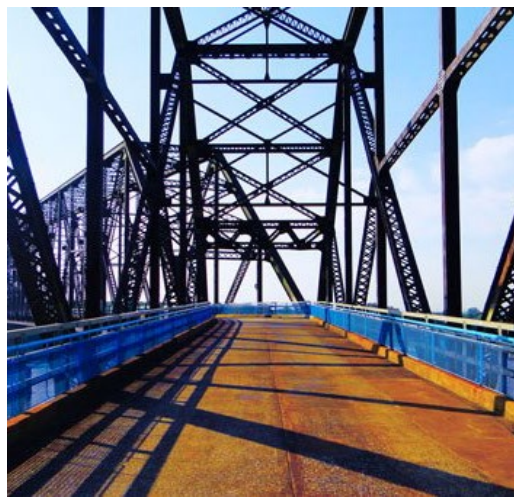


Illinois Route 66

100 Years on the Mother Road
1926-2026







America's Most Famous Road

1926

Chicago to Santa Monica

2448 miles - 8 states — 3 time zones





It All Started in 1926

November 11, 1926

US Highway 66 is established

HISTORIC
ROUTE 66
- THE MOTHER ROAD -

CHICAGO

ILLINOIS

MISSOURI

ST. LOUIS

KANSAS

TULSA

OKLAHOMA CITY

AMARILLO

SANTA FE

FLAGSTAFF

GRAND CANYON

PETRIFIED FOREST

ARIZONA

NEW MEXICO

WIGWAM MOTEL

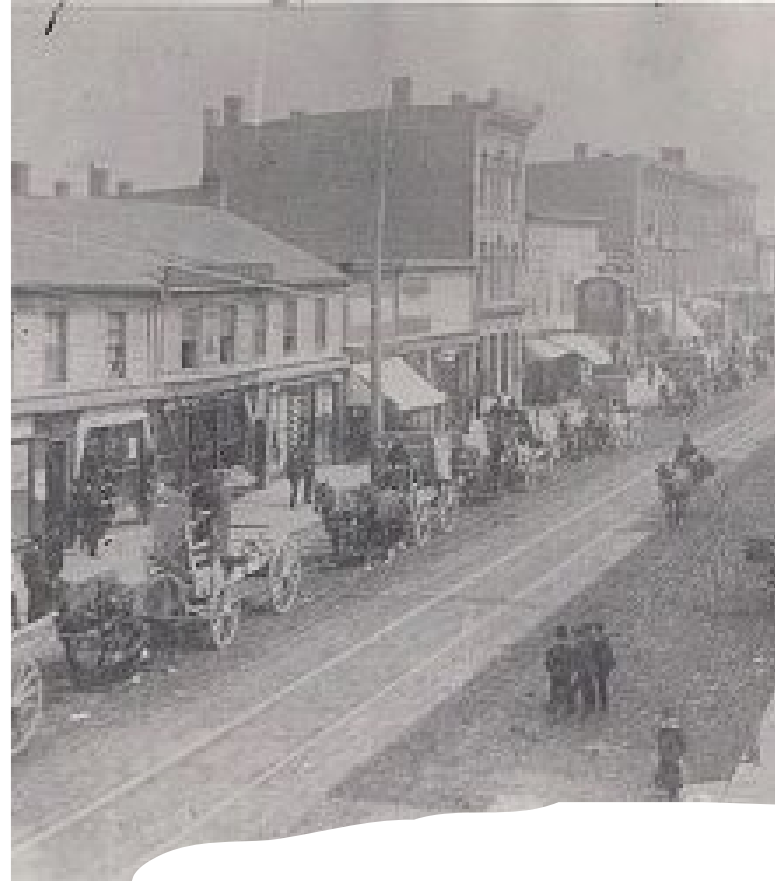
TEXAS

HISTORIC
ROUTE 66
- THE MOTHER ROAD -

CALIFORNIA

SANTA MONICA





The Main Street of America

Communities grew around travelers

Greetings from

Greetings from

ILLINOIS

near HAMEL
MT. OLIVE
S. of WAGONER
SPFLD.
SPRINGFIELD
OF LINCOLN
ATLANTA
CHICAGO

ROUTE 66 BEGAN
AT THE INTERSECTION OF
MICHIGAN AVE. & JACKSON BLVD., IN
THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN CHICAGO.
THROUGH A "CANYON OF SKYSCRAPERS" THE
ROAD HEADED SOUTHWEST, OUT ONTO THE
LEVEL PRAIRIE LAND. WHAT ONCE WAS A VAST

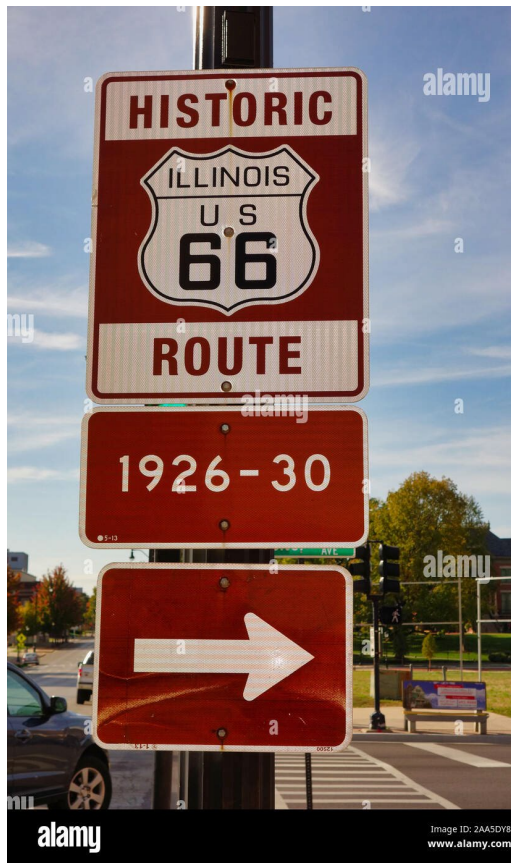
OLD ROUTE 66

ROUTE 66 BEGAN
AT THE INTERSECTION OF
MICHIGAN AVE. & JACKSON BLVD., IN
THE HEART OF DOWNTOWN CHICAGO.

THROUGH A "CANYON OF SKYSCRAPERS" THE ROAD HEADED SOUTHWEST, OUT ONTO THE LEVEL PRAIRIE LAND. WHAT ONCE WAS A VAST "SEA" OF TALLGRASS PRAIRIE IS NOW A "CHECKERBOARD" OF INTENSIVELY-FARMED FIELDS. WATCH FOR REMNANT PRAIRIES ALONG RAILROAD TRACKS PARALLEL-
LING OLD 66.





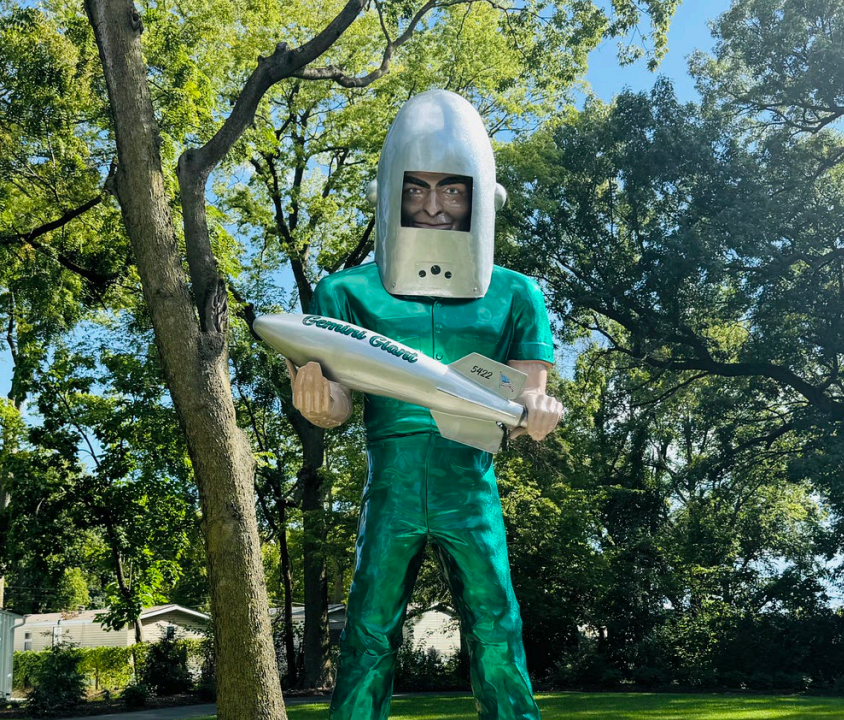


The Alignments of Illinois Route 66



Only on Illinois Route 66

Only on Illinois Route 66 can you experience the Mother Road where it all began—filled with history, iconic stops, welcoming communities, and stories that helped shape America.





MALDANER'S RESTAURANT
Springfield, IL



BOB & RINGO'S SMOKEHOUSE
Pontiac, IL



BERGHOFF RESTAURANT
Chicago, IL



DOCS JUST OFF 66
Girard, IL



ARISTON CAFE
Litchfield, IL



MARIO-RITE
Springfield, IL



**ROUTE 66 MOTORHEADS BAR & GRILL,
MUSEUM & ENTERTAINMENT COMPLEX**
Springfield, IL



**VITALE'S HIDERWAY PROHIBITION
GAMING BAR & GRILL**
Worden, IL



WHITE FENCE FARM
Romeoville, IL



LOU MITCHELL'S
Chicago, IL



DELL RHEA'S CHICKEN BASKET
Willowbrook, IL



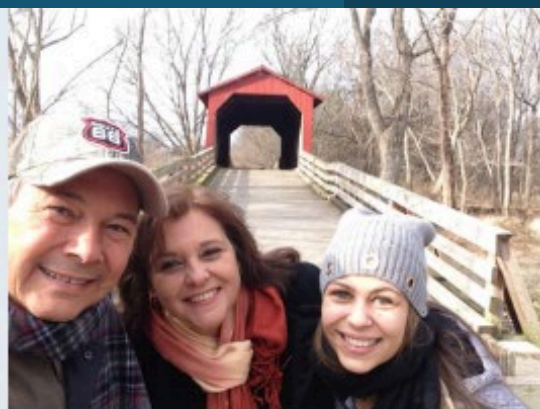
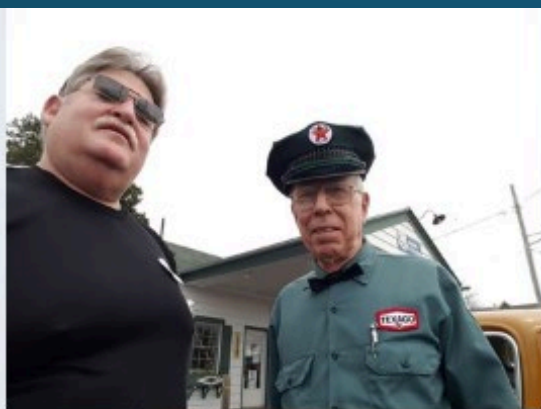
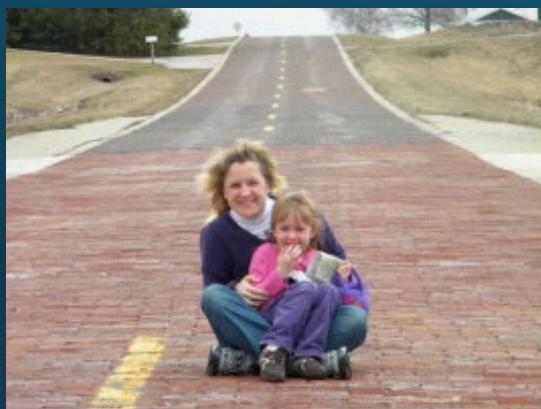
COZY DOG DRIVE-IN
Springfield, IL



POLKA-DOT-DRIVE IN
Braidwood, IL



TWISTEE TREAT DINER @ PINK ELEPHANT ANTIQUE MALL
Livingston, IL





Rise, Decline & Rediscovery

Route 66 is now just memory lane

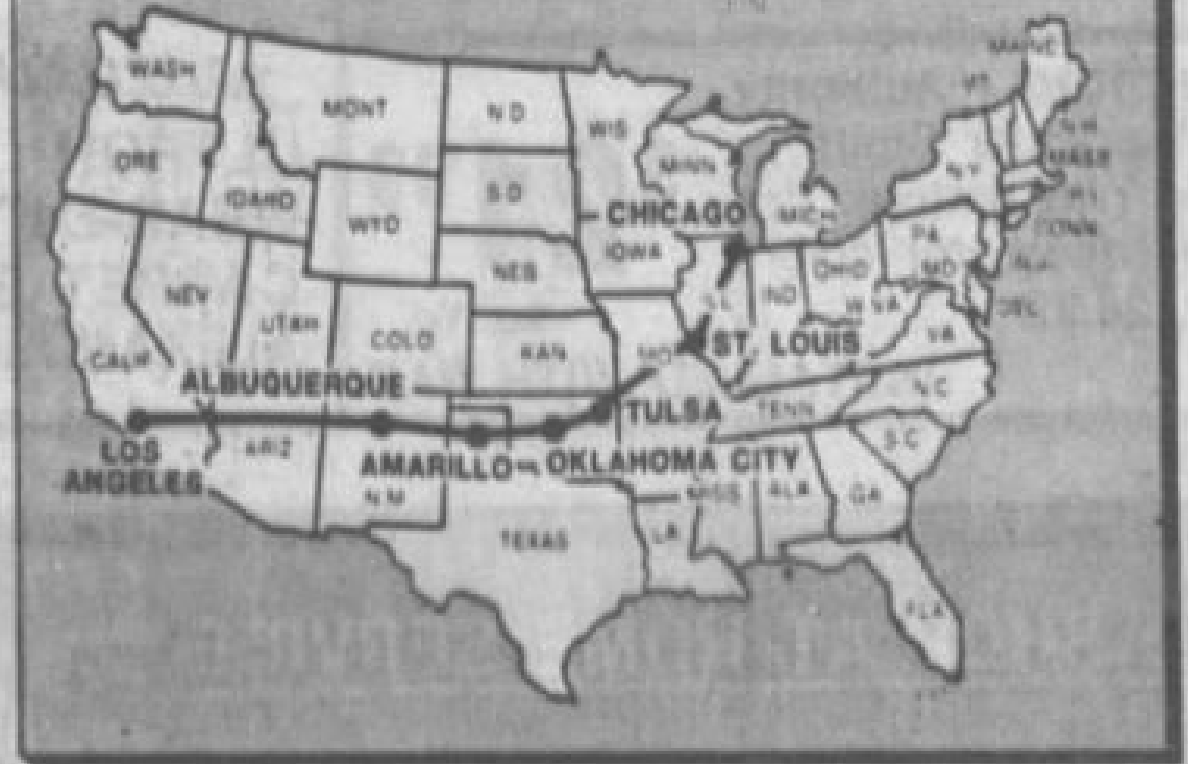
The Associated Press

DULUTH, Minn. — Route 66 — the 2,200-mile highway immortalized in song, novel and television — is officially history, having fallen victim to the nation's interstate highway system.

The American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials on Thursday decertified the 59-year-old road, and also voted to remove Route 66 highway signs.

"It's all in the interest of progress," said Jack Freidenrich, a New Jersey State transportation offi-

THE ORIGINAL ROUTE 66



Staff map by JERI WARREN

Most of the road followed a wilderness path that was forged in 1857 by a caravan of camels commanded by U.S. Navy Lt. Edward Beale. Wagon men and finally cars and trucks

U.S. 66 in 1926.

1985: Route 66 Disappears from the Map

Route 66 is officially decommissioned

But People Wouldn't Let it Die

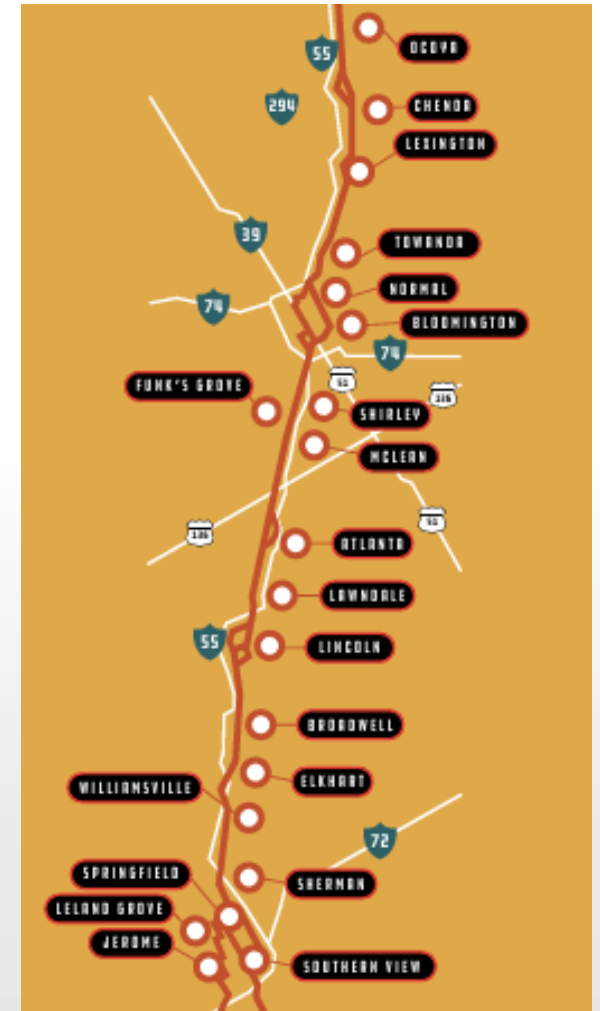
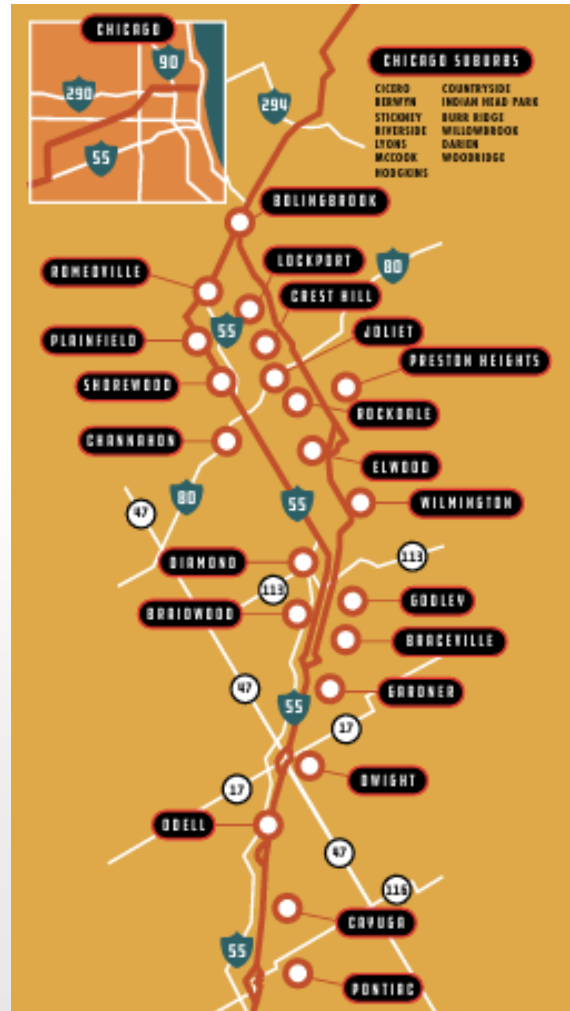
Preserve.
Restore.
Remember.
Travel.



2005: The Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project is Formed

The United States Department of Transportation has designated certain US roads as National Scenic Byways because of their special significance to the American people. Route 66 in Illinois received that recognition in 2005. Our non-profit organization has the responsibility for the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway, and it is our mission to enhance and promote economic opportunities for each Illinois Route 66 community by preserving Illinois Route 66 Heritage and by sustaining and increasing heritage and cultural tourism. We serve over 90 communities in Illinois, from Chicago to the Chain of Rocks Bridge near Madison, IL. Most have a population of only 2,500 or less.







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WHERE THE MOTHER ROAD BEGINS SINCE 1926

Route 66 defined a remarkable era in our nation's history – and it lives on today in Illinois' many Route 66 roadside attractions, museums, and restaurants – it's the shining ribbon of blacktop we call 'The Mother Road'.

[PLAN YOUR ROAD TRIP NOW](#)







Scan to Secure Your Seat



November 11, 2026
Motorheads
Springfield, Illinois



Preserving the Past. Fueling the Future.

As Route 66 marks its historic 100th anniversary, join community leaders, small business owners, tourism experts, and road enthusiasts for a powerful day of connection and strategy. Discover how to leverage heritage tourism, maximize economic development, and safeguard the iconic landmarks that make the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway legendary.

STARSHIP

FEATURING
MICKEY THOMAS

ILLINOIS ROUTE 66 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION

NOVEMBER 11, 2026 • 6 PM



MOTORHEADS
SPRINGFIELD, ILLINOIS



For more information or to buy tickets log on to IllinoisRoute66Centennial.org



SCAN ME

EVERY GREAT JOURNEY BEGINS AT
ILLINOISROUTE66.ORG.

AS THE OFFICIAL WEBSITE FOR ILLINOIS
ROUTE 66, IT'S YOUR ULTIMATE GUIDE TO
THE MOTHER ROAD.

HEAD ONLINE AND START EXPLORING!



Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway

BUY MERCH HERE



bitly



The Road Continues...

**100 years of history. 300 miles
of stories. Countless reasons to
explore.**

Only on Illinois Route 66.
*Come experience the Mother
Road where the journey begins.*