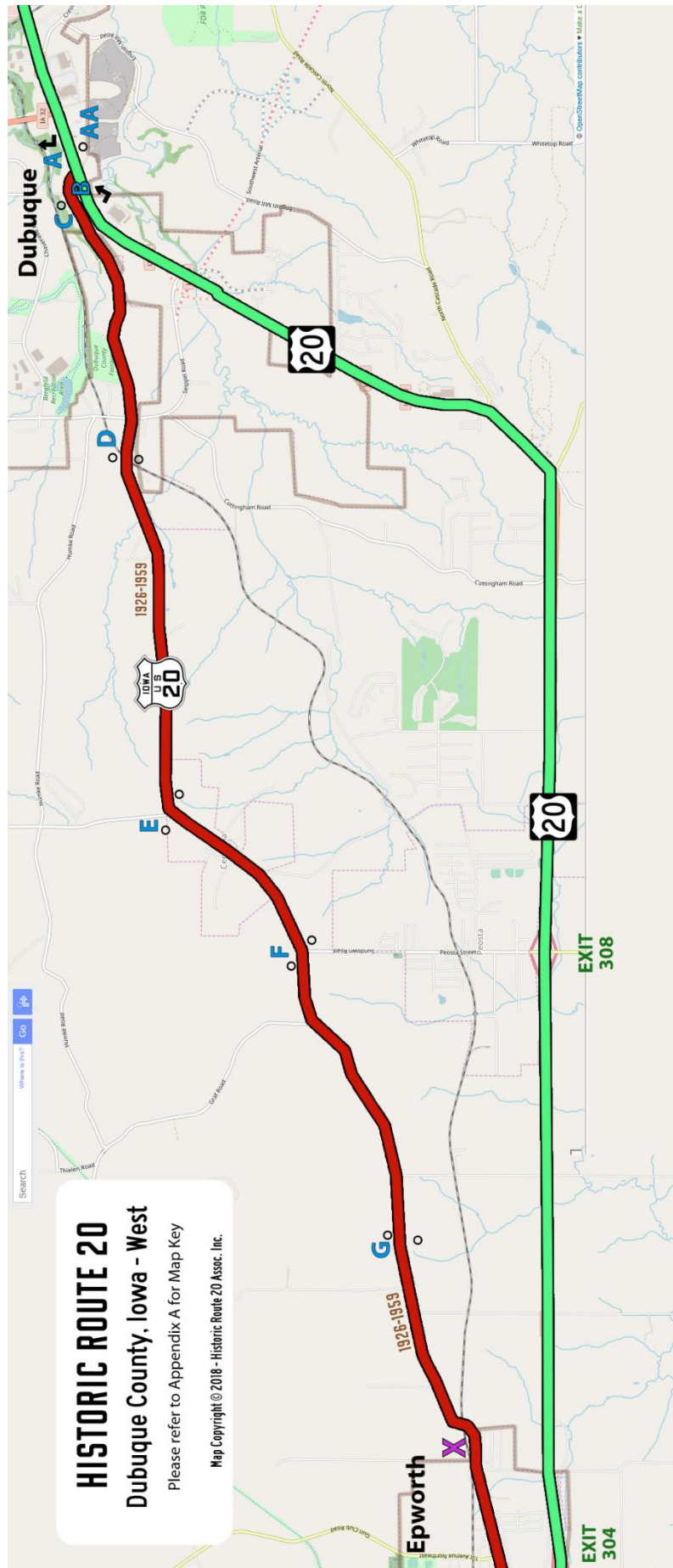


Google Map view of the Begin/End location of Phase 1 at Old Hwy Rd & Dodge (US Hwy 20)

**Phase Two** - Phase Two takes into account the 1926-1943 alignments of US Route 20 in the City of Dubuque. The long-term goal is to have this original alignment signed. This would direct tourists exiting the Julien Dubuque Bridge into downtown Dubuque, via Locust, Loras, University and Crescent to eventually meet up with the route designated in Phase One.

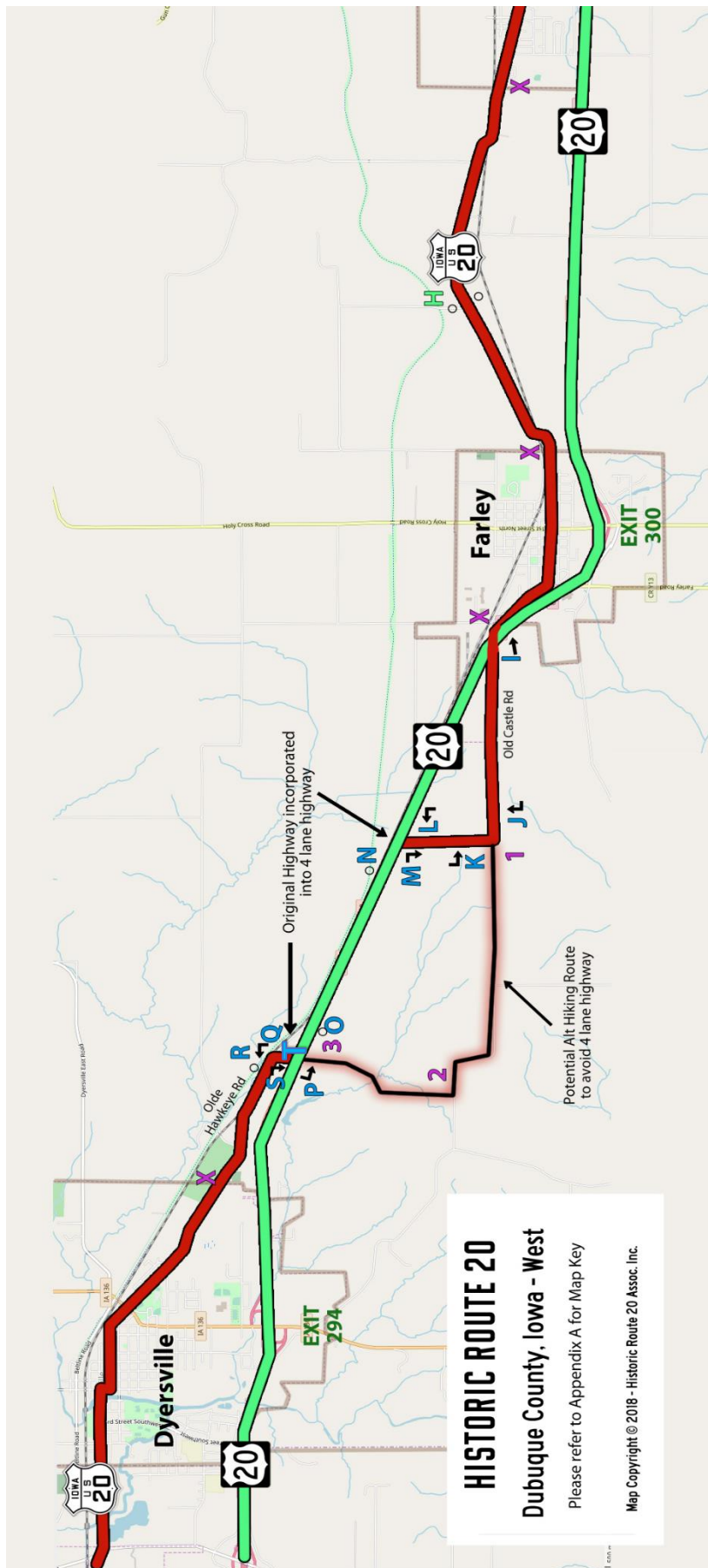
The Historic US Route 20 Association recognizes that the costs and implementation of the Historic Route through the City of Dubuque may take a longer period of time, the costs may be higher and the original route could still be met at Old Highway Rd, that it was deemed to be a separate project.

Figure A.1 – A map of Eastern Dubuque County, IA with suggested sign placements.









**Map A.2-** Map of western Dubuque County IA with suggested sign placements.



## Appendix A

Map Key			
<b>A</b>	Location of Historic Route 20 Signs (Large)		Suggested Arrows/Turns
<b>X</b>	Historic Route 20 signs in other Cities		Suggested sign placement
<b>H</b>	Location of Historic Route 20 Signs (Small Reassurance)	1926	Dates of Historic Alignment Use
<b>1</b>	Proposed Hiking/Bike Route Sign locations		Historic Route
			Current Route 20

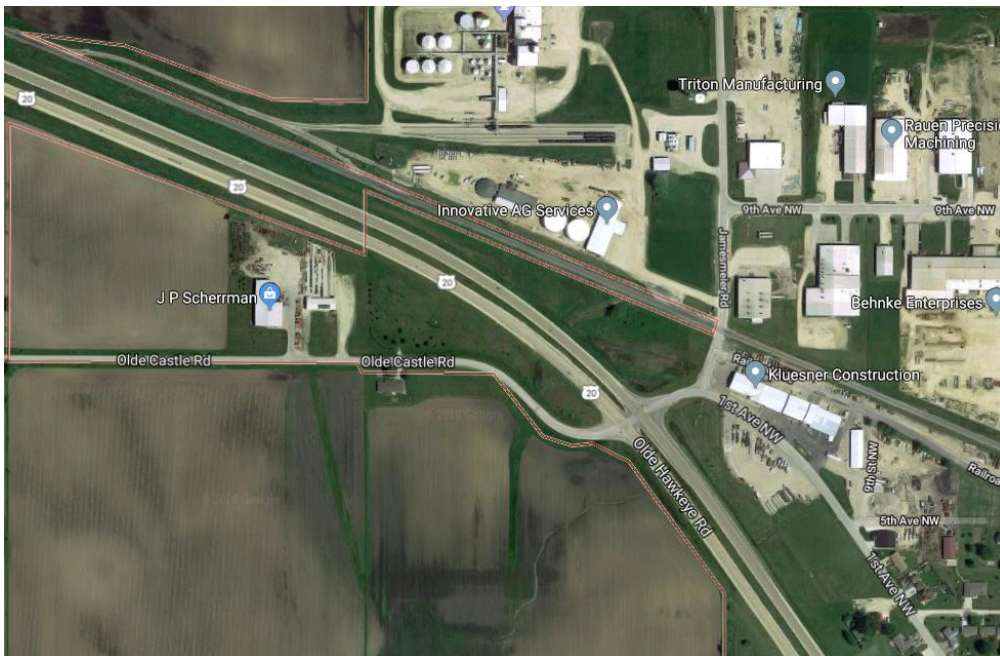
**Map A.1** follows Old Highway Road to Epworth.

Sign placement is approximately placed every 2 miles

Signs A, AA are on the State Highway

Signs D,F,G may be small reassurance signs

**Map A.2** follows Old Highway Road from Epworth to Farley and to Dyersville.



Google Map View of the Western Section of Farley, IA.

The Historic Route (1<sup>st</sup> Ave NW) intersects with the Current Highway 20 to Old Castle Road.

Location of appropriate signs to be determined by the City of Farley and Dubuque County.

Signs are placed approximately every 2 miles.

The Cities of Epworth, Farley and Dyersville are responsible for the placement of their signs, unless otherwise negotiated.

The Historic Route turned on Sullivan Rd (J, K) and then turned west (L, M). The present 4 lane Highway 20 has been supplanted on 1.64 miles of the original highway to the turn at Wuchter Rd (T). (A stub of the original highway extends, but dead ends).

It should be considered by the County that an alternate Bike/Hiking route be established from on Old Castle Rd at Sullivan Road to Wuchter Rd (1-3) if conditions/safety warrant.

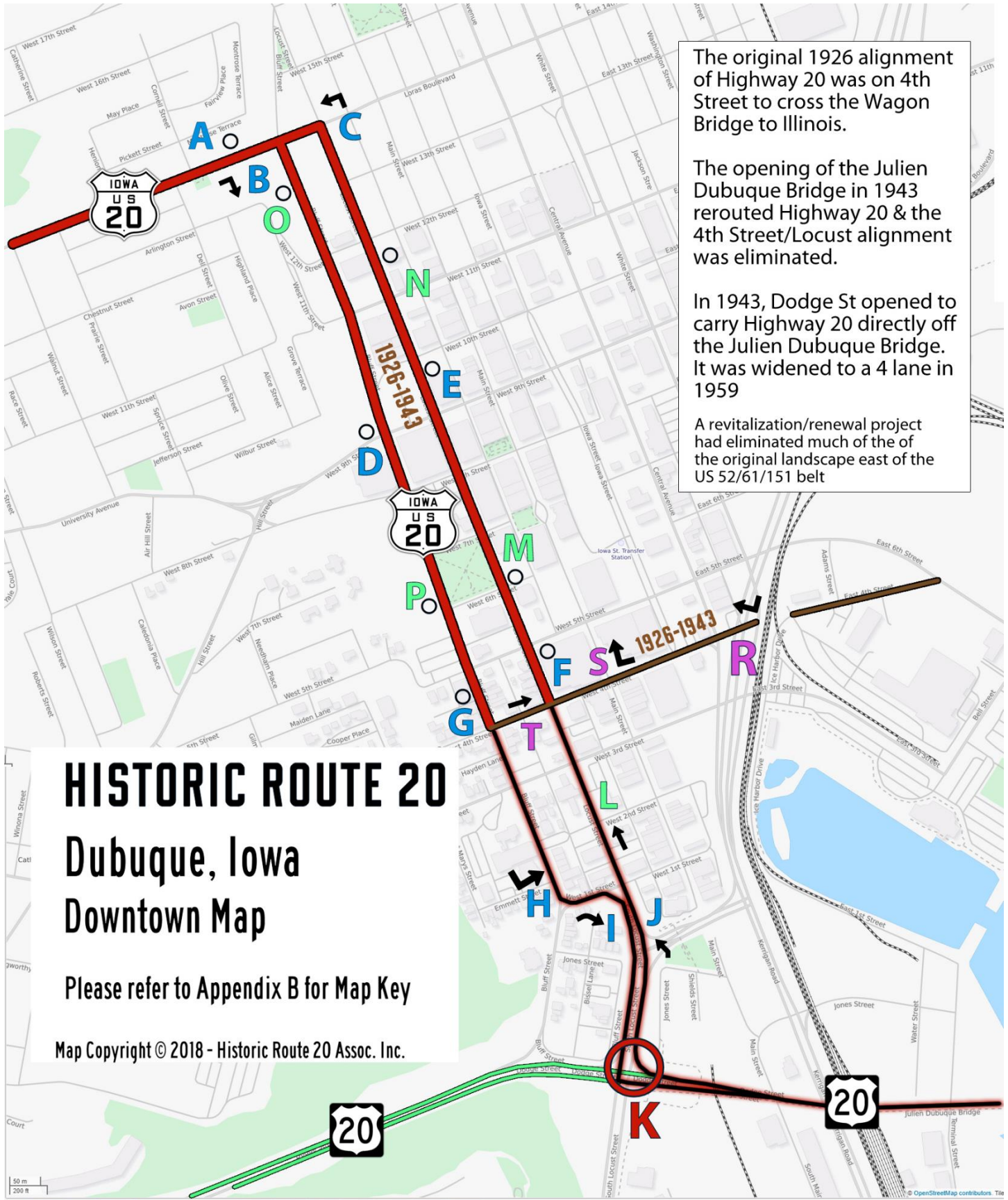
Signs J, K, Q, R may be smaller reassurance signs or where determined sufficient. (All State highway signs must be large per IowaDOT)

**Signs Needed For A.**





- A. Large – 24    Small – 2                      Arrows - 11
- B. Large – 14    Small – 12                      Arows – 11

Sign placement is the responsibility of the local entity (City, County).

Figure B – Phase Two - A map of Downtown Dubuque, IA with suggested sign placements.



## Appendix B

Map Key			
<b>A</b>	Location of Historic Route 20 Signs (Large)		Suggested Arrows/Turns
<b>T</b>	Historic Route 20 signs Alt		Suggested sign placement
<b>H</b>	Location of Historic Route 20 Signs (Small Reassurance)	1926	Dates of Historic Alignment Use
<b>K</b>	Welcome Gantry		Historic Route
			Current Route 20

**Map B Depicts** the 1926-1943 alignment of US Route 20 through the City of Dubuque.

US Highway 20 originally crossed the Mississippi River from East Dubuque, IL to Dubuque, IA via the Wagon Bridge. The Wagon Bridge exited motorists on 4<sup>th</sup> Street. Route 20 then turned onto Locust St. This alignment is depicted in Brown. The alignment was abandoned on August 31, 1943, with the opening of the Julien Dubuque Bridge.

This original 4<sup>th</sup> Street alignment is considered an Alternate Historic Route and would be considered for historic purposes and marked with small signs.

The Historic Route would technically begin/end at 4<sup>th</sup> Street on Locust or Bluff St, depending on direction of traffic. Signage coming off the Julien Dubuque Bridge would potentially be labeled "TO" with an arrow. (H, I, J, L).

Reassurance (Small) Signs are placed for continuity purposes along Locust and Bluff.

K indicates the Welcome Gantry off the Julien Dubuque Bridge. It is beyond the scope of the Historic US Route 20 Association to suggest how to place Historic Route signs at this location. It is suggested that the city or county highway engineer contact the Iowa DOT upon official designation of the Historic Route to determine the best placement for such Historic Route sign.

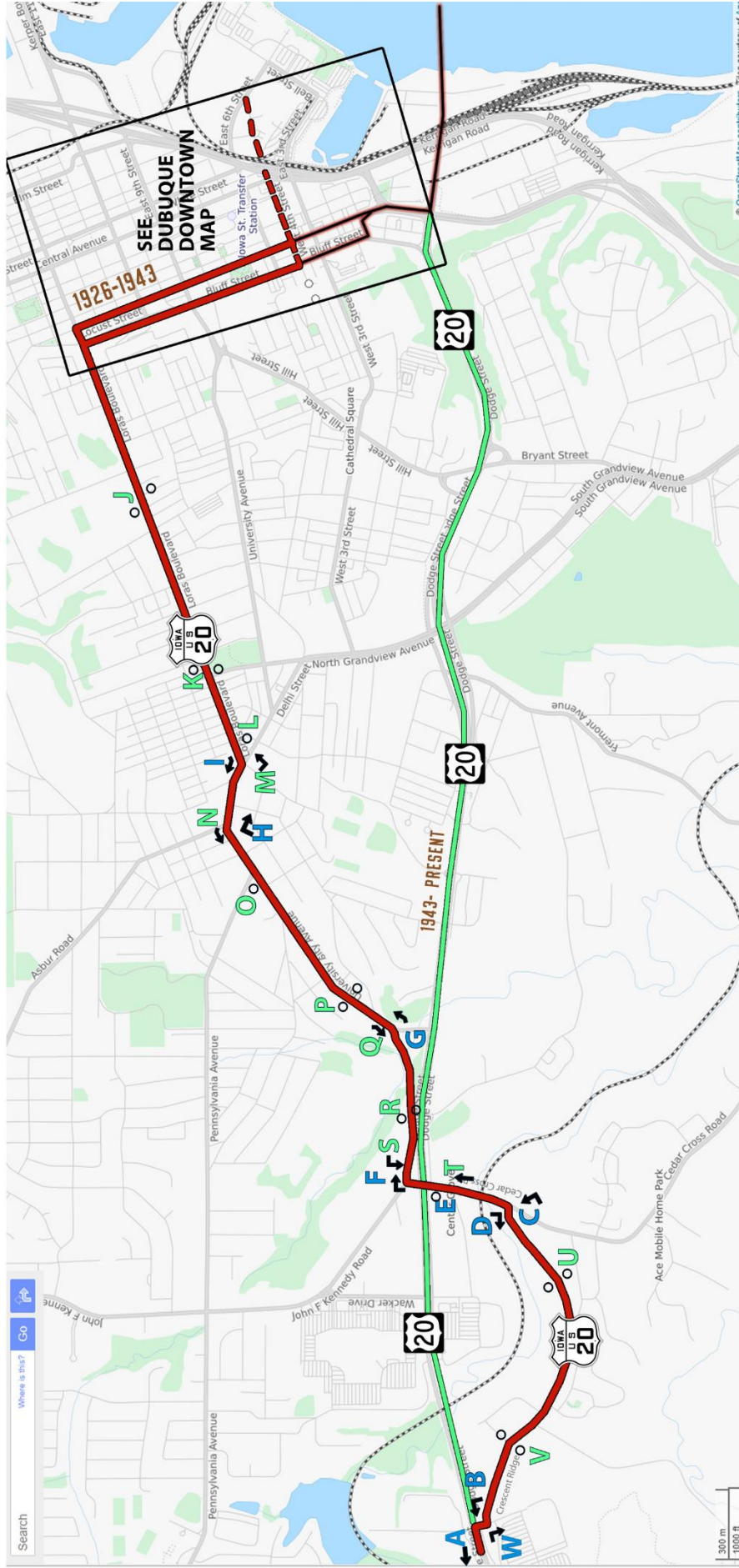
The Historic Route continued onto Loras Ave. See next section.

### Signs Needed For B.

A. Large – 12    Small – 8                      Arrows - 11

**Dubuque, Iowa**  
**Original 1926 Alignment**  
 Preliminary Map

**HISTORIC US ROUTE 20**



Map of the City of Dubuque, Iowa showing the original 1926 alignment of Highway 20 in Red. The current alignment of Highway 20 is in Green. Signage would be placed at the turns to guide travelers and tourists on the proper alignment and ensure continuity to connect the Historic Route. This map is based on the 1927 Iowa State Highway Map. A detailed map of downtown Dubuque and Dubuque County follows.

- Key
- A- Large sign**
  - S- Small Sign**
  - ← Arrow** Direction needed
  - Stand Alone** (No arrow)
  - All signs on any State Highway section need to be LARGE to comply with Iowa DOT Regulations**

## **Appendix C ( Refer to Key for Map B)**

Map C depicts the Historic 1926 Route from Loras Blvd to Old Highway Rd at Dodge St and is part of Phase Two.

The present route was planned and approved by the Iowa Highway Commission on January 24, 1940. While construction continued 20 was depicted on the road on maps, but officially moved for the opening of the Julien Dubuque Bridge on August 31, 1943. Originally Dodge St was only a 2 lane road.

The modern four lane highway along Dodge St opened in 1959.

This map ensures proper travel through the city of Dubuque on the Historic Route as there are many turns.

### **Signs Needed For C.**

A. Large – 10 Small – 18 Arrows – 14

### **Signs Needed For B & C.**

A. Large – 22 Small – 26 Arrows - 25

A sign order form accompanies this study. Please contact us for pricing based on large quantities.

## Signage

The Historic Route 20 wayfinding signs are provided by the Historic US Route 20 Association. Historic Route 20 contracts to an independent highway sign maker who has provided all of our signage and for the Iowa Route 6 Tourist Association.

Historic Route 20 has contacted Iowa Prison Industries for a price quote, as they have been a resource used in the state. Their pricing was approximately 40% higher and the specifications for the signs could not match in quality of the signs Historic Route 20 provides. This information will be provided upon request.



### Historic Route 20 Signs

Large - 24" x 30" \*

Small - 12" x 18"

Highway Grade Signs

Metal Back

Reflective Diamond-Grade Front

Pre-Drilled

\*Iowa DOT size specification for all State Highways.  
Small signs allowed on City, County roads



Sign on the Historic Route in the City of Cushing, Iowa.

Example of signage placed on Old Highway Rd in Dubuque County.





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[www.historicUS20.com/iowa.html](http://www.historicUS20.com/iowa.html)

[www.facebook.com/HistoricRoute20-Iowa](https://www.facebook.com/HistoricRoute20-Iowa)



# THE HISTORIC US ROUTE 20 ASSOCIATION

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## Business, Passport, Town/City Membership & Sign Application (September 2017)

As a private, nonprofit institution, membership is what drives the Historic US Route 20 Association to success on its mission to preserve and promote the many great sites along US Route 20 from Boston, MA to Newport, OR.

We wish to become a  Business  CoC/VB  Town/City Member

**Membership Fee** \_\_\_\_\_ **\$50.00/yr** *Town Governments wishing to purchase signs do not need to become members*

\_\_\_\_\_ As part of our membership, I would also like to purchase HISTORIC US ROUTE 20 sign to place at my business, organization or in my town.

\_\_\_\_\_ As part of our membership, I would like to participate in the HISTORIC US ROUTE 20 *Passport & Stamp Program*  
*Please Use Additional Passport Form*

AVAILABLE STATES FOR SIGNS: CIRCLE or INDICATE NUMBER REQUESTED					
Spellings and designs listed below are how they will appear on your sign. Please allow 4-6 weeks for delivery.					
MASS	NEW YORK	PENNSYLVANIA	OHIO	INDIANA	ILLINOIS
IOWA	NEBRASKA	WYOMING	MONTANA	IDAHO	OREGON

**Sign Prices**

**Small 12" x 18"**  
\$30 each

**Large 24" x 30"**  
\$100 each (Iowa)

**Large-Tall 24" x 36"**  
\$125 each  
Shipping Included

\_\_\_\_\_ Business Name/Town Name

\_\_\_\_\_ Address

\_\_\_\_\_ City, State, Zip

\_\_\_\_\_ E-mail and Phone

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

As a Business Member, you will have your business placed on our website, future mobile app and travel guide book for promotional purposes.

A standard insert will be placed in our annual brochure. You will have the option to purchase an advertisement.

**See Member Benefits on Reverse**

Tell us about your business or enter your payment method above

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Total Amount Enclosed \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Remit payment to address above or call for online payment

Yearly Memberships are Valid one Year from Receipt of Order

The Historic US Route 20 Association is a 501 (c) (3) organization. Your membership in tax deductible. IRS EIN # 46-0837490

Office Use - Membership # Authorized Sign #