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Route 66 Exhibits Arrive

The City of Pontiac has taken delivery of the five Route 66 Heritage Trail wayside exhibits that will be installed at specific sites around the city. The Route 66 Heritage Trail exhibits are a project of the Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway Commission and member Route 66 communities. The mission of the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project is to enhance and promote economic opportunities for each Illinois Route 66 community by preserving Illinois Route 66 Heritage and by sustaining and increasing heritage and cultural tourism through the development and marketing of a cohesive Illinois Route 66 product.

“These outdoor interpretative panels will tell the stories of their Route 66 locales to our many American and international visitors,” explained Bill Kelly, Executive Director of the Illinois Route 66 Heritage Project. After installation, the exhibits will be easily accessible and available for travelers 24 hours a day. The Wayside Exhibit Project first began in 2009. Funding assistance from a Federal Highway Administration Grant enabled the Heritage Project and their Byways partners to complete this exciting strategic initiative for the “Mother Road.”

The new Pontiac wayside exhibits are made of stainless steel and feature background stories about five of Pontiac’s Route 66 heritage sites:

1. Route 4 Bridge & Ideal Tourist Camp and Garage (near Route 4 Bridge)
2. Old Log Cabin Restaurant (Old Route 66, north of Pontiac)
3. Ladd School Pedestrian Underpass (500 North Ladd Street near Baptist Church)
4. Original Illinois State Police District 6 Headquarters (720 Lincoln Avenue)
5. 1942 Illinois State Police District 6 HQ (Old Route 66, south of Pontiac)

For more information, contact: Ellie Alexander – (815) 844-5847

A proud member of the RED CARPET CORRIDOR, a linear 90 mile Route 66 community of Illinois dedicated to providing hospitality, fun, adventure and a helping hand to travelers exploring Route 66!