

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CIVIL ENGINEERS ST. LOUIS SECTION  
RESOLUTION IN SUPPORT OF HISTORIC ROUTE 66 AS AN  
ASCE NATIONAL HISTORIC CIVIL ENGINEERING LANDMARK

1. **WHEREAS**, Route 66 was opened in November 1926 as the first all-weather highway in the United States connecting Chicago, Illinois to Santa Monica, California and played a major role in the history and development of the United States;
2. **WHEREAS**, the original Route 66 spanned about 240 miles through the St. Louis Section, from Madison County, just south of Staunton, Illinois, through St. Louis, and to Conway, Missouri in Laclede County;
3. **WHEREAS**, Route 66 was key in the development of six major bridges over the Mississippi River at St. Louis, beginning with the McKinley Bridge, followed by the MacArthur (originally Municipal) Bridge, the Martin Luther King (Veterans Memorial) Bridge, the Chain-of-Rocks Bridge, Poplar Street Bridge, and the I-270 Chain of Rocks Bridge, which have each been a major civil engineering achievement;
4. **WHEREAS**, Route 66 was key in the development of many communities in the St. Louis region, across Missouri, and in the United States, as a “road to opportunity”;
5. **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Congress established the “Route 66 Centennial Commission” for planning and promoting activities fitting and proper for the commemoration of Route 66;
6. **WHEREAS**, the Missouri Legislature has established the Missouri Route 66 Centennial Commission to plan, promote and sponsor official Route 66 centennial events, programs, activities designed to involve all Missouri citizens;
7. **WHEREAS**, the Missouri Department of Parks has established the Route 66 State Park in Eureka at the former Meramec River Bridge to commemorate the history of Route 66 in Missouri;

**RESOLVED**, that the ASCE St. Louis Section Board of Directors, on behalf of its members:

1. **RECOMMENDS** approval of the entirety of Route 66 in Missouri as a National Historic Civil Engineering Landmark (NHCEL);
2. **RECOMMENDS** seeking to place a NHCEL plaque in the Route 66 State Park;
3. **RECOMMENDS** that Governor Mike Parson in consultation with the Missouri Route 66 Centennial Commission recommend to the President the appointment of representatives from Missouri to the Congressional Route 66 Centennial Commission.

Approved by the St. Louis Section Board of Directors at a regular meeting on February 7, 2023.



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Alison Graves, P.E.  
President, St. Louis Section