

OFFICIAL MAP  
PRIMARY ROAD SYSTEM

STATE OF IOWA

Prepared by Iowa Highway Commission

SCALE - 10 MILES TO 1 INCH

CONDITION JAN 1927	659.2 MILES
PAVING	2819.4
PERMANENT GRADE	1732.3
MAINTAINED ONLY	1451.7



# HISTORIC ROUTE 20

Iowa



A Study by the Historic US Route 20 Association, INC April 2017





1926 US HIGHWAY SHIELD



1960 - Present US HIGHWAY SHIELD



HISTORIC ROUTE 20 SIGN

## Welcome!

Since 2014, the Historic US Route 20 Association has traveled across Iowa, meeting with various Visitors Bureaus, Chambers of Commerce, Cities, Economic Development offices and more to discuss traveling US Route 20 and the designation of the original 1926 highway alignment as Historic Route 20.

This study is a outcome of our recent visits, follow-ups and details for the future.

Prepared by Bryan Farr – President, Historic US Route 20 April 24, 2017

Cover: Copy of the 1927 Iowa State Highway Map.





# INTRODUCTION

- **Purpose** - to designate and recognize the original 1926 alignment of US Route 20 as a State "Historic Route/Highway" in the State of Iowa.
- **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.
  - 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



# The Historic US Route 20 Association, Inc.

- A 501 (c) 3 Non Profit organization founded in 2012, recognized Public Charity and Economic Development
- Federal EIN 46-0837490
- We aim to promote travel & tourism and economic development on the original 1926 alignment of US Route 20 across the United States by working with local communities, economic development offices, visitor's bureaus and chamber's of commerce.
- We work in a grassroots effort by visiting and encouraging locations to become a part of the organization
  - Historic US Route 20 would act as the organization to work with each town in Iowa
  - We promote the highway via social media, brochures and working with other travel and tourism associations
- Economic development tool – We offer our signs as a uniform tool to tie in Historic Route 20 across America
  - Towns, Businesses, Organizations
- Our research indicates tourists want to take the original 1926 Historic Alignment and not bypasses or 4 lane highways



# A Brief History



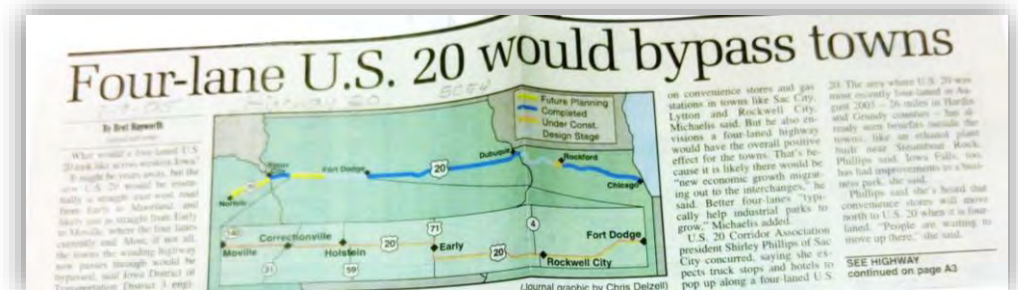
## ■ Pre- 1925

- Dubuque est. 1788, Sioux City est. 1857
- Railroad slowly built to connect Dubuque to Sioux City would become the Illinois Central RR.
- The *Dragged Road* built near and along the RR in 1910
- U.S. Grant Highway established in 1916
- *Dragged Road* becomes Hawkeye Highway in 1917
- Hawkeye Highway –Dubuque to Fort Dodge
- Hawkeye Highway Cut-Off – Ft. Dodge to Sioux City
- The Atlantic Yellowstone Pacific Road (AYP) connected Chicago to YNP.
- Iowa “type” concrete roads built – 1921
  - 8” Thick, 20ft wide, 1ft curb raised 3”



## ■ 1925-Present

- Congress approves Federal Highway Act to improve roads
- Iowa designates the Dubuque-Sioux City Route to become a Federal Highway (June 1925)
  - Route 20 was not built, but connected existing routes.
- US 20 designation given in November 1925
- Approved in 1926, new shields placed on route.
- Iowa reconfigures and realigns many state highways in 1930.
- Plans to straighten 20 between Sioux City & Moline -1941
- Plans to build 4 Lane Route 20 begins - 1951.
- Construction stalled between 1991-2000
- Final 40 miles to be completed by 2018





# FACTS OF US ROUTE 20



## ■ National

- Length – 3,365 Miles
- Longest highway in USA
- 12 States
- Eastern End – Boston, MA
- Western End – Newport, OR
- Lowest Elevation – Hudson River at Albany, NY – 0 Feet
- Highest Elevation – Sylvan Pass, Yellowstone NP - 8350 Feet



Newport



## ■ Iowa

- Length – 333 Miles
- Longest highway in Iowa (based on 1926 Historic mileage)
- 13 Counties / 36 Towns and Cities
- Eastern End – Mississippi River, Dubuque
- Western End – Missouri River, Sioux City
- Lowest Elevation – Mississippi River at Dubuque – 585 feet
- Highest Elevation – Near Schaller – 1485 feet

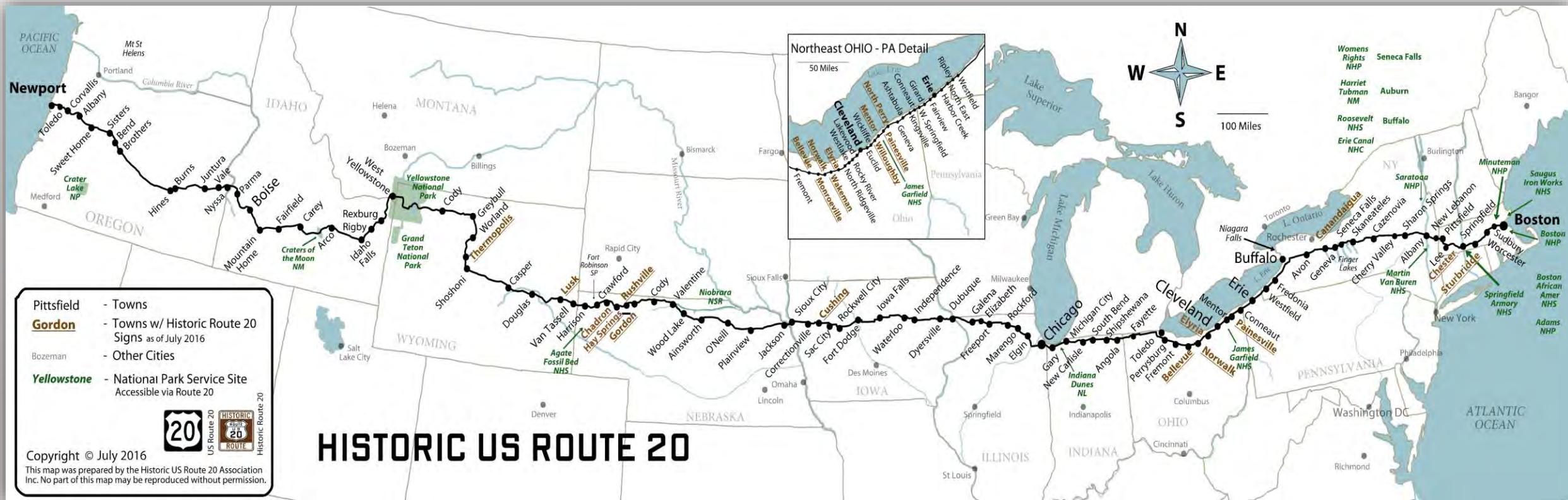


Dubuque

Sioux City



# US Route 20 Across The United States





# 1927 IOWA HIGHWAY MAP



Taken from the official State of Iowa Highway Map from 1927. The alignment of US Route 20 is enhanced in red. This map is used as verification and proof of the original alignment across Iowa. The map was used to create the updated maps in the appendix.





# Sees Relocation of Highway 20 for 1952

DEC 30 1951



—Grading and paving of a connecting road between Transit avenue and highway 75 near Half Moon lake was among some of the city's major street improvements during 1951.

**T**HE CRYSTAL ball, used for years by the official forecaster of things to come for Sioux City, is out of commission. The famous glass globe cracked and broke during the cold weather last week, so the soothsayer this year makes his predictions with the aid of a ouija board, balanced carefully on his lap to get the mediumistic messages as they were spelled out on the mysterious contrivance.

The first message from the board was a puzzling "20", "20", "20". Then, falteringly, came "highway."

Yes, one of the important predictions of things to come in 1952 is the relocation of highway 20 between Sioux City and Merville. This project is on the agenda of the Iowa highway commission for 1952. Several surveys have been made, and, according to Earl Capel, district engineer of the highway commission, work will begin in the spring and may be near completion

before the end of 1952. Outstanding among other predictions of 1952 projects that will have an important bearing on the lives of Sioux Cityans will be reactivation of the Sioux City airbase and construction of additions to the city's four big hospitals. The new section of highway 20 will be 24 feet wide and will virtually parallel the old highway. The new route will do away with the many curves and hills that were the curse of the old highway. It will provide a straight eastern route from Peters avenue in Sioux City to Merville.

**To Have Few Hills**  
The relocated highway will be less hilly than the old route and extensive grading will lower the hills that are encountered. Under the plans of the commission, the broader cuts through the summit of the hills will prevent blocking by snow, Mr. Capel points out. The old highway was constructed 30 years ago. The new highway 20 will be routed straight east from the Grand avenue viaduct across highway 75 and Fairmount street, and angle parallel to the Milwaukee railroad tracks to Pe-

ters avenue, where it will cross the tracks and go directly east to Merville. The new addition to the St. Joseph Mercy hospital is expected to be completed by April 1, 1952. In addition to the St. Joseph Mercy hospital project, medical facilities here will be augmented by additions to the Lutheran, St. Vincent's and Methodist hospitals, now under construction and to be completed during the coming year.

**Military Life to Return**  
Reactivation of the airbase will bring a return of service men to the life of Sioux City, in addition to an increase in the amount of construction scheduled in this immediate area for 1952. The United States airforce is planning to spend \$1,764,000 for new buildings and for the renovation of present airbase buildings near Sergeant Bluff. The plans also call for extending one of the runways at the base from 6,500 feet in length to 7,600 feet.

Also of importance to Sioux City is the erection of the Sioux City airport administration building at the airbase. Work already has been started on the long planned project. The general di-

mensions of the building, which will be financed on a 50-50 basis by the city of Sioux City and the civil aeronautics authority, will be 80 by 80 feet. The interior of the building on the ground floor will contain a dining room, a lounge, areas for the various airlines, rest rooms and space for rental display cases.

According to C. A. A. requirements, the control tower will be 82 feet high. The office of the airport manager, the weather bureau, the communications system and the air traffic control system will be located in the tower under a glass encased control room.

In the purely industrial field early in 1952, the new office building and beef loading dock will be completed at the Swift Co. plant at a cost of more than 1 million dollars. The work will be finished, it is estimated, within the next month.

April, 1952 will see the completion of the new Tiplerton-Wafield warehouse on highway 75 23rd street. It will have a large ground floor space than any other structure in the country. The area of the roof is five and a half acres. Fully equipped, the building

# RELOCATING HIGHWAY 20


- Relocating Highway 20 began in 1952
- Purpose – to increase commerce, improve the agricultural industry as a viable alternative between Interstates 80 and 90.
  - 100 Miles shorter to Chicago Via US 20 than I 80.
- Began as 18 mile 4 lane project between Sioux City & Merville
  - Road was called a “death trap”.
- Many towns had speed limits of 25 mph = slow travel
  - Constant speed up/slow down





# WHY HISTORIC ROUTE 20 IN IOWA?



- Since 1952, the State of Iowa has been progressing to reroute US 20 to a 4 lane highway across the state.
- Town identity with Route 20.
- Modern travelers unaware of Old Highway 20 – take black & white 
- Historic Route not easy to follow – not marked .
- Would be longest highway in Iowa.
- Great for hikers, bikers and motorists – not in a hurry.
- Brings people back into downtowns – both small and large.
- Connects other Historic Route 20 locations.







## TOWN IDENTITY WITH HIGHWAY 20

- Many towns had an association being located on Highway 20 in Iowa. It was an identity that many towns had pride in. Murals & signs depicted locations on 20. Businesses incorporated the “20” in their names.
- The relocation of Highway 20 resulted in towns “losing an identity”. People who leisure drive or visit would take the new 20. While traffic studies indicate an increase in traffic on the 4 Lane 20, the smaller towns are considered bypassed.
- Much of the former alignment has been relegated to a county highway with no reference to 20, such as County Route D-36 and has no consistency across the state.



- A Historic Route 20 designation would be *culturally significant* to many communities and to the state.





# HIGHWAY OR ROUTE?

- Highway and Route are used interchangeably across US 20
- From MA to PA many will use Route, but say it – Root
- From PA to IL many will use Route, but say it – Rout
- From IA to OR the term **Highway** is used over **Route**
- At times the simple form US 20 is used

For purposes of continuity and uniformity, the term **Historic Route** will be used across the United States and in Iowa





# HISTORIC ROUTE 20 SIGNS



## ■ Features

- Original 1926 Shield design
- Brown Background - Historic
- Highly Reflective
- Highway Grade

## • Sizes

- 24"x 36"
  - Min of 2 per Town
    - Facing East/West
  - Required on State DOT Highway Segments
- 12"x 24"
  - for reassurance in towns & local highways
  - display in storefronts, shops, etc.



*Historic Photo in Sioux City showing 1926 style shields.*





# PLACEMENT OF HISTORIC ROUTE SIGNS

- Minimum 2 large signs per town
  - Facing east & west
- Large signs only allowed on IowaDOT highways (City, County Routes can use small reassurance signs)
- Ensure smooth and complete travel
  - Turn by turn
  - Guidance through cities
- Signs should be placed in a safe location
  - Tourists like to stop and take pics
- Recommended locations are provided by the organization.
- Locations will be noted on our website and each sign will have a QR code placed on it for identification and scanning.







## HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

**Ackley**  
Original 1926 Alignment  
with 1930-2003 alignment



Modern map with highlighted original alignment of US Route 20

Original alignment based on IOWA Highway Map of 1927 & Huebinger's Hawkeye Highway  
[www.iowadot.gov/maps/msp/historical/pdf/1927-front.pdf](http://www.iowadot.gov/maps/msp/historical/pdf/1927-front.pdf)

Map Copyright © 2016 - The Historic US Route 20 Association Inc.  
Basemap © OpenStreetMap contributors

# SIGN STUDY

- The Historic US Route 20 Association will complete a sign study for an entity interested in promoting Historic Route 20.
- Membership to the organization is appreciated to complete the study. (See membership)
- The sign study will detail:
  - The original 1926 alignment
  - Recommended sign locations
  - Turn by turn directions
  - History of the road/changes
- The original 1926 alignment connects the most towns. Other later alignments may be considered.

Note: Numbers on this map indicate placement of signs, detailed further in study

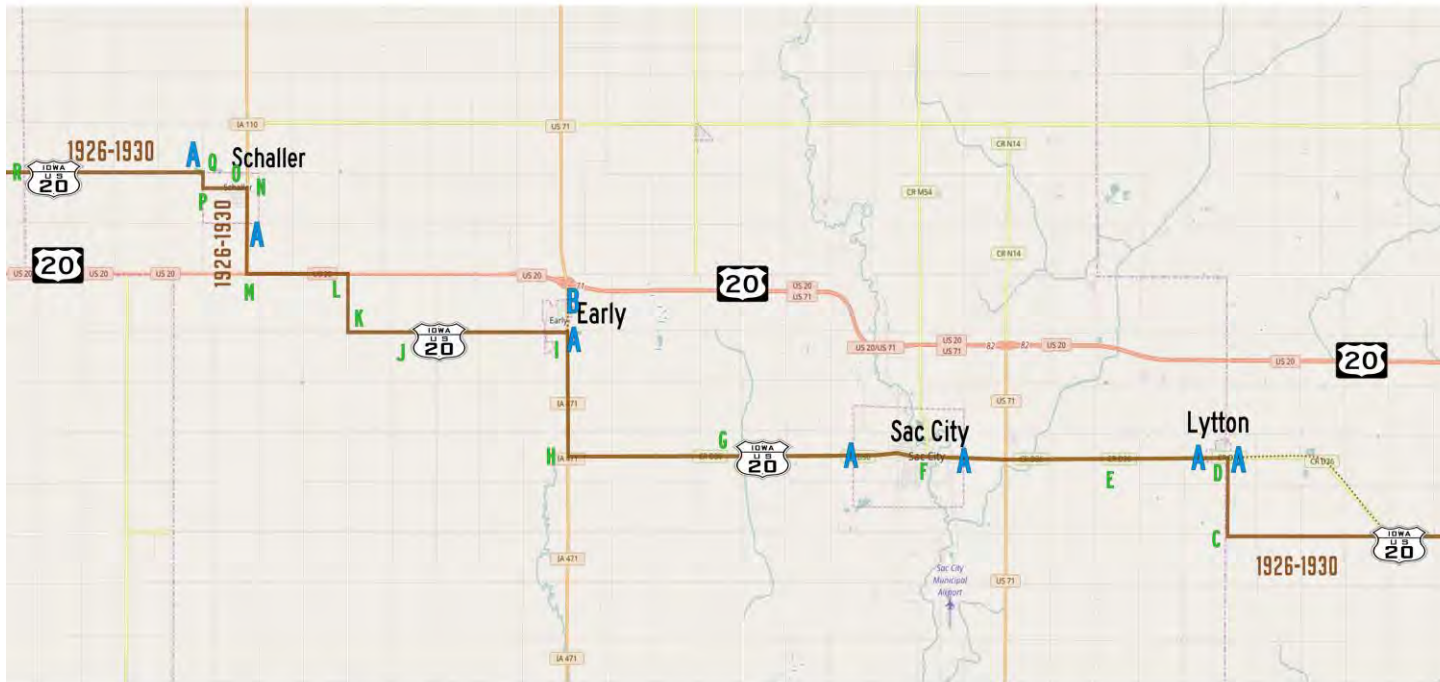






## HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

### Sac County, Iowa Original 1926 Alignment Preliminary Map



Map of Sac County, Iowa showing the original 1926 alignment of US Route 20 in Brown. The Historic US Route 20 Association's mission is to promote travel on the original alignment where it still exists. Signage would be placed at the turns to guide travelers and tourists on the proper alignment. This map is based on the 1927 Iowa State Highway Map. In Sac County, promoting travel on the original highway keeps tourists who wish to follow the 1926 alignment off of the present Hwy 20 and into more towns.

Map Copyright © 2016 - The Historic US Route 20 Association Inc.

## SIGN STUDY

### PART 2

- We can also prepare a study for an entire county or just a city.
- We can offer a presentation to detail our efforts with a community.
- We request the local area to participate by submitting a town history, the best local attractions and how you want to be viewed by the traveler.
- Even though signs will only be placed on the original alignment - the culture of Route 20 can extend beyond the highway. A business just off the highway or attraction may be included.
  - Our guide books and website will indicate taking a tour of the downtowns off the main Historic Route.

Note: The letters correspond to sign placement recommendations. "A" is for large and letters are for smaller reassurance or turns.





# ELIMINATED 90° TURNS

- 90° turns were very common on the old roads in Iowa.
- To eliminate stops and dangerous turns, many 90° turns were straightened for smooth traffic flow.
- We consider these 90° remnants the original historic highway. They are recognized on maps and in literature.
- Due to the number of straightened turns in Iowa, **Historic Route** signs will be *optional* on these sections.
- The traveler will be alerted to these turns in printed guides and it will be their option as to the route traveled.



Example - 90° Turn remnant east of Aplington.



Image: Google Maps





# IOWA DOT REQUIREMENTS



- 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 will be the responsibility of the local entity interested and not IowaDOT.
- IowaDOT will allow large signs only on State highways.

*A sample draft resolution is attached at the end of the study*





# POTENTIAL ECONOMIC IMPACTS

- **Over 4.3 million visitors spent \$1.06 billion in 2015**
- **55% are first time visitors**
- **79% stay overnight**
- **84% stay in hotels, B&Bs or campgrounds**
- **2.9 nights is the average state along the route**
- **Typical party is one to 2-3 adults & 3 children**
- **51% of visitors come from outside the highway area**
- **40% of visitors come from other states**
- **3% come from outside the country**
  - **Historic Route 20 has recorded travelers coming from Canada, UK, Australia, Germany, Austria.**

- **\* Information from the 2015 Economic Impact Study of the Pennsylvania Route 6 Heritage Corridor. Based along the 427 mile long, 11 county PA Route 6 Alliance.**
- **Route 6 is the second longest highway in the United States. It shares similar cultural ideals and is used as a model for Historic Route 20**





# CREATING TOURISM

- **Historic Route 20 can easily tie in and connect with other tourist routes.**

- Great River Road Scenic Byway
- Loess Hills Scenic Byway
- Lewis & Clark Trail
- Historic Route 6 Iowa
- Lincoln Highway

- **Placement on the State's travel website as a Historic Trail Route**



Iowa's Scenic Byways with Historic Route 20 added. [www.iowadot.gov/iowasbyways/index.aspx](http://www.iowadot.gov/iowasbyways/index.aspx)

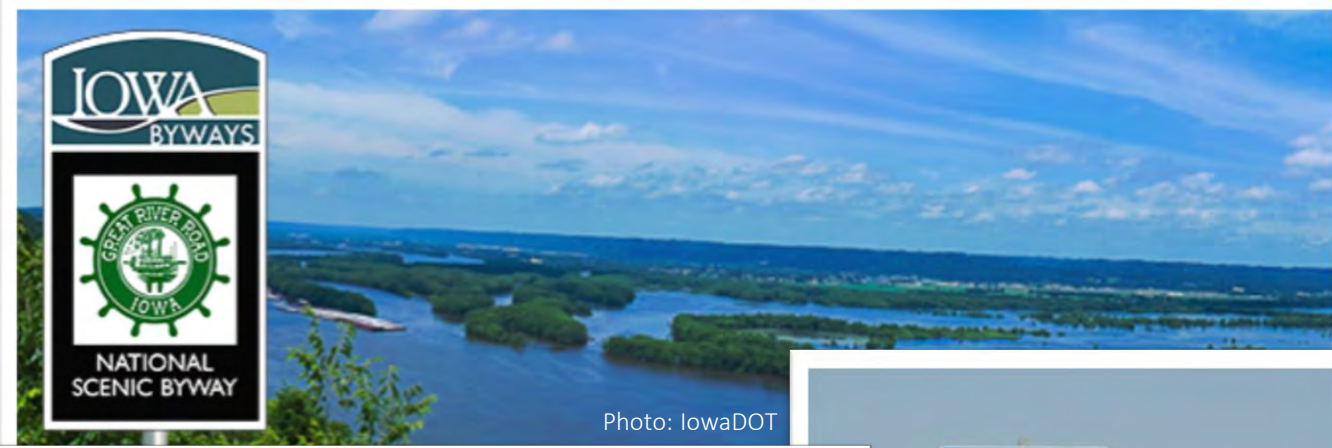


Photo: IowaDOT



Photo: Route 6 Tourist Assoc - Iowa



Photo: AARoads.com



Photo: IowaDOT





# POLE BANNERS

- Pole Banners are used in nearly every community.
- Conversation Piece
  - Town Name
  - Distance Between
    - Boston, MA
    - Newport, OR
- Can be made into larger signs, posters, magnets, etc.

**ACKLEY**  
**HISTORIC**



**ROUTE**

**BOSTON, MA**  
**1,361 MILES**

**ACKLEY**  
**HISTORIC**



**ROUTE**

**NEWPORT, OR**  
**2,004 MILES**



# PRESERVATION

- We aim to preserve the history and cultural significance of Historic Route 20.
  - An original 1920s concrete highway exists between Sioux City and Merville.
  - A small section in Cushing was lost (destroyed in 2015)
  - Provide support and advocacy for sites along Historic Route 20
- Establish a local Iowa Historic Route 20 branch, office and museum.



Original 1921 concrete pavement with curb near Lawton

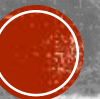
- We aim to work with historical societies, museums and other groups to preserve history.
- Promoting established mom and pop businesses, small stores and museums, help bring dollars to the local economy and sustainability.





# CENTENIAL CELEBRATION - 2026

- 2026 will mark the 100th anniversary of the US Highway system.
- States such as Illinois are preparing major tourism plans to promote travel on Route 66 in 2026.
- Route 20 is a viable alternative to Route 66
- Iowa should embrace Route 20's historic significance in the state and country
- Completed Historic Route 20 signage would enhance and allow for a larger celebration in Iowa and across the United States
- Events across 20 could be planned to encourage travel in conjunction with other states.
- Potential for great marketing ideas





# EMBRACE HISTORIC ROUTE 20

- Historic Route 20 is just not a road sign on the side of a highway. We aim to remain active in the community and have the community embrace their location on the historic route.
- Promotional materials should include:
  - Phrases such as - "We're on Historic Route 20"
  - Highlighting the route on maps & guides
  - Place small signs in windows, buildings
  - Create their own brand of Historic 20
  - Kiosks with town & route history
  - Participate in a passport program
  - Re-create the culture of being on Route 20
- Contribute and update events calendar on the Historic Route 20 webpage - [www.historicUS20.com](http://www.historicUS20.com)

■ #historicroute20 #route20



Signs placed on a winery that was a gas station in New York.

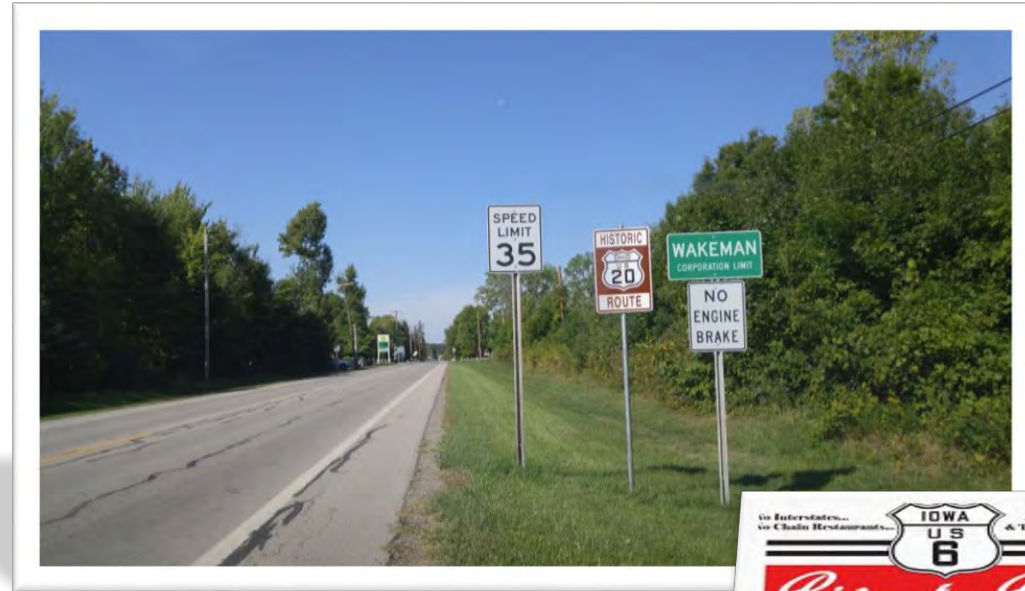


Signs placed in window of a shop in Ohio.



# FUTURE ON HISTORIC 20

- Signs in every Historic Route 20 community.
- Historic Route 20 guide signs on 4 lane 20
- Historic Route 20 Guide Book
- Work with Iowa Tourism
- An active Historic Route 20 Association - Iowa Branch
- Yearly Historic 20 meetings
- Annual events
  - Road Trip across Historic 20
  - Fairs & Festivals









# CONTACTS

## Historic US Route 20 Association Inc.

Bryan Farr – President/Executive Director  
108 Skyline Trail  
Chester, MA 101011

(617) 733-5796

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

[www.facebook.com/historicroute20](http://www.facebook.com/historicroute20)



## Active Iowa Member Contacts

(April 2017)

### Sac County Economic & Tourism Development

Brandy Ripley  
(712) 664-2940  
[briplry@saccountyiowa.com](mailto:briplry@saccountyiowa.com)

### Ackley Economic Development

Jefferson Fossbender  
(641) 373-0114  
[ackleydevelopment@gmail.com](mailto:ackleydevelopment@gmail.com)

## Active Iowa Members

(April 2017)

### Dubuque County Tourism

Cedar Falls CVB  
Ackley EDC  
Sac County EDC  
Woodbury County Rural EDC  
Iowa Falls Chamber/Main St  
Sac City Main St  
City of Cushing

## Contacted & Interested

(April 2017)

Parkersburg EDC  
Webster City Chamber of Commerce/Tourism  
Calhoun County EDC  
Ida County EDC  
Eastern Iowa Tourism  
Western Iowa Tourism  
Waterloo CVB  
City of Correctionville

## References

Sioux City Journal Article: <http://bit.ly/2ozfdsZ>

Radio Iowa:

<http://www.radioiowa.com/2016/09/30/highway-20-association-encourages-visits-to-small-towns/>







# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Dubuque



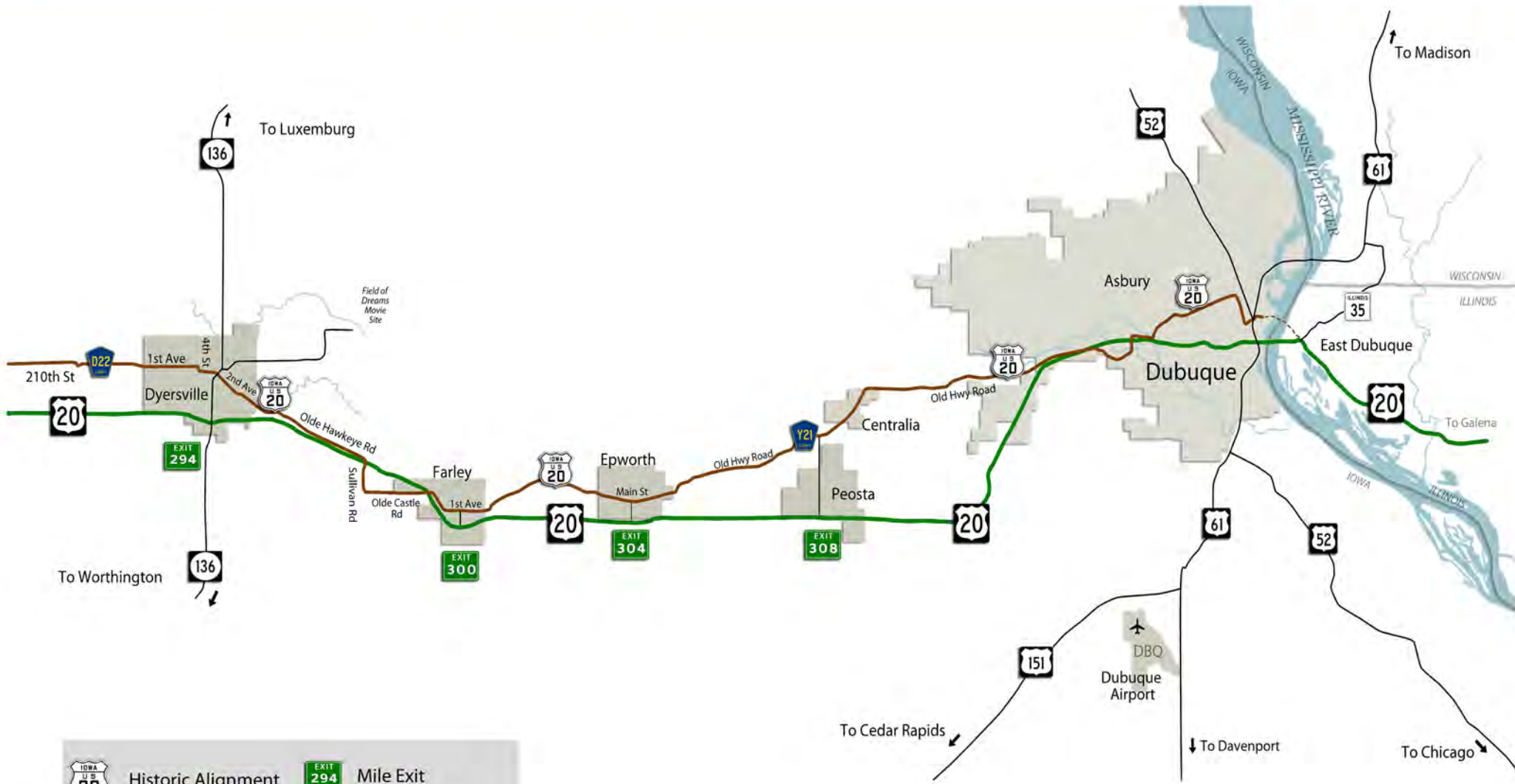
	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
			Interstate Highway

1 Mile



# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

## East Dubuque, IL TO Dyersville, IA



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
			Interstate Highway

1 Mile | 3 Miles  
Distance per map = 30 miles





# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Dyersville To Winthrop



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
			Interstate Highway

1 Mile | 3 Miles  
Distance per map = 30 miles



# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Winthrop To Waterloo



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
			Interstate Highway

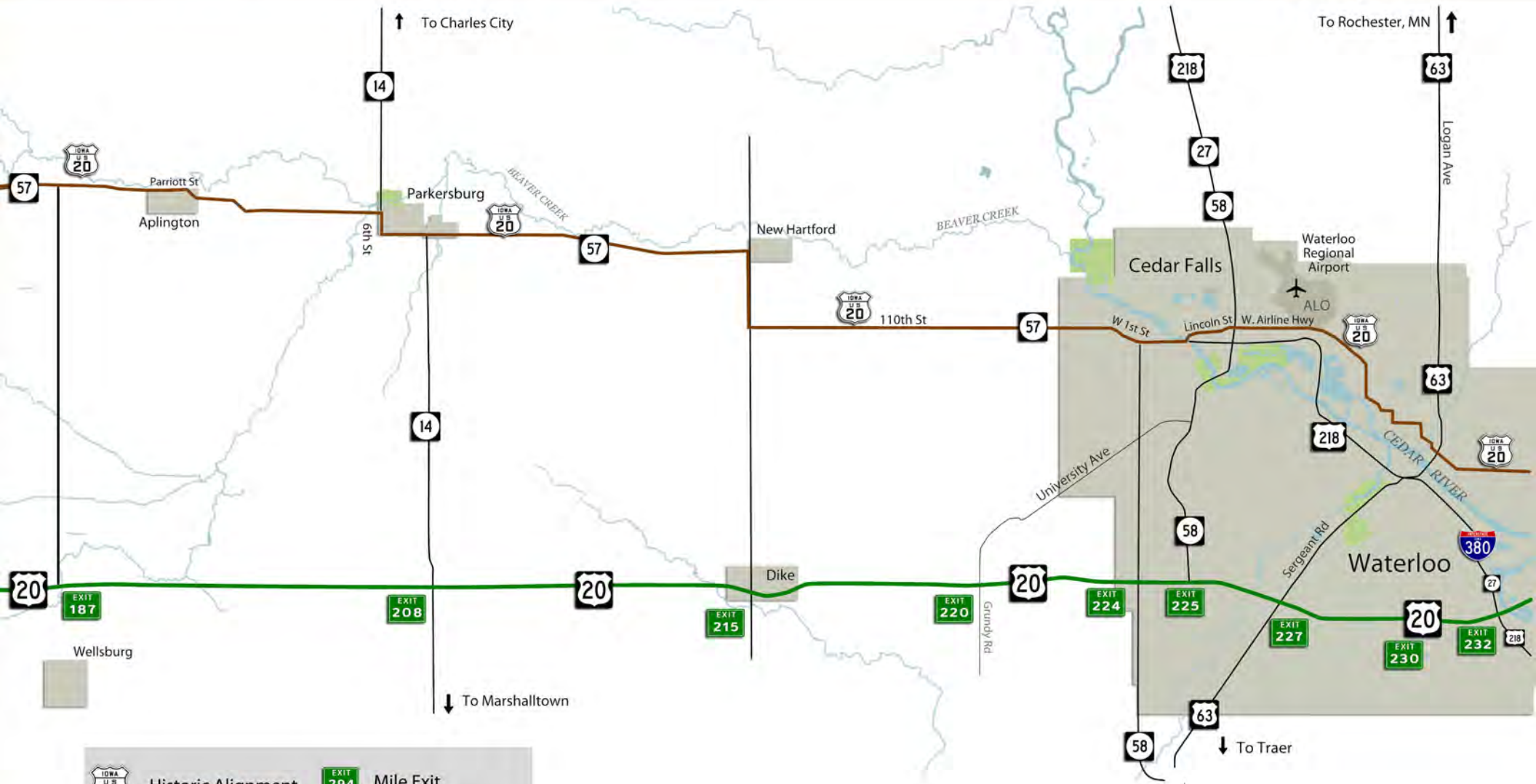
1 Mile | 3 Miles  
Distance per map = 30 miles





# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Waterloo To Aplington

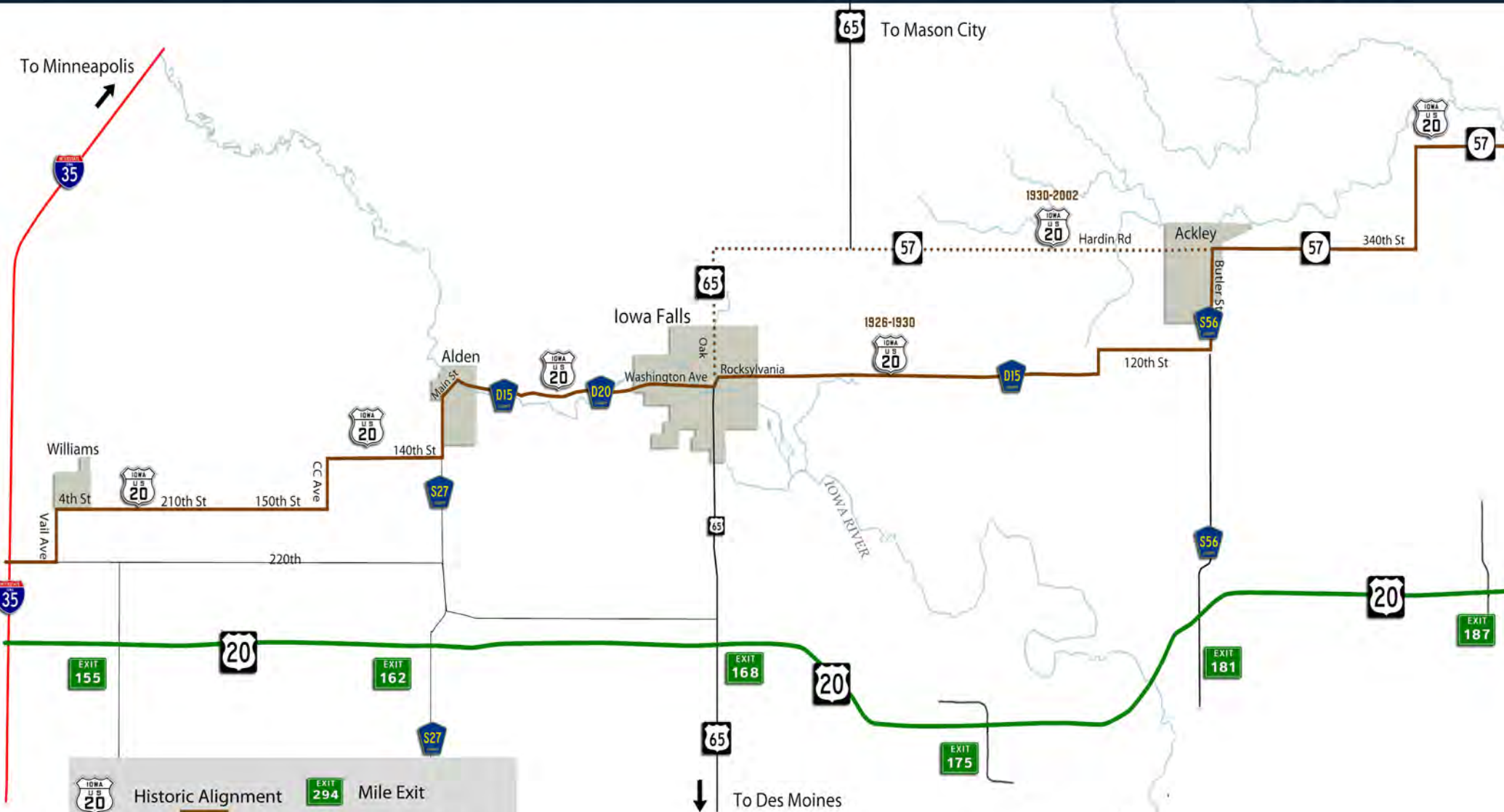


	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
 Distance per map = 30 miles			Interstate Highway



# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Ackley To Williams



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
	Interstate Highway		

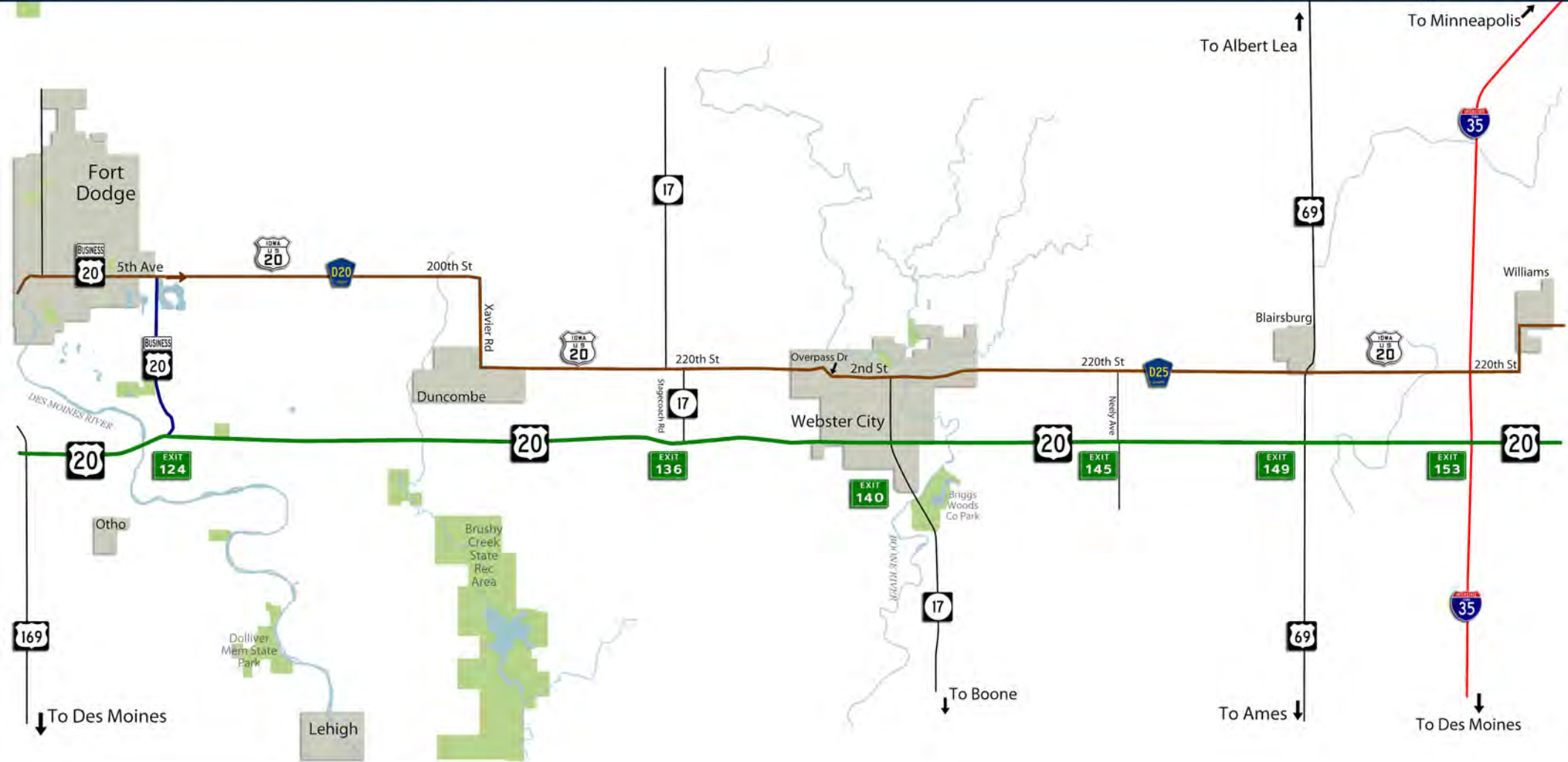
1 Mile | 3 Miles  
Distance per map = 30 miles





# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Williams To Fort Dodge



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
			Interstate Highway

1 Mile | 3 Miles  
Distance per map = 30 miles



# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Fort Dodge To Rockwell City



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
			Interstate Highway

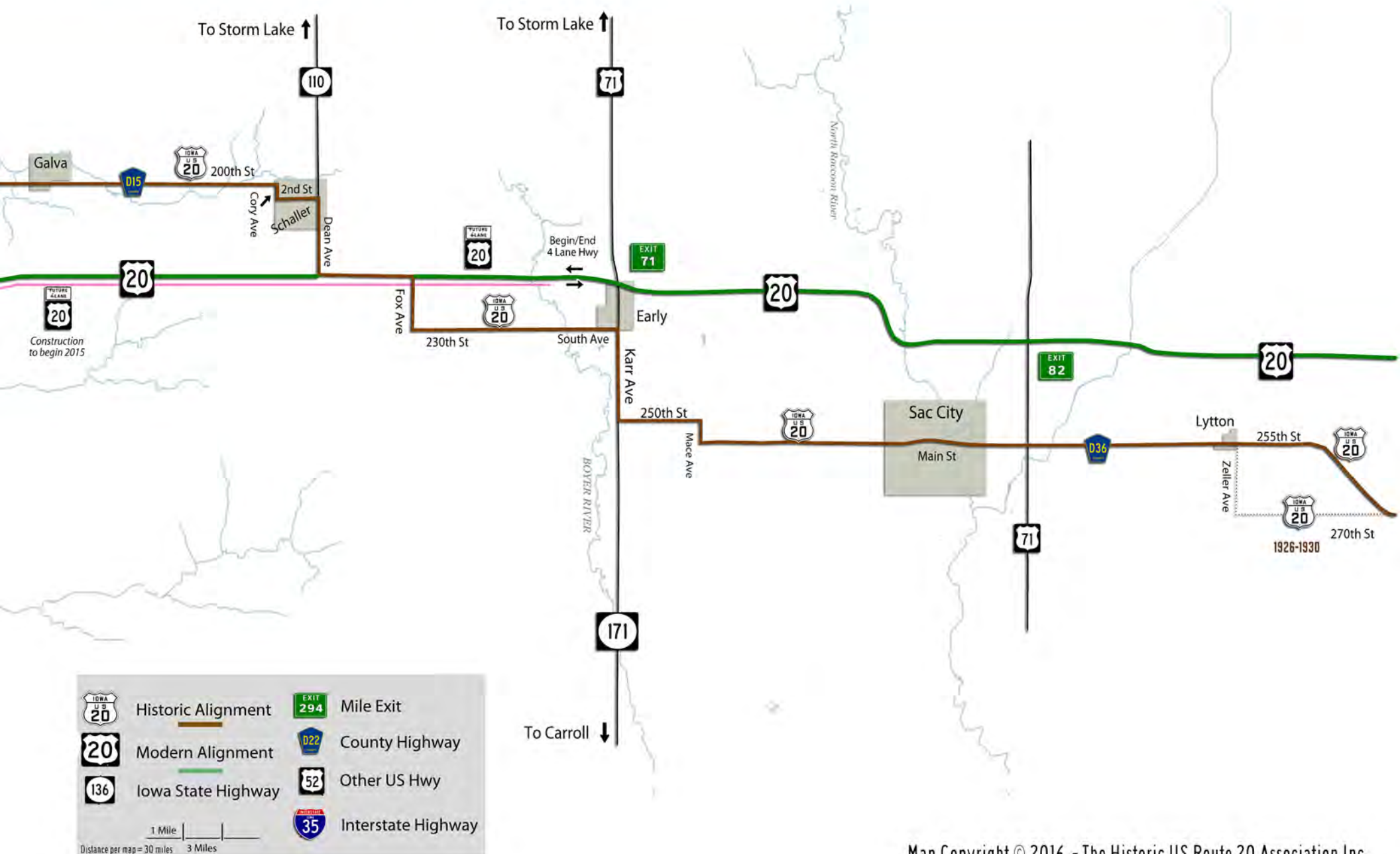
1 Mile | 3 Miles  
Distance per map = 30 miles





# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Lytton To Galva



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
			Interstate Highway

1 Mile | 3 Miles  
Distance per map = 30 miles



# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

## Galva To Correctionville



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
	1 Mile   3 Miles		Interstate Highway

Distance per map = 30 miles





# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

## Greater Sioux City

Sioux City, IA South Sioux City, NE



	Historic Alignment		Mile Exit
	Modern Alignment		County Highway
	Iowa State Highway		Other US Hwy
	Interstate Highway		



# HISTORIC US ROUTE 20

# Moville To Jackson, NE





**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>

**Contacts:**

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<sup>1</sup>The term **local agency** can refer to, but is not limited to, the following: Town or City Council, Mayor's Office, Chamber of Commerce, Visitor's Bureau, Convention & Visitor's Bureau, Historical Society, Economic Development Office, Organization or Business or Individual.

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 Iowa Department of Transportation, 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 \_\_\_\_\_, 2017