



Lincoln Highway Heritage Byway  
Corridor Management Plan Meeting  
Mount Vernon/Lisbon

July 16, 2015  
Lisbon History Center

### Meeting Notes and Community Member Input

#### How has the Lincoln Highway enhanced your community up until now?

- Lincoln Fest was once held together with Mt Vernon and Lisbon- could they partner more?
- Cross country races held. One guy stopped in at the Lisbon History Center
- Used to be lots of 1 lane bridges. People would need to wait their turn to cross the bridge

#### What could the Lincoln Highway mean to your community in the future? What ideas do you have?

- Could commission the Cornell staff to do plain air landscaping or have a high school class take it on as a project
- Develop oral histories
- Mt Vernon/Lisbon has a great website and could use it as a model for the country- link Lincoln Highway sites to it.
- Develop strategies to replace volunteers as they age out.
- Takes inordinate amount of time to scan documents, catalogue items. Knowledge is lost. How to mitigate challenges?
- Use self-driving cars on the highway
- Use segues as mode of transportation- perhaps for a tour.
- When a bypass happens to Lisbon/Mt Vernon- how to attract visitors to stop into town? More signage from other roads?
- How to brand nationally?
- Expand merchandising
- Promote small businesses like Sleep Inn - Mt Vernon
- Get Lincoln Highway history into the schools
- Could be the next "first" road to use new material for road construction ( like ground up recycled tires)
- Put more recharging stations on Lincoln Highway (one just installed by building with Grant Wood Mural)

## Intrinsic Qualities Identified

### Historic:

- Abbe Creek School
- Bridge over Railroad tracks (had picture of it)
- Dale Weeks house was a gas station- it is a virtual museum.
- Cornell College and commercial district
- Two old gas stations in Lisbon (one for sale)
- Gettysburg boulder in cemetery
- Historic interpretive panels around Lisbon
- Old concrete markers in Lisbon and Mt Vernon
- Opera House- used to make surgical tables
- Downtown could qualify for National Register of Historic Places
- Seedling Mile- Hills were steeper and area was very muddy. People would charge high rates to pull you out. Robbed by the “mule skinnners” and their horses and that is one reason they picked that area for the “seedling mile”.
- Happy Valley gas station at end of the Mile with a restaurant.
- Cabins in Lisbon- Dick Moore
- Old Military Road (now #1)
- Bank in Lisbon with old doors, safe. Donated doors to Cornell, but not sure where they are today.
- Audio tour - cell phone
- Cabins between Abbe School and Seedling Mile

### Natural:

- Big Creek
- Area looks like a Grant Wood painting
- Hill north of town on Springville Rd is the highest point in the county.
- Palisades Park
- In the drift plain of glacier
- Norton Museum at Cornell College has a map in geological department

### Cultural:

- Sauerkraut Days
- Mark Benesh (artist) - barn east of Palisade Park is a replication of Grant Wood Building

- Landscaping along Lincoln Highway- Plein air concept
- Marion sculpture
- Lincoln Highway Arts Festival
- Chalk the Walk
- Antique Fest
- Heritage Days
- Murder Mystery
- Grimes Poznikov (“Human Jukebox” got his start at Cornell College)
- Benny the Bat- thought she was a vampire
- Grant Wood
- Cornell College collections-Thomas Nast, Phoenician glass, Indian Artifacts
- Scale Model of the Solar System
- Working Artist
- Best Chicken in state in Lisbon
- Bill’s - 1976 painting on inside wall
- Tiffany window in Methodist Church
- Heritage Hall brings in top flight groups- poetry readings, string quartets. Has great acoustics.
- Cornell College has best theatre building for a college
- Finest example of steamboat gothic at Cornell College by Frank Lloyd Wright
- Bowman-Carter Hall is prime example of 1880 women’s dormitory architecture
- Two art galleries in Mt Vernon

### Scenic:

- Views from Mt Vernon
- Seedling Mile where state fair award winning photo taken

### Archaeological:

- Mills south of Lisbon
- Quarry- now a nature park
- Bricks made at Mt Vernon/Lisbon- book about it at Historical Center

### Recreational:

- Mt Vernon Road- need to share with bicyclists (possible hazard)
- Parks
- 2 Disc golf courses
- Dog Park
- Nature park

