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Illinois Lincoln Highway Interpretive Mural Dedication in St. Charles

St. Charles has been chosen along with 43 cities located along the Illinois Lincoln Highway Scenic Byway in the northern Illinois corridor to receive an interpretive mural telling a story of highway travel from 1913-1930. Although the highway passed through the southwest section of the city, the mural will be prominently displayed on the west wall of the Pi Pizza Perfection, at 102 E. Main Street, in the heart of historic downtown. Thanks to Pete Favia, owner of Pi Pizza, for agreeing to have the mural displayed on his building. The mural "story" tells of travelers venturing off the highway seeking entertainment at the Arcada Theatre, outdoor recreation on the Fox River and an overnite stay at the Hotel Baker. And today (80+ years later) St. Charles is still welcoming visitors who travel along many highways that are able to enjoy the same amenities.

The Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition (ILHC) is the designated byway management agency overseeing the 179 mile Byway. After receiving a National Scenic Byway Grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, Office of Tourism, Attraction Development (TAP) Grant, ILHC worked with Jay Allen of Shaw Craft Signs, to make this project come to life.

Each of the 40 communities assigned representatives to work with ILHC on this project, as well as secure a building site for the mural, research stories and images linking their community to Lincoln Highway and agree to provide maintenance and preservation of the mural. Each mural is valued at \$10,000.

Upon completion of this project, a print piece will be created highlighting 43 interpretive murals and 16 gazebos along with a map and brief description of each.

The Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition's multi-site mural project showcases the history of the early highway, bringing the intriguing stories into people's lives so they can recognize its impact on American travel and the communities. The creation process is truly a mutual effort of local communities and historians along with a gifted designer and painter and the ILHC - producing the interpretive murals in such a way as to draw the visitor in and share in the Lincoln Highway's wonderful heritage. Each mural is a hand painted and a unique work of art.

For more information on the Illinois Lincoln Highway, places to see and things to do, stories of the highway's significance and history visit www.drivelincolnhighway.com.