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**Date** November 9, 2015

RESOLUTION ENDORSING AN APPLICATION TO THE IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION FOR THE DESIGNATION OF THE JEFFERSON HIGHWAY AS A STATE HERITAGE BYWAY

WHEREAS, the Iowa Byways program was established to identify, protect and enhance roadways in Iowa which exemplify the state's scenic and historic resources; and

WHEREAS, this effort is carried out through volunteer work and cooperation between interested citizens, organizations, local governments, and the Iowa Department of Transportation ("IDOT"); and

WHEREAS, the IDOT is empowered to accept and review applications requesting the designation of new scenic, heritage, and scenic & heritage byways; and

WHEREAS, an application has been prepared to designate the historic Jefferson Highway as a state heritage byway and will be submitted to IDOT on behalf of Decatur County, the sponsoring governmental entity; and

WHEREAS, upon designation as a state heritage byway, local jurisdictions along the route are responsible for funding tourism and promotional plans and activities, and no federal or state funding is inherent with such designation; and

WHEREAS, upon designation IDOT will lead an effort to place Iowa Byways signs specific to the historic Jefferson Highway along the byway route and will provide initial costs for development and installation of said signs and provide replacement signs; and

WHEREAS, Iowa Department of Transportation will be responsible for work needed on state routes to properly repair or reinstall such signs once initially installed; and

WHEREAS, local city and county jurisdictions along the byway will be responsible for work needed in their jurisdiction to properly repair or reinstall such signs once initially installed; and

WHEREAS, the Iowa Department of Transportation will enforce certain restrictions of off-premise signs along portions of the byway which follow interstate or primary highways in accordance with Iowa Administrative Code Chapter 761 - 117.3(1) ; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines will be responsible for enforcement of the sign regulations under the City Zoning Ordinance for City streets under its jurisdiction; and

WHEREAS, the City of Des Moines, Iowa, desires to endorse the designation of the historic Jefferson Highway as a state heritage byway.

Date November 9, 2015

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the City Council of the City of the City of Des Moines, Iowa, as follows:

1. The City endorses the application requesting designation of the historic Jefferson Highway along the route set forth below, as a state heritage byway and accepts the responsibilities and expectations of such designation as described above.

Designated Route:

Entering the City of Des Moines from the north on U.S. Highway 69 and continuing south on NE 14th Street to E. Washington Avenue; then west on E. Washington Avenue to E. 12th Street; then south on E. 12th Street to E. Grand Avenue; then west on E. Grand Avenue to E. 6th Street; then south on E. 6th Street to Indianola Avenue; then south on Indianola Avenue past Bloomfield Road to the intersection with U.S. Highway 69; then south on U.S. Highway 69 to the intersection with U.S. Highways 5 and 65; then continuing south and exiting the City of Des Moines on U.S. Highway 65/69.

2. In the event the Jefferson Highway is designated as a state heritage byway by the Iowa Department of Transportation, the City Traffic Engineer is hereby authorized and directed to work with the IDOT to coordinate the placement and maintenance of the Iowa Byways signs.

( Council Communication No. 15- **593** )

MOVED by \_\_\_\_\_ to adopt.

FORM APPROVED:

*Roger K. Brown*

Roger K. Brown, Assistant City Attorney

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COUNCIL ACTION	YEAS	NAYS	PASS	ABSENT
COWNIE				
COLEMAN				
GATTO				
GRAY				
HENSLEY				
MAHAFFEY				
MOORE				
TOTAL				

**CERTIFICATE**

I, DIANE RAUH, City Clerk of said City hereby certify that at a meeting of the City Council of said City of Des Moines, held on the above date, among other proceedings the above was adopted.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my seal the day and year first above written.

MOTION CARRIED APPROVED

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mayor

\_\_\_\_\_  
City Clerk

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# DECATUR COUNTY BOARD of SUPERVISORS

DECATUR COUNTY COURTHOUSE  
207 North Main  
Leon, Iowa 50144



J.R. CORNETT  
GARY L. BOSWELL  
JIM FULTON

Dear Mayor, City Council, and City Manager of the City of Des Moines:

It is a requirement of the Iowa Department of Transportation byway application process that a governmental body impacted by an Iowa Byway be the sponsor of the proposed project. Decatur County, Iowa, with the support of Rotary District 6000 and the Jefferson Highway Association, is the sponsor of record for the proposed Jefferson Highway Heritage Byway. Decatur County is assisted in this process by the undersigned, Loring Miller, the District Governor of Rotary District 6000, as the Jefferson Highway Heritage Byway project coordinator on behalf of Decatur County.

The Jefferson was the first major North-South hard surfaced, other than dirt, roadway in the United States, extending 2,300 miles from Winnipeg, Canada to New Orleans, Louisiana. With the Jefferson enjoying its historic centennial year in 2016, one mission of the project is to restore appreciation and identity to this grand effort through signage along the original route.

The City of Des Moines is the birthplace of the Jefferson Highway concept. Edwin T. Meredith, Jefferson Highway founder and noted publisher, envisioned a north-south equivalent to the Lincoln Highway, the first east-west transcontinental route. Due to his influence and support of the Des Moines business community, the Jefferson route became reality one year after concept introduction. The general offices for the original Jefferson Highway were located in Des Moines.

An application is in process identifying the Jefferson Highway as an official Iowa Heritage Byway. This designation will acknowledge historical significance to early transportation development and will mark the original route.

The application for Iowa Byway designation and acceptance will be submitted on behalf of Decatur County by the undersigned, Loring Miller. It is an Iowa Department of Transportation requirement for acceptance of an Iowa Byway application that all governmental jurisdictions impacted by the Iowa Byway must sign a resolution of support to be attached to the application. A requested form of resolution is enclosed. The main contact person and project coordinator for the project in Iowa is: Loring Miller, Box 139, Leon, Iowa 50144, phone 641-344-0105, [miller2@grm.net](mailto:miller2@grm.net).

There are two routes through Des Moines identified by Jefferson Highway historians:

**Route #1** – U.S. 69 enters N.E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street upon reaching Des Moines, changes to E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street. The JH continues on E. 14<sup>th</sup> Street to Washington Avenue and after turning west there, it went several blocks to E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street. It proceeded south on E. 12<sup>th</sup> Street to Grand Avenue. The route then ran from Grand Avenue via 6<sup>th</sup> Street toward the city's southern border. It then ran three miles on E. 6<sup>th</sup> street, crossing the bridge over the Des Moines River to Indianola Avenue, which eventually became Indianola Drive which today extends to the intersection of County Line Road and U.S. 69.

**Route #2** – Due to congestion, the highway later was put on a different route in Des Moines. Thereafter, upon coming into Des Moines from the north on E 14<sup>th</sup> Street and turning west onto Grand Avenue, the highway continued to S.W. Seventh Street heading south across the railroad district by means of the Seventh Street Viaduct and proceeding from there on Indianola Avenue and connecting with the highway's original path in south Des Moines.

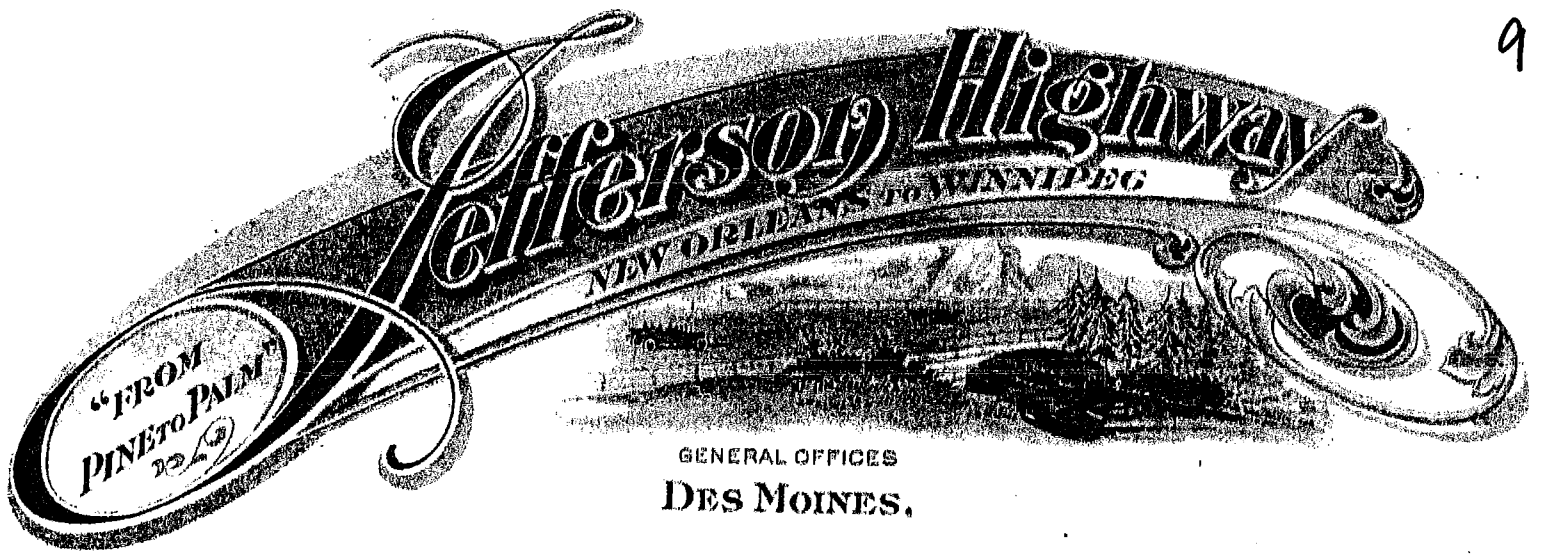
Communities impacted by this Heritage Byway will experience significant tourism interest. We have witnessed the positive impact that continues to benefit Iowa communities along the Lincoln Heritage Byway. The Jefferson has equal potential. The designation will also instill in Des Moines residents a sense of pride in this route passing through their midst.

On behalf of Decatur County, I respectfully request that the City Council adopt the requested resolution and that a certified copy of the signed and attested resolution be sent to: Loring Miller, Box 139, Leon, Iowa 50144.

Respectfully yours,

  
Loring Miller

District Governor of Rotary District 6000 and  
Jefferson Highway Heritage Byway Project Coordinator on behalf of Applicant Decatur County, Iowa



GENERAL OFFICES  
**DES MOINES.**

**JEFFERSON HIGHWAY**  
**Why Des Moines?**

Historic Preservation  
A Des Moines Legacy

Des Moines is the birthplace of the Jefferson Highway. Three years after construction started for the Lincoln Highway, the first transcontinental highway in the U.S., a plan for a north-south equivalent was conceived which would provide a road surface to be utilized in all weather conditions.

Edwin T. Meredith, founder of the Meredith Publishing Company in Des Moines, envisioned a 2300 mile route commencing in Winnipeg, Canada, and extending south to New Orleans, Louisiana, from "Pine to Palm". With the support of the Des Moines business community, this monumental contribution to early transportation history quickly became reality. Key community leaders who joined Meredith in highway development were H.H. Polk, F.J. Wright, and J.D. Clarkson. Together they organized the Jefferson Highway Association in 1915 dedicated to highway development. Construction started one year later in 1916. By modern definition of the term highway, this became one of the first international highways in the world, crossing the U.S./Canadian border. The first general offices for the Jefferson Highway Association were located in Des Moines.

The significance of this Des Moines legacy has almost been lost in history. In 1926, a plan for highway development was devised, numbering routes throughout the United States. Many established named highways were sectioned into different numbered roadways and named routes were no longer acknowledged. The original Jefferson route was assigned nine separate numbers.

Members of the newly reorganized Jefferson Highway Association and Rotary International Clubs located in Iowa have combined resources to identify the original route of the Jefferson Highway through signage. With guidance and assistance from the Iowa State Governor's Office and the Iowa Department of Transportation, an application is in process to identify the Jefferson route through Iowa as the second Iowa Heritage Byway. Decatur County will be the governmental sponsor. The byway application requires that all governmental bodies along the established route issue a resolution of support. When finalized, this will serve as a template to extend the Heritage Byway north to Manitoba and in all seven states impacted by the Jefferson. As in the former day, Des Moines is a key for this project to move forward.

**Economic Benefits Through Tourism**

The same business benefits that attracted Meredith and other key community leaders are still available today. Communities impacted by the Jefferson Heritage Byway will experience tourism interest starting in the 2016 Jefferson Highway centennial year. Communities are planning celebrations and festivals along the 2300 mile route. We have witnessed the positive impact that continues to benefit Iowa communities along the Lincoln Heritage Byway. The Jefferson has equal potential.