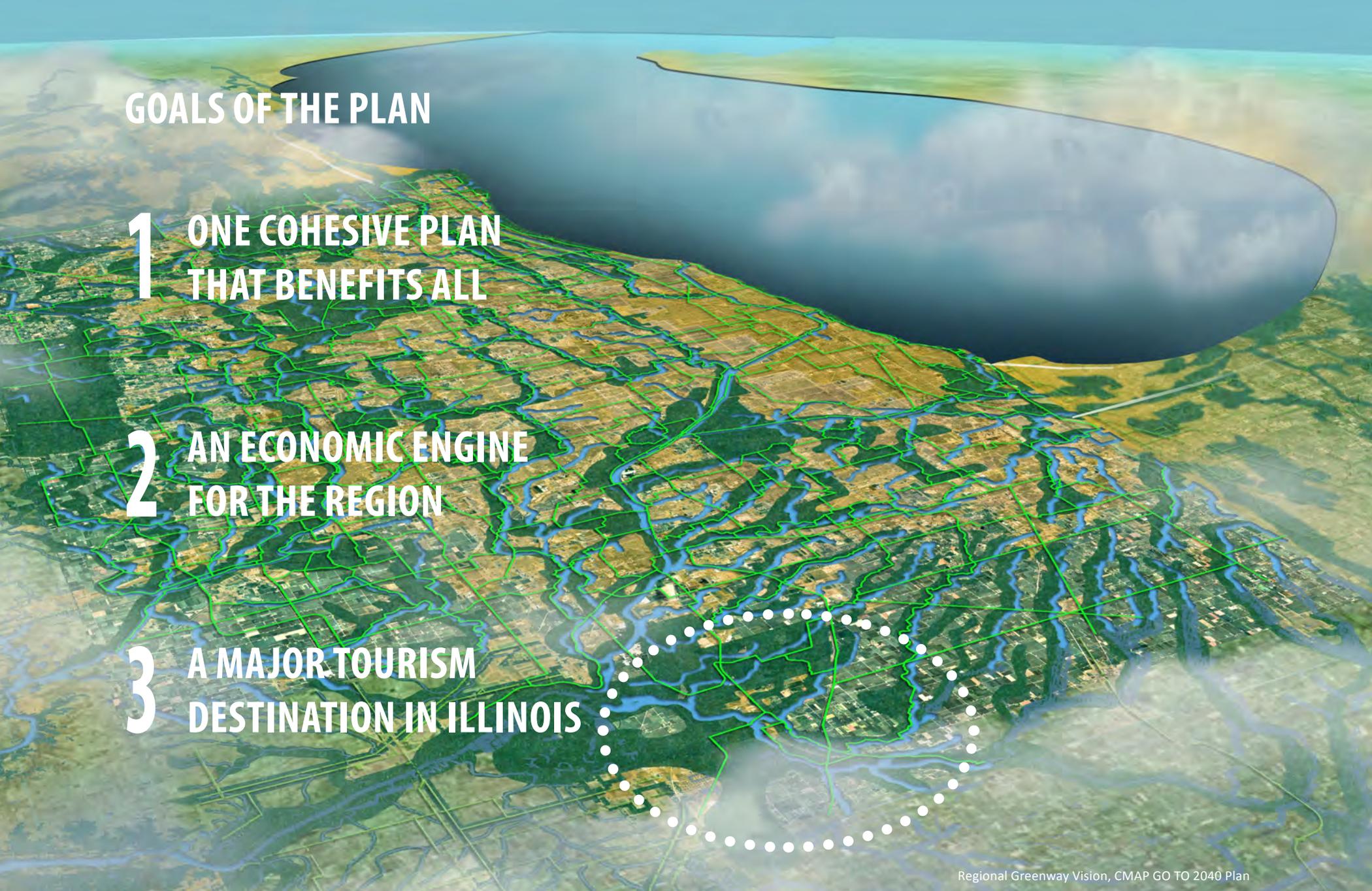




Introduction

25 MILES OF HISTORIC ROUTE 66



GOALS OF THE PLAN

1 ONE COHESIVE PLAN
THAT BENEFITS ALL

2 AN ECONOMIC ENGINE
FOR THE REGION

3 A MAJOR TOURISM
DESTINATION IN ILLINOIS

Regional Greenway Vision, CMAP GO TO 2040 Plan

FUNDED BY THE CHICAGO METROPOLITAN AGENCY FOR PLANNING (CMAP), THE PLAN STRONGLY PROMOTES THE GOALS OF THE CMAP GO TO 2040 PLAN

INTRODUCTION

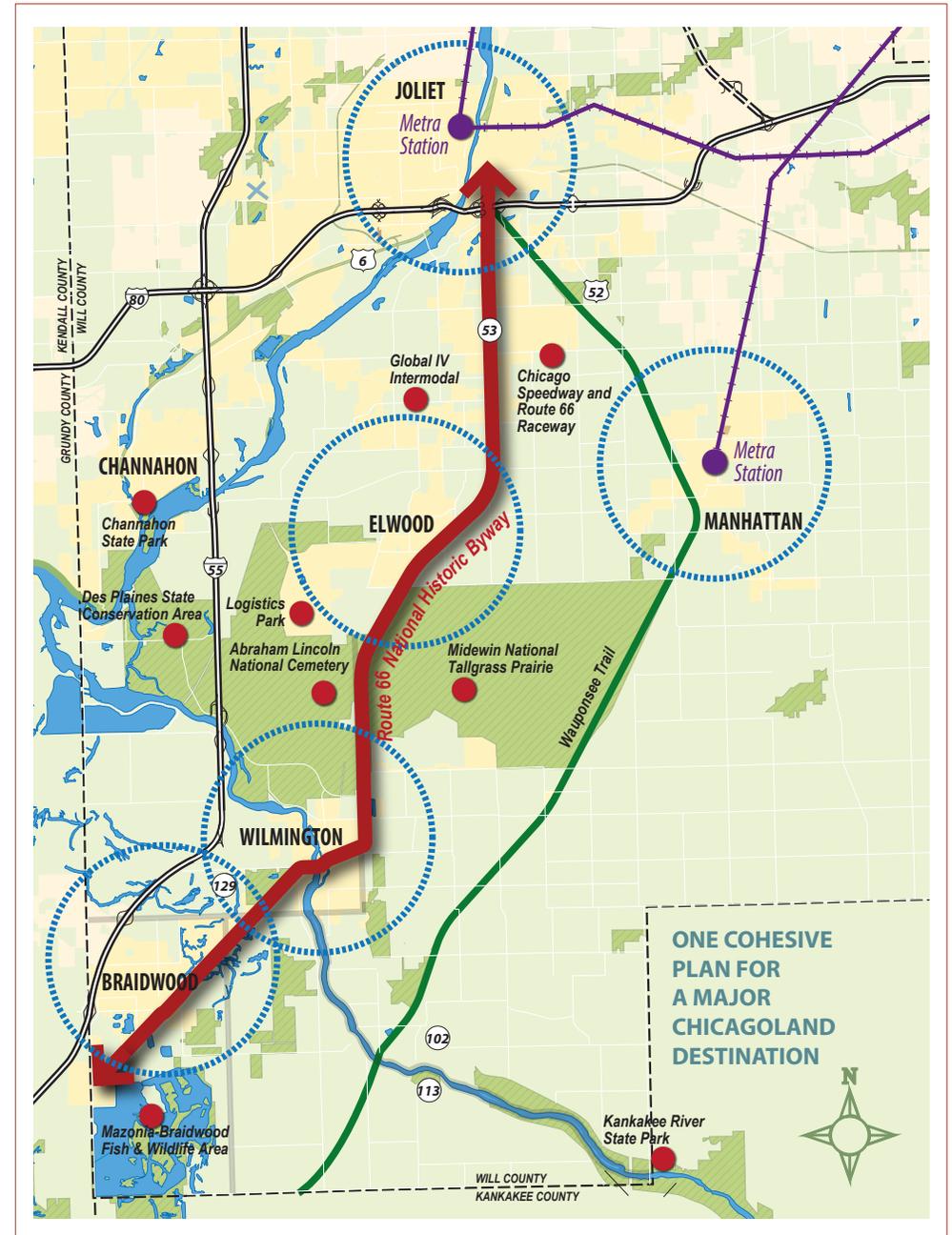
In Spring of 2012, Will County issued a Request For Proposal for the development of a corridor plan for a 25 mile section of IL Route 53 / Historic Route 66, stretching from Joliet to Braidwood. Funded by the Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning (CMAP), the project kicked off in Fall 2012 with a consultant team led by Ginkgo Planning & Design, Inc.

A Steering Committee comprised of representatives from five municipalities along the corridor, Joliet, Elwood, Manhattan, Wilmington and Braidwood, has led the development of the plan in collaboration with Will County. Representatives from many local and state agencies, community leaders and local stakeholders have provided many hours of feedback and assistance in crafting the plan. Through three large stakeholder forums and many smaller working meetings, the effort has focused on creating one cohesive plan that can represent the diverse needs of the whole corridor.

25 miles of Route 66, and 400 square miles of Will County.

This was an ambitious effort to look at such a large study area. It was a process of discovery for all involved - finding many gems that perhaps were not previously well known, as well as rediscovering that so many major destinations are sitting right next to each other near Route 66: The Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie, the Abraham Lincoln National Veteran's Cemetery, Chicagoland Speedway, Route 66 Raceway, Challenge Park - a nationally known paintball park, the Autobahn Automotive Country Club, and many more.

This document is not a planning report - it is the start of a roadmap to reach the long term goal to create a major vacation and recreation destination here for Chicago and the Midwest. It reflects the bold ideas and enthusiastic support from the stakeholders, and the hope that the momentum of the Plan will remain strong long after it's completion. It is a record of an effort where everyone involved had a chance to come together to **Imagine the Possibilities** for the next vacation destination for Chicago.



This plan was crafted with over 10 months of extensive participation from community leaders,

local and state stakeholders and agencies,

and reflects their ideas and passion for this part of Will County.



ON THE ROAD, AGAIN... I CAN'T WAIT TO GET ON THE ROAD, AGAIN!

Today we gathered to share and reflect upon all the hard work, discussion and creative planning we have done together over the past six months. As we watched the presentation of the Plan, it felt like the special times my family and perhaps yours sat down to watch the photo slide show our parents had made of our vacation road trips. We would watch the slides and remember what we saw along the way. However, what was more meaningful for us was recalling how we felt during each trip and what those feelings told us about who we are and what we might become. That shared recollection helped us learn more about how very much we meant to each other and how that understanding might help us enjoy our life together even more in the future. Sometimes, staring at those bright, changing images in our darkened living rooms led to smiles or tears that inspired us to recall or discover our true purpose as a family.

A professor of mine once described planning as "retrospective sense-making." Now, as an academic, he liked to use big words to express fairly simple ideas. I think he was suggesting that to go forward with a clear sense of purpose, we all need to make sense of how we got to this point, where different roads might lead and what actions appear to have the best chance of revealing and accomplishing our purpose. It feels to me like our work together on this Plan is doing exactly what my professor described. I believe we are on the right road, because simultaneously with our efforts, many others are showing through their decisions, actions and investments that they share our visions. Could this series of apparently "random" coincidences mean something? Maybe you remember the rock group The Police and their

album entitled *Synchronicity*. I loved that album and I wondered what the title meant. I discovered that the band's lead singer, Sting, was a big fan of the famous psychiatrist Carl Jung. Jung's research led him to theorize that as individuals and as groups we organize and interpret our experiences in surprising ways. One way Jung observed is how our surface perceptions of seemingly random, but coincidental events can, at a deeper level of awareness, reveal meaningful patterns and connections that suggest the presence of a new purpose which is struggling to be born. Would any of you have believed just six months ago that our planning would, all of a sudden, be "coincidentally" occurring in the midst of McDonald's expressing interest in our vision, a major truck stop announcing a location just where it is needed, a world class bicycling event wanting to operate right here and on and on. This is "synchronicity". This means something... something big.

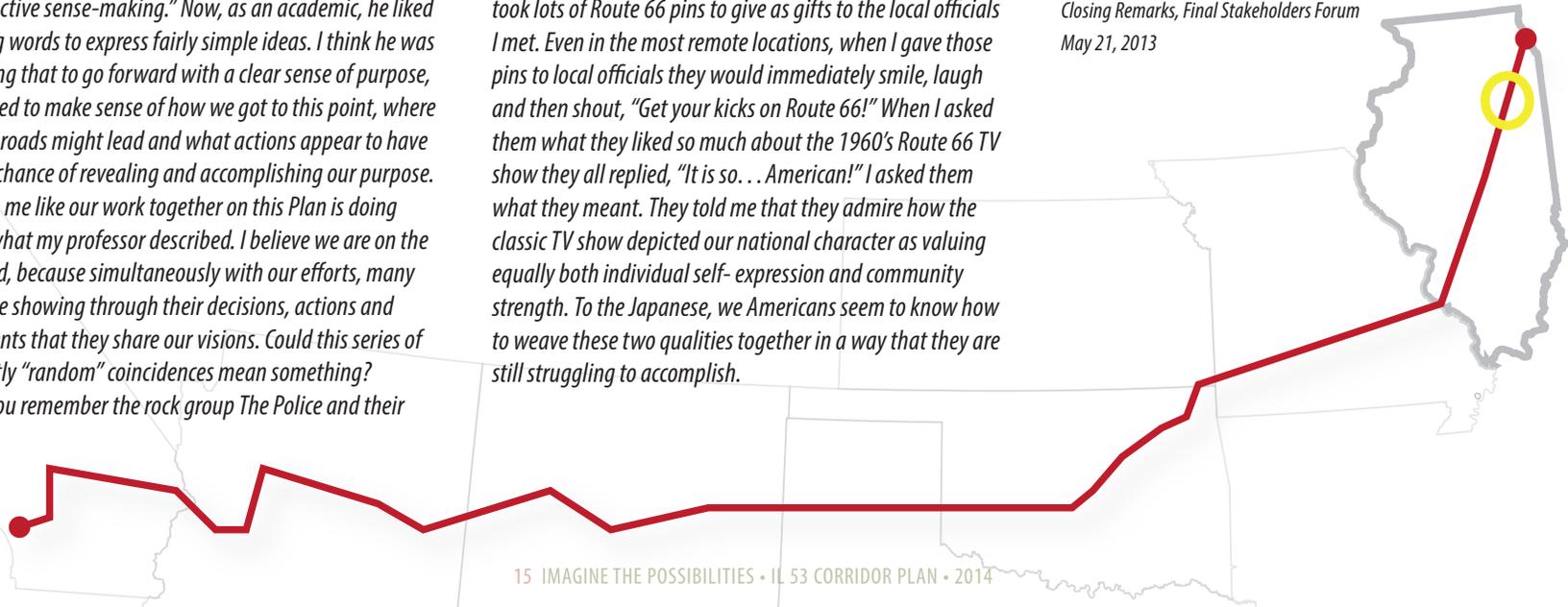
A few years ago, I traveled to very rural portions of Japan. I took lots of Route 66 pins to give as gifts to the local officials I met. Even in the most remote locations, when I gave those pins to local officials they would immediately smile, laugh and then shout, "Get your kicks on Route 66!" When I asked them what they liked so much about the 1960's Route 66 TV show they all replied, "It is so... American!" I asked them what they meant. They told me that they admire how the classic TV show depicted our national character as valuing equally both individual self-expression and community strength. To the Japanese, we Americans seem to know how to weave these two qualities together in a way that they are still struggling to accomplish.

What might this Japanese insight tell us about our Plan for our section of the Mother Road?

To get to where we want to go, we must act in ways that express the authentic Route 66 attitude. It is an attitude and way of life that realizes that our unique, individual goals are more likely to be achieved when we work together as a community to preserve and strengthen our many shared assets. On this journey to put your Plan into motion, we must all continue to contribute our time, talent and leadership, because this road leads to where our shared visions become reality.

Thank you for all you have done and, more importantly, for all you will do to further achieve our common dreams for this beautiful Corridor.

Curt Paddock
Director, Will Co. Land Use Department
Closing Remarks, Final Stakeholders Forum
May 21, 2013



OUR DEEP THANKS TO ALL WHO MADE THIS PLAN POSSIBLE

A Steering Committee comprised of representatives from five municipalities along the corridor, Joliet, Elwood, Manhattan, Wilmington and Braidwood, has led the development of the plan in collaboration with Will County.

Representatives from many local and state agencies, community leaders and local stakeholders have provided many hours of feedback and assistance in crafting the plan.

Through three large stakeholder forums and many smaller working meetings, the effort has focused on creating one cohesive plan that can represent the diverse needs of the whole corridor.

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

- City of Joliet
- Village of Elwood
- Village of Manhattan
- City of Wilmington
- City of Braidwood
- Will County Land Use

AGENCIES AND LOCAL STAKEHOLDERS

- Active Transportation Alliance
- Autobahn Country Club
- Canal Corridor Association
- CenterPoint Properties
- Chicago Metropolitan Agency for Planning
- Chicagoland Speedway
- CPX Sports
- Forest Preserve District of Will County
- Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau
- Illinois 43rd Legislative District State Senator's Office
- Illinois 86th District State Representative's Office
- Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity
- Illinois Department of Natural Resources
- Illinois Department of Transportation
- Illinois Office of Tourism
- Illinois River Road National Scenic Byway
- Illinois Route 66 Authority
- Illinois Route 66 Scenic Byway
- Illinois Rt. 66 Red Carpet Corridor
- Illinois State Representatives

- Illinois Trucking Association
- Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie
- Openlands
- Pace
- Pontiac Tourism
- Prairie Creek Logistics Inc.
- Route 66 Raceway
- Will County Department of Highways
- Will County Environmental Network
- Will County Executive's Office
- Will County Governmental League
- Will County Green
- Will County Historic Preservation Commission
- Will County Historical Society

CONSULTANT TEAM

Lead Consultant:

- Ginkgo Planning & Design, Inc.

Sub-consultants:

- KLOA, Inc.
- HVS Convention, Sports & Entertainment
- SB Friedman Development Advisors
- RTKL

PHOTO CREDITS

Many thanks to all who shared photographs and graphics, including Ann Baskerville, Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie and Chicagoland Speedway.