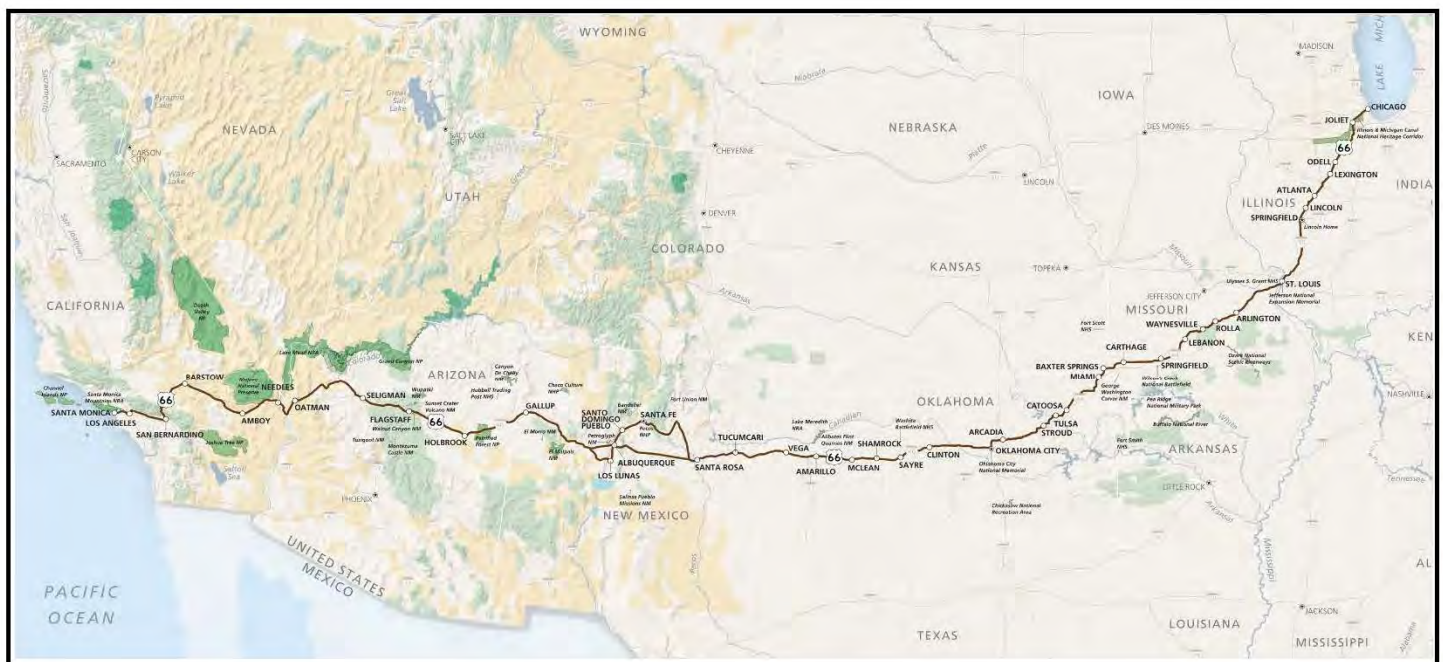


Nomination of Route 66 as an ASCE National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark



Map source: National Park Service at: <https://www.nps.gov/orgs/1453/rosi-maps.htm>

Approved by ASCE History and Heritage Committee
Approved by ASCE Board of Direction July 10, 2025

NOMINATION SUMMARY

Submittal date: June 30, 2024; revised April 21, 2025

Submitting ASCE Sections: This is a joint submittal by the following 10 ASCE Sections:

- Illinois Section
- Central Illinois Section
- St. Louis Section
- Kansas City Section
- Kansas Section
- Oklahoma Section
- Texas Section
- New Mexico Section
- Arizona Section
- Los Angeles Section

Requested Designation: National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark

Proposed Name of the Landmark: Route 66

Existing Designations as a State or Local ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmark:

As more thoroughly described later in this nomination package, this nomination is to commemorate the Route 66 corridor from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California. Within that corridor this nomination has identified 15 select civil engineering features, or elements, of historical significance to be included as part of the Route 66 National HCEL designation. Two of these elements are currently National or State ASCE Historic Civil Engineering Landmarks. They are:

- Arroyo Seco Parkway, a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, in Los Angeles, CA
- Colorado Street Bridge, a State Historic Civil Engineering Landmark, in Pasadena, CA

Owner of the proposed Landmark:

Route 66 existed as a numbered route and signed U.S. Highway from 1926 to 1985. During this time period the route followed by Route 66 in local areas often changed. Thus, the roadway may have had many different alignments, even within a small geographic area. When an alignment was abandoned, the roadway ownership in some cases changed to a different jurisdiction. Similarly, as time has passed subsequent to 1985, many roadway segments have had changes in ownership. Many segments of the route that were originally state-owned have been relinquished to the cities and counties through which Route 66 passed. The roadway ownership of some segments has been retained by the respective states. There are literally hundreds of jurisdictions that now own segments of what was, at one time, a portion of Route 66.

As noted above, this nomination has identified 15 select civil engineering features, or elements, of historical significance to be included as part of the Route 66 National HCEL designation. Those select features, and their ownership, is as follows. For most of these features, ownership is shown at the time National Register of Historic Places designation was granted, and may have subsequently changed.

Feature

Chain of Rocks Bridge (crossing Mississippi River, Illinois and Missouri)
Meramec River Bridge (Missouri)
Brush Creek Bridge (Kansas)
11th Street Arkansas River Bridge (Oklahoma)
Bridge # 18 at Rock Creek (Oklahoma)
Bridgeport Bridge (Oklahoma)
Bridge over the Chicago, Rock Island, and Gulf Railroad (Texas)
Route 66, SH 207 to Interstate 40 Conway, Texas (Texas)
Realignment of Route 66 in central New Mexico
Rio Puerco Bridge (New Mexico)
Querino Canyon Bridge (Arizona)
Route 66 in Mohave County (Arizona)
Old Trails Bridge at Topock (crossing Colorado River, Arizona, California)
Colorado Street Bridge, Pasadena (California)
Arroyo Seco Parkway, Los Angeles (California)

Ownership

City of Madison, Illinois
Missouri State Parks
Cherokee County
City of Tulsa
Creek County
Oklahoma Dept of Transportation
Wheeler County
Carson County Highway Dept
various ownership
New Mexico Dept of Transportation
Apache County
Mohave County
El Paso Natural Gas Company
City of Pasadena
California Dept of Transportation

Location: This is a “linear project” from Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California, approximately 2,448 miles in length.

Starting point in Chicago, Illinois: 41 52 46.5 N 87 37 28.2 W (the intersection of Michigan Avenue and Adams Street)

Ending point in Santa Monica, California: 34 00 54.9 N 118 29 10.8 W (the intersection of Lincoln Boulevard and Olympic Boulevard)

Local and vicinity maps: The location of the Route 66 alignment is shown on the cover page.

Nominating Team

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Texas Section Melinda Luna, P.E.

New Mexico Section Roger Zimmerman, P.E., PhD

Arizona Section Mark Lamer, P.E.

Los Angeles Section Bill Lawson, P.E.

Route 66 NHCEL Nominating Team Lead Andrew Machen. P.E.

Liaison to national History and Heritage Committee Jonathan Upchurch, P.E.