

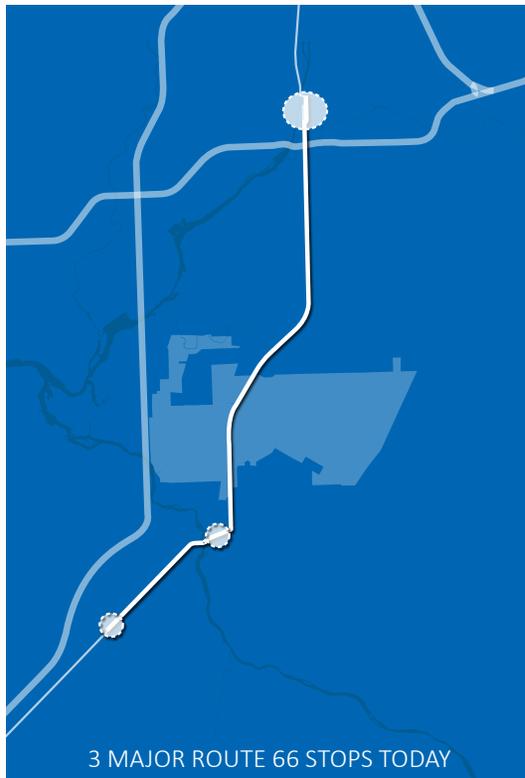


THE PLAN **6 STOPS ON 66**

THE PLAN: "6 STOPS ON 66"

STRENGTHEN THE THREE EXISTING MAJOR STOPS ON HISTORIC ROUTE 66

Downtown Joliet, Gemini Giant and Launching Pad in Wilmington, and Polk-A-Dot Restaurant in Braidwood- today these are the three typical stops for Route 66 tourists before they move on to the next stop.



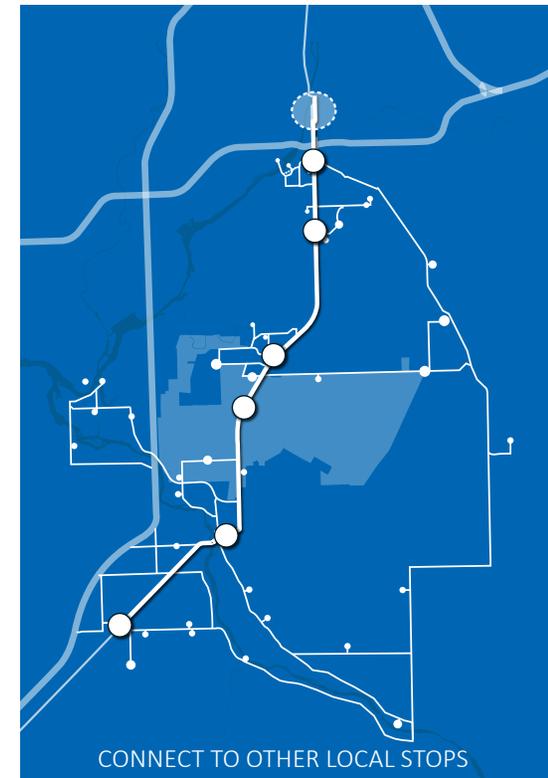
ADD NEW STOPS TO CREATE 6 STOPS ON 66

The Plan adds new stops at other major local attractions along Route 66 to attract visitors to spend more time in the Corridor, creating a total of 6 UNIQUE STOPS ON 66.



CONNECT THE 6 STOPS TO OTHER LOCAL ATTRACTIONS

A comprehensive network is proposed to connect the stops to nearby local attractions with coordinated wayfinding and signage, and scenic roads and trails.



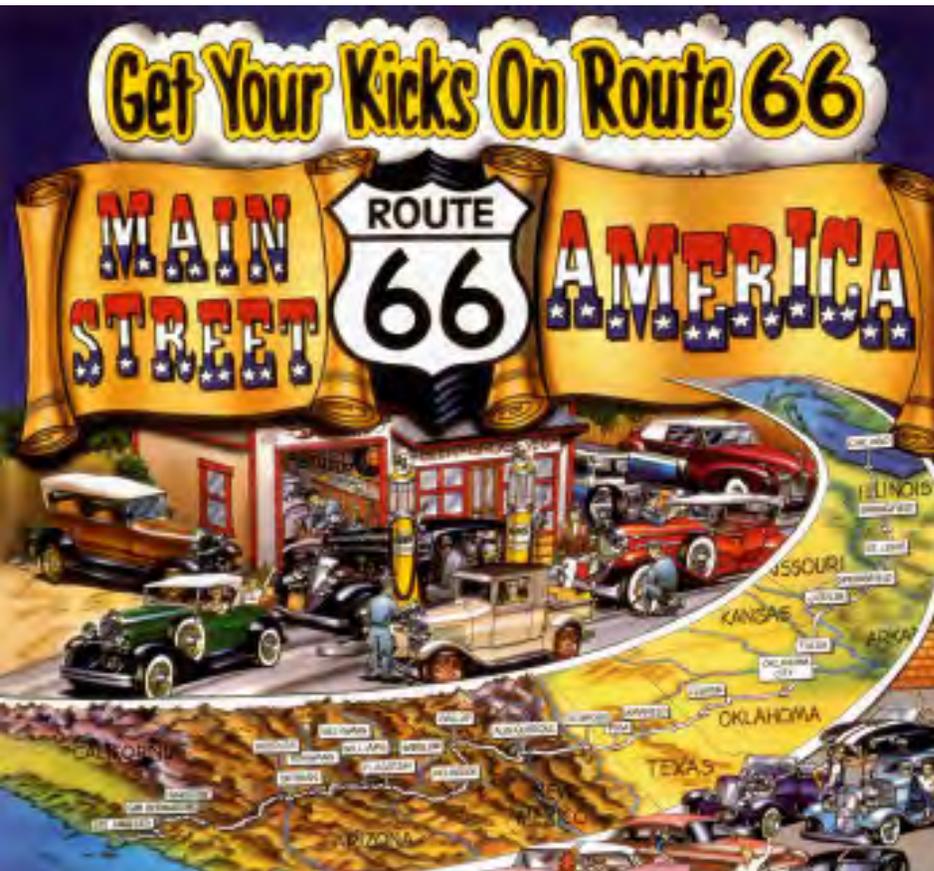
CAPTURE THE SPIRIT OF ROUTE 66 AT EACH STOP

HISTORIC ROUTE 66 IS FUN, FAMILY, FRIENDLY, A JOY TO DRIVE AND EXPLORE, COLORFUL, ICONIC, UNIQUE, A CHANCE TO EXPERIENCE REAL AMERICA

EACH OF THE 6 STOPS ON 66 IS UNIQUE, AND IS PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS ARE DISCUSSED IN DETAIL IN THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS.

HOWEVER, EACH STOP IS RECOMMENDED TO HAVE THE FOLLOWING COMMON FEATURES TO BE CONSISTENT WITH THE SPIRIT OF ROUTE 66:

- **AN ICONIC OBJECT / SCULPTURE / ARTWORK / SIGN / NATURAL FEATURE THAT CREATES A UNIQUE PHOTO OPPORTUNITY, AND IS LARGE ENOUGH TO HAVE GREAT VISUAL APPEAL FOR TRAVELERS ON THE ROAD.**



UNIQUE
ICONIC
OVERSIZED

OBJECTS

THAT MAKE YOU STOP!

INCLUDE NEW IDEAS TO ATTRACT THE **YOUNGER** GENERATION

- MAPS, WAYFINDING, SIGNAGE AND APPS DIRECTING TO OTHER STOPS IN THE AREA

- SUPPORT AMENITIES: PARKING, RESTROOMS, ELECTRIC CAR CHARGING STATIONS, BIKE SHARE, ZIP CARS



- A GEOCACHING STOP
- ROUTE 66 THEMED RETAIL, GAS AND FOOD STOPS



ICONIC

OVERSIZED

ART

THAT YOU DRIVE TO SEE



UNIQUE



BIKE SHARE



66 THEMED RETAIL



ELECTRIC CAR STATIONS



HISTORIC ARIZONA 66 GEOCACHING

EXISTING TRAIL FRAMEWORK: MILES OF REGIONAL AND LOCAL TRAILS

This part of Will County is home to many miles of major regional trails that are significant assets for tourism, including the Wauponsee Glacial Trail, the I & M Canal Trail, the Kankakee River Trail, the Old Plank Road Trail and the Midewin Trails.



Map Source: Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC)

The Wauponsee Glacial Trail, a Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) trail, travels 22.29 miles from Joliet south through Manhattan, Wilmington, and Symerton to Custer Park. The northern segment of the trail (from Sugar Creek Preserve north to Rowell Avenue in Joliet) travels through forest, prairie, and wetland, and is ideal for **Biking, Hiking/Running, In-Line Skiing, Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing**. The 19.49 mile southern segment extends from Sugar Creek Preserve south to the Kankakee River, and is ideal for **Biking, Horseback Riding, Hiking/Running, Cross-Country Skiing and Snowshoeing**. Street routes in Joliet connect the north end of the trail to the Centennial Trail/I&M Canal Trail and Old Plank Road Trail.

The Centennial Trail/I&M Canal Trail, a FPDWC trail, travels 10.81 miles from the Joliet Iron Works Historic Site north through Lockport and Romeoville to the Cook County line.

The I & M Canal State Trail, an Illinois Department of Natural Resources

(IDNR) trail, offers 61.5 miles of trails on the old canal towpath for easy walking, biking, and access to great scenic and historic sights. Due to the trails's composition, horseback riding isn't allowed.

The Kankakee River State Park Trails, an IDNR trail system, stretches for miles along both sides of the Kankakee River. Hiking, biking and cross-country ski trails are on the river's north side, while horse and snowmobile trails can be found on the south. A 3-mile route along Rock Creek lets hikers take in the beauty of limestone canyons and a frothy waterfall. A bicycle trail begins at Davis Creek Area and travels 10.5 miles along the river and loops in the west end of the park. A 12-mile equestrian trail and snowmobiling are offered during specific months.

Source: Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) and Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR)

OPPORTUNITIES TO CONNECT THE REGIONAL TRAILS WITH A NEW TRAIL ALONG ROUTE 66

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Trails

As the largest public open space in northeastern Illinois, Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie offers experiences of vastness and solitude unavailable elsewhere. Midwin offers over 35 miles of trail to enjoy by hiking, biking, and horsebackriding. Several thousand acres of land are available to explore without interruption by public roads and offer opportunities to explore prairie ecosystems and view grassland wildlife.

Source: Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie

The corridor also offers many miles of smaller trails that are owned and managed by local municipalities and agencies like FPDWC and IDNR. These entities also have future plans for new trails to create a more connected trail network for the area.

THE IL 53 CORRIDOR PLAN DOES NOT TRY TO REDUPLICATE THESE EFFORTS, BUT INSTEAD BUILDS ON AND SUPPORTS ALL THE LOCAL AND REGIONAL TRAIL PLANS UNDERWAY.

PLAN RECOMMENDATIONS HAVE FOCUSED ON TWO MAJOR AREAS:

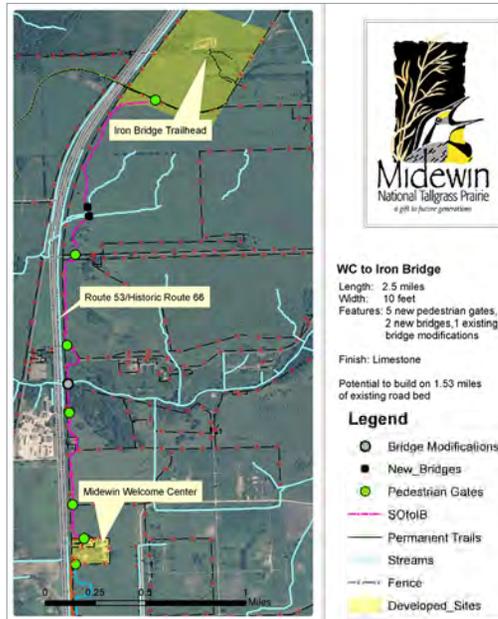
1. CREATE A NEW TRAIL ALONG IL 53/ ROUTE 66 WITHIN THE R.O.W.

(see following pages 36 and 37)

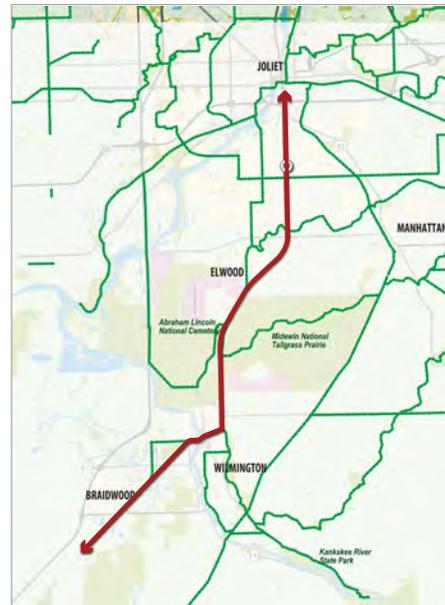
2. CONNECT THE EXISTING REGIONAL TRAILS TO EACH OTHER AND TO THE PROPOSED IL 53/ROUTE 66 TRAIL

(see pages 38 and 39)

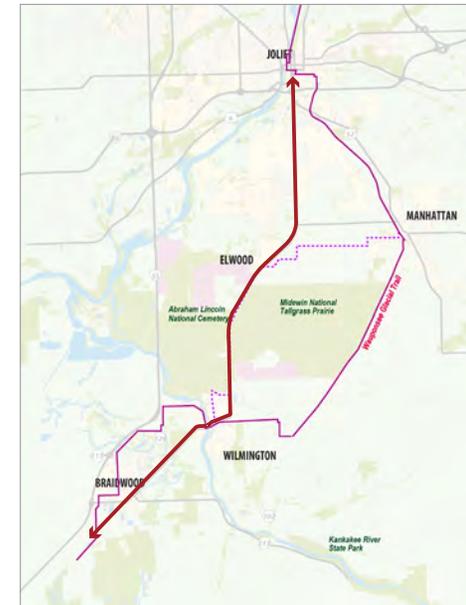
EXAMPLES OF TRAIL PLANS THAT THE IL 53 CORRIDOR PLAN BUILDS ON.



Midwin Planned Trails near Route 66



Proposed Trails from the CMAP Greenways Plan



Proposed IDNR Route 66 Trail



RECOMMENDED IL 53 TRAIL AND THREE CROSS SECTIONS

1 CREATE A MAJOR BIKE TRAIL WITHIN THE IL 53 R.O.W. FROM NOWELL PARK TO THE NEW ROUTE 66 WELCOME CENTER AT BRAIDWOOD.

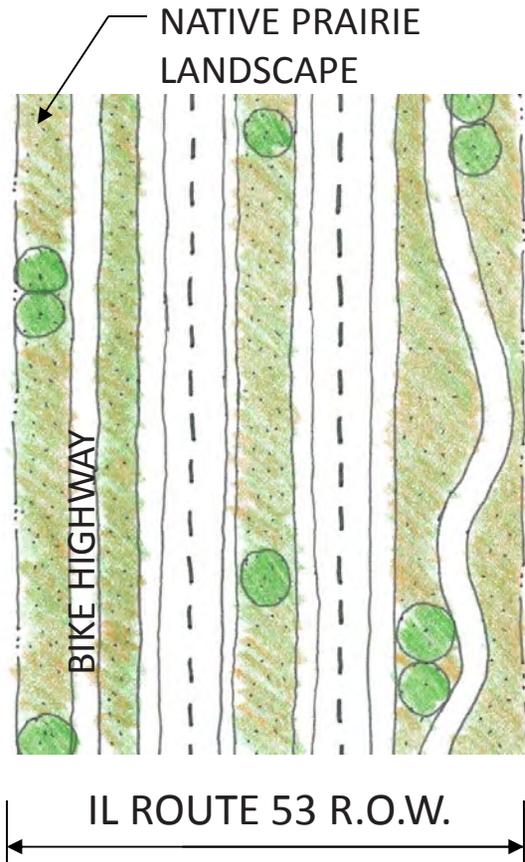
BASED ON THE VARYING WIDTHS OF THE ROAD, THREE OPTIONS ARE PROPOSED:

A. TRAIL ALONG THE EAST R.O.W. OF IL 53 with a trailhead at Nowell Park in Joliet down to Mississippi Street in Elwood. North of Nowell Park, the IL 53 R.O.W. narrows under the two rail bridges, and a safe trail connection is not possible. Gardner Street is recommended as an on street connection from Nowell Park to Joliet Union Station across I-80.

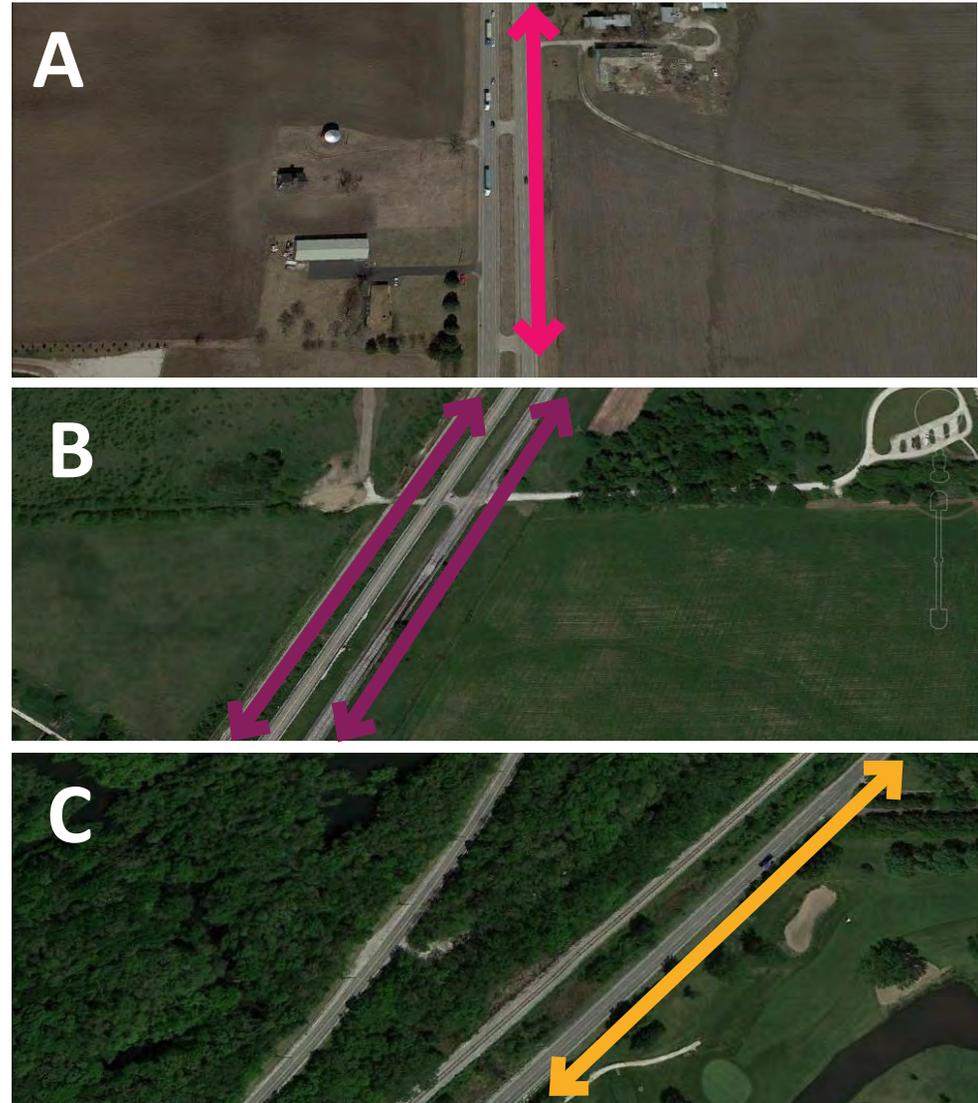
B. TRAIL ALONG BOTH SIDES OF IL 53 from Mississippi Street through the Midwin to Arsenal Road.

C. TRAIL ALONG THE EAST R.O.W. OF IL 53 from Arsenal Road to the new Route 66 Welcome Center at Braidwood and developing a trailhead at the park.

TRAIL FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATION 1: CREATE A NEW TRAIL ALONG IL 53/ROUTE 66 WITHIN THE R.O.W.



EXAMPLE OF B: TRAIL SECTION ALONG BOTH SIDES OF THE IL 53 R.O.W.



TRAIL FRAMEWORK RECOMMENDATION 2:

CONNECT THE EXISTING REGIONAL TRAILS TO EACH OTHER AND TO THE PROPOSED IL 53/ROUTE 66 TRAIL

SUMMARY OF BIKE TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1 A BIKE TRAIL ALONG THE IL-53 R.O.W.**
Create a major bike trail within the IL-53 R.O.W. from Nowell Park to the new Route 66 Welcome Center at Braidwood. Based on the varying widths of the road, three options are proposed. See following pages for details.
- 2 IMPROVE I&M TRAILHEAD**
As a major access point for the I & M Canal Trail, the Brandon Street Trailhead could be upgraded to offer more amenities such as benches, drinking fountains, shaded rest areas and rest rooms, better identification signage for the trail and the parking area, additional signage and QR codes to provide information on other trails and area activities and attractions.
- 3 CONNECT THE THREE MAJOR REGIONAL TRAILS**
- 4** Provide dedicated trail routes to connect these three regional trails through downtown Joliet.
- 5 EAST-WEST TRAIL LINK ALONG HOFF**
A potential East-West trail connection could run along the south side of Hoff Road

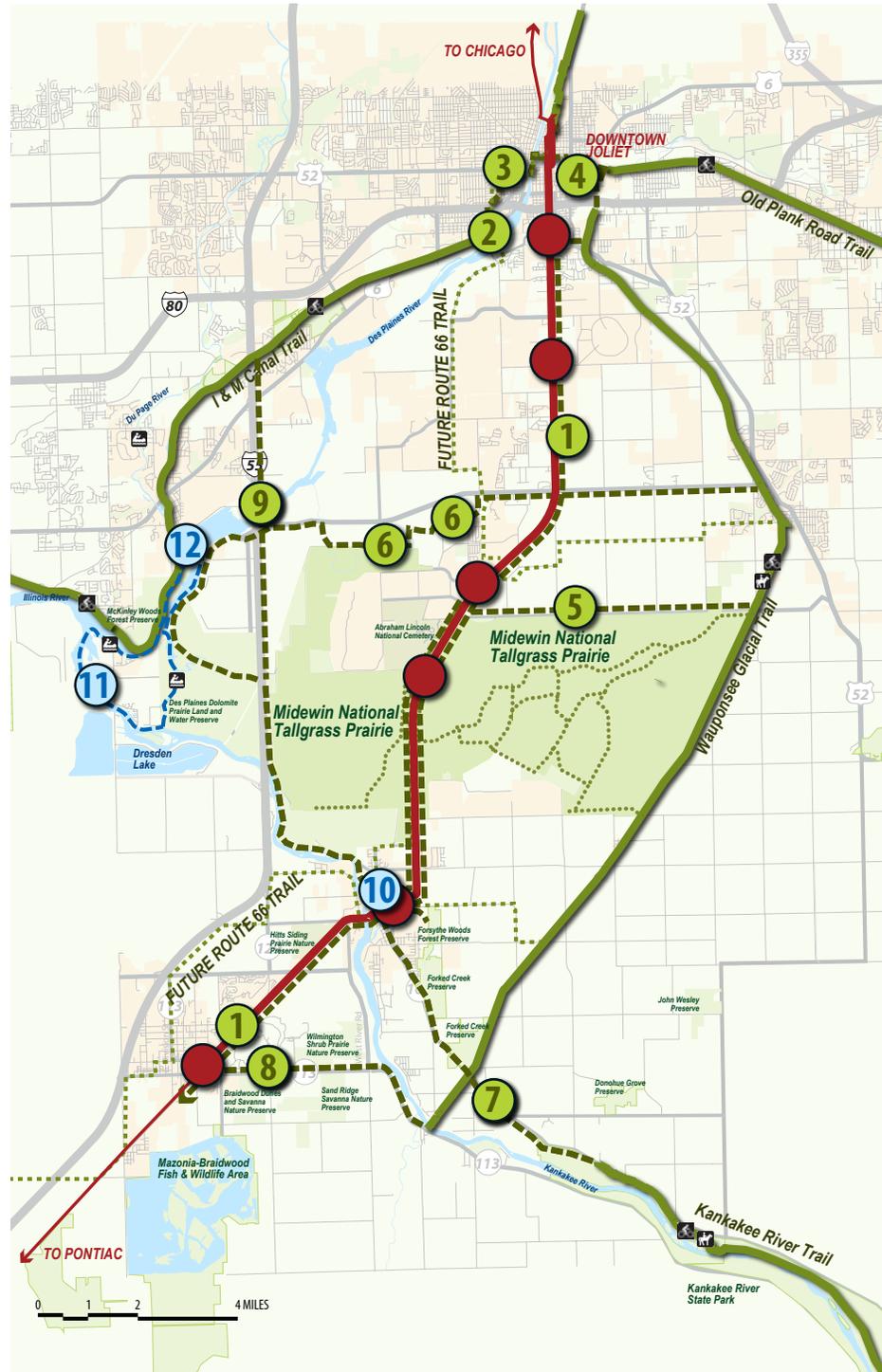
connecting the IL-53 Trail to the Wauponsee Glacial Trail and to the Manhattan Metra Station.

- 6 EAST-WEST TRAIL LINK & THE MIDWIN CONNECTION**
An East-West Trail Connection along Manhattan /Arsenal Road would stretch from the Wauponsee Glacial Trail to the Des Plaines River and continue along the riverfront through the Des Plaines Preserve and connect to the future Midwin Trail.
- 7 CONNECT TO KANKAKEE RIVER TRAIL**
Trail connecting the Kankakee River Trail to the Wauponsee along IL-102.
- 8 WAUPONSEE TO BRAIDWOOD TRAIL**
Trail connection from the south Wauponsee trailhead to Braidwood along IL-113.
- 9 CONNECT ACROSS THE DES PLAINES RIVER**
As the I-55 Bridge is reconstructed or replaced a bike trail should be included on the bridge to connect the Wauponsee, Kankakee, Midwin and other local trails to the I&M Canal Trail.

SUMMARY OF WATER TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

- 10 KAYAK COURSE IN WILMINGTON**
Create a Kayak Course in Willmington at the old Mill Race between the North Island and downtown.
- 11 CANOE LOOPS AT THE CONFLUENCE**
Two loops are possible at the confluence of the Des Plaines, Kankakee and Illinois rivers. The shorter 8.5-mile loop would be the right length for a day trip with enough time to explore. The 15 mile loop could begin at the Kerry Sheridan Grove where the DuPage River meets the Des Plaines River, travel around the island and back down the Des Plaines to connect to the first loop route.
- 12 CANOE PORTAGE ON DES PLAINES**
To create the two canoe loops, portage improvements would be required at the Kerry Sheridan Grove. Interpretive maps and an IDNR formal recognition of the route would also be needed.

PROPOSED TRAIL FRAMEWORK PLAN



LEGEND

- ROUTE 66 STOPS
- EXISTING TRAILS
- IDNR CONCEPT ROUTE 66 TRAIL
- PROPOSED TRAILS
- PROPOSED WATER TRAILS
- TRAIL PROJECTS
- WATER TRAIL PROJECTS
- PROPOSED MIDWIN TRAIL
FOR FULL DESCRIPTION OF MIDWIN TRAILS
SEE MIDWIN TRAIL PLAN, PAGE 66

BIKE TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

- A BIKE TRAIL ALONG THE IL-53 R.O.W.
- IMPROVE I&M TRAILHEAD
- CONNECT THE THREE MAJOR REGIONAL TRAILS
- EAST-WEST TRAIL LINK ALONG HOFF
- EAST-WEST TRAIL LINK & THE MIDWIN CONNECTION
- CONNECT TO KANKAKEE RIVER TRAIL
- WAUPONSEE TO BRAIDWOOD TRAIL
- CONNECT ACROSS THE DES PLAINES RIVER

WATER TRAIL RECOMMENDATIONS

- KAYAK COURSE IN WILMINGTON
- CANOE LOOPS AT THE CONFLUENCE
- CANOE PORTAGE ON DES PLAINES

A CRITICAL NEED FOR SIGNAGE: EXISTING ISSUES



THERE IS A CRITICAL NEED FOR PROPER SIGNAGE FOR THE CORRIDOR. MAIN SIGNAGE ISSUES ARE:

SIGNAGE ISSUES ON THE INTERSTATES

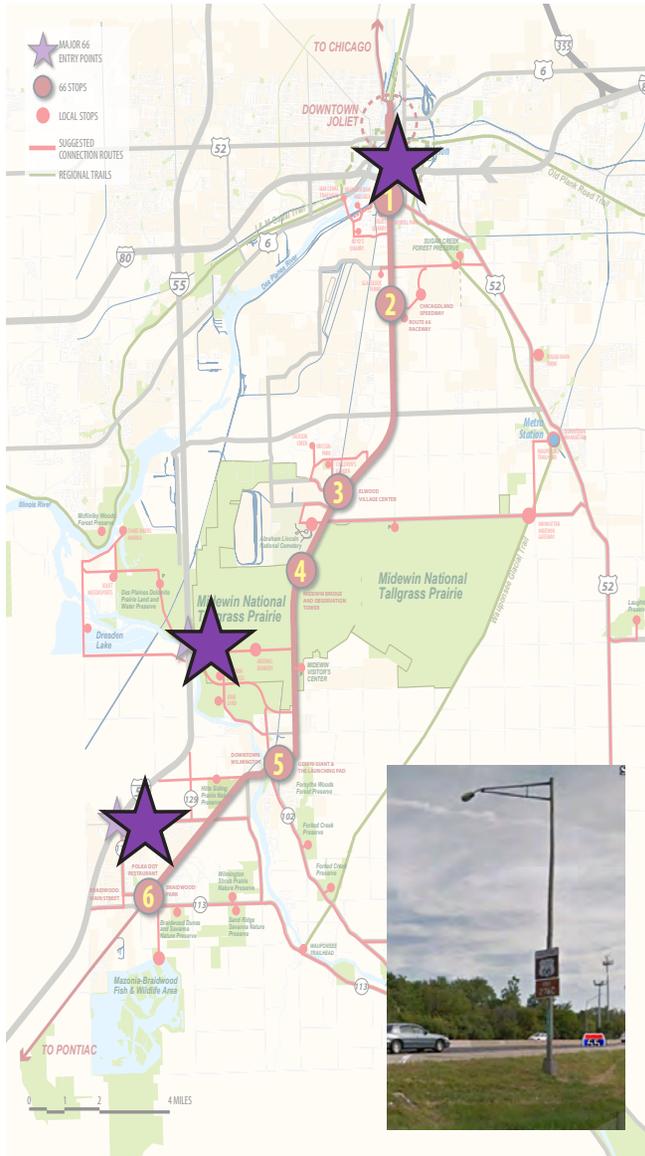
- **DUE TO THE LACK OF SIGNAGE AT THE HIGHWAYS, TRAVELLERS ARE NOT AWARE THAT THEY ARE SO CLOSE TO HISTORIC ROUTE 66.**
- **THERE IS NO SIGNAGE ALONG THE HIGHWAY TO INDICATE THAT IL 53 IS “ROUTE 66”.**
- **THERE IS NO ROUTE 66 DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE AT THE RAMPS ONCE YOU TAKE AN EXIT.**



SIGNAGE ISSUES ON IL 53/HISTORIC ROUTE 66

- **ONCE YOU ARE ON IL 53, THERE IS MINIMAL ROUTE 66 ROADWAY SIGNAGE TO LET YOU KNOW YOU IF YOU ARE STILL ON THE MOTHER ROAD.**
- **THERE IS NO DIRECTIONAL SIGNAGE TO THE MANY LOCAL ATTRACTIONS ON AND NEAR ROUTE 66.**

A CRITICAL NEED FOR SIGNAGE: RECOMMENDATIONS



A COMPREHENSIVE SIGN FRAMEWORK WOULD INCLUDE FOUR MAIN TYPES OF SIGNS:

- Interstate Highway Access
- Directional And Attractions
- Route Signs Along Route 66
- Informational signs at 6 STOPS

ROUTE 66 HIGHWAY & ACCESS SIGNAGE AT I-80 AND I-55

The first type of signage would be along the interstates at the main entry points to the area:

3 RECOMMENDED LOCATIONS

- I-80 / IL 53 INTERCHANGE
- I-55 / RIVER ROAD INTERCHANGE
- I-55 / COAL CITY ROAD INTERCHANGE



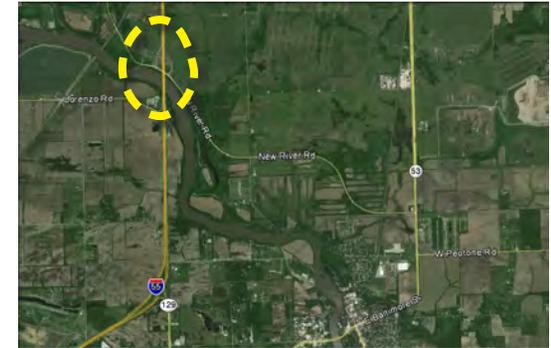
Conceptual Historic Route 66 Access Sign that would be installed at Interstate exits and major highway intersections that connect to the byway.



I-80 / IL 53 INTERCHANGE



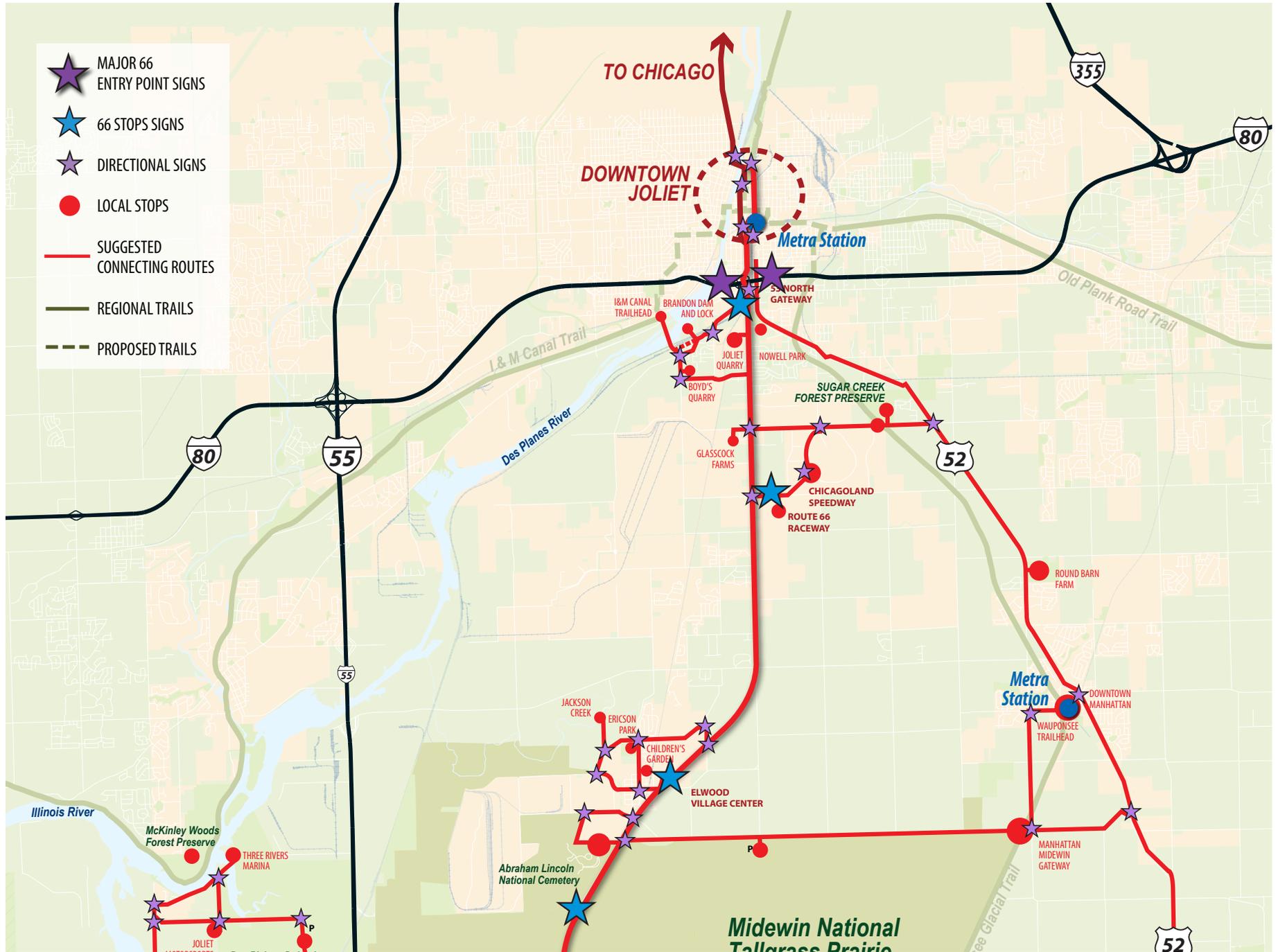
I-55 / RIVER ROAD INTERCHANGE



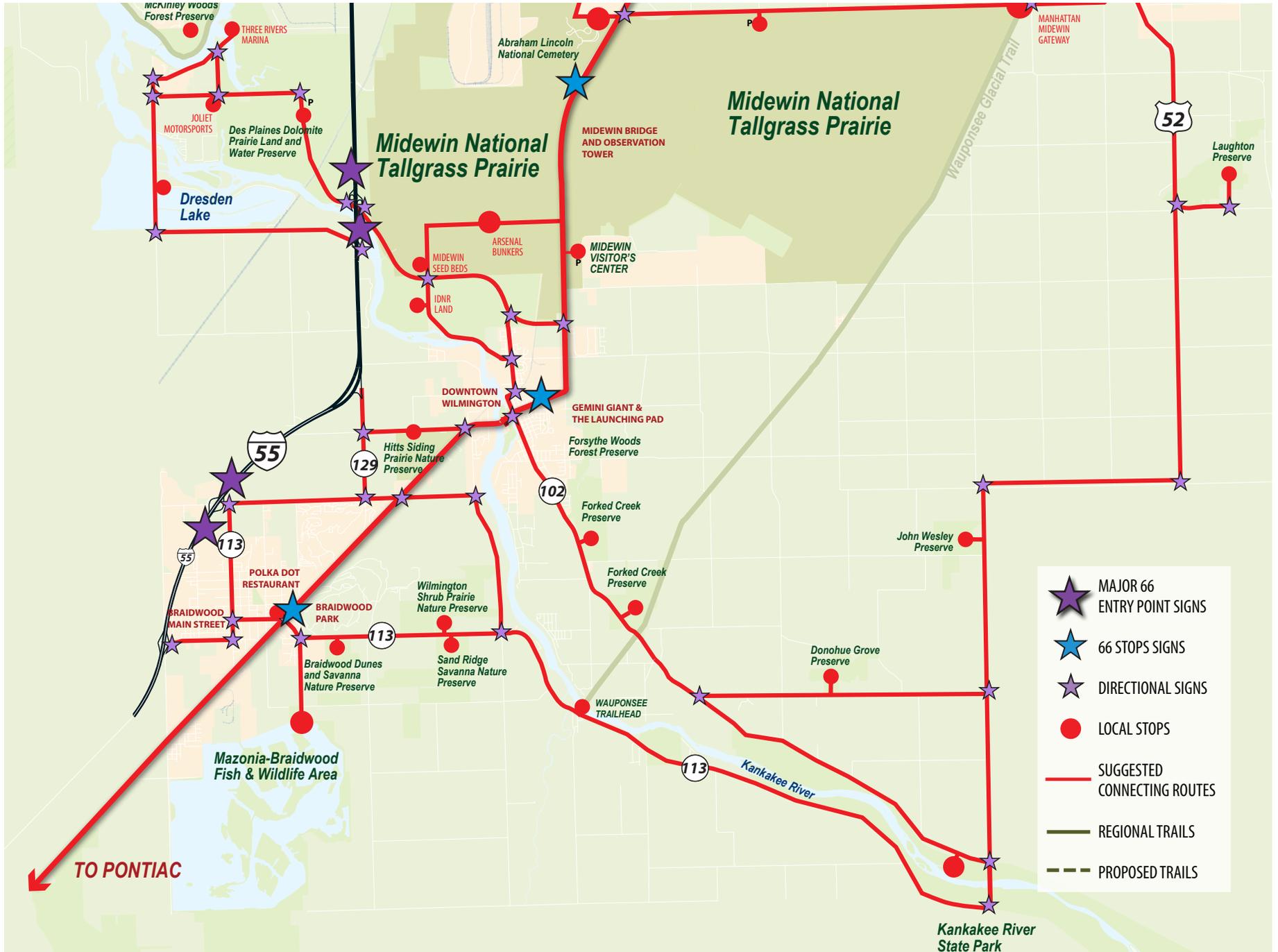
I-55 / COAL CITY ROAD INTERCHANGE



SIGN FRAMEWORK PLAN: NORTH SECTION



SIGN FRAMEWORK PLAN: SOUTH SECTION



ROUTE 66 FAMILY OF SIGNS

ATTRACTIONS AND DIRECTIONAL SIGNS

The signs for attractions would be located along the designated road network to direct travelers to the 6 STOPS, other nearby destinations and way to return to Route 66.



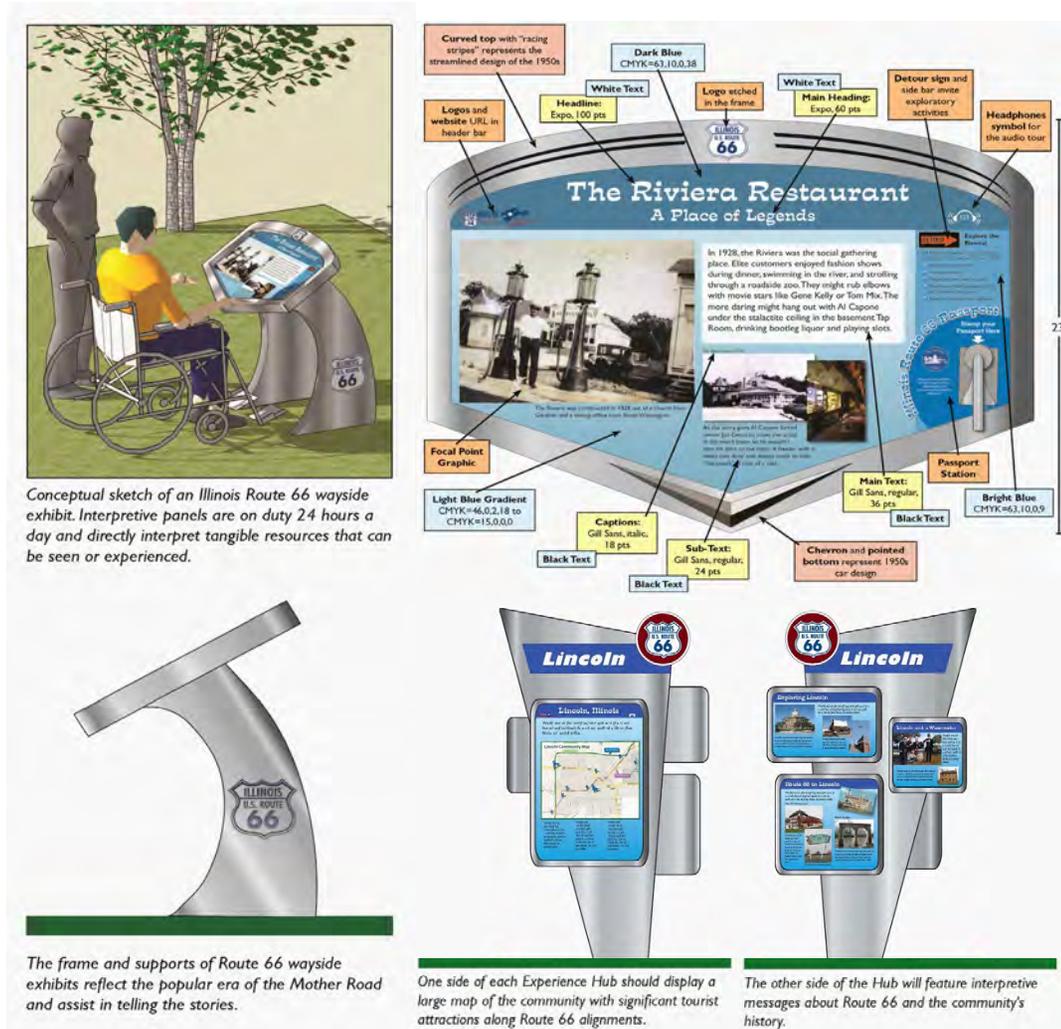
ROUTE SIGNS FOR HISTORIC 66

These signs would be placed every three miles to inform travelers that they are on Historic Route 66. Installation and maintenance of the route signs would be the responsibility of the

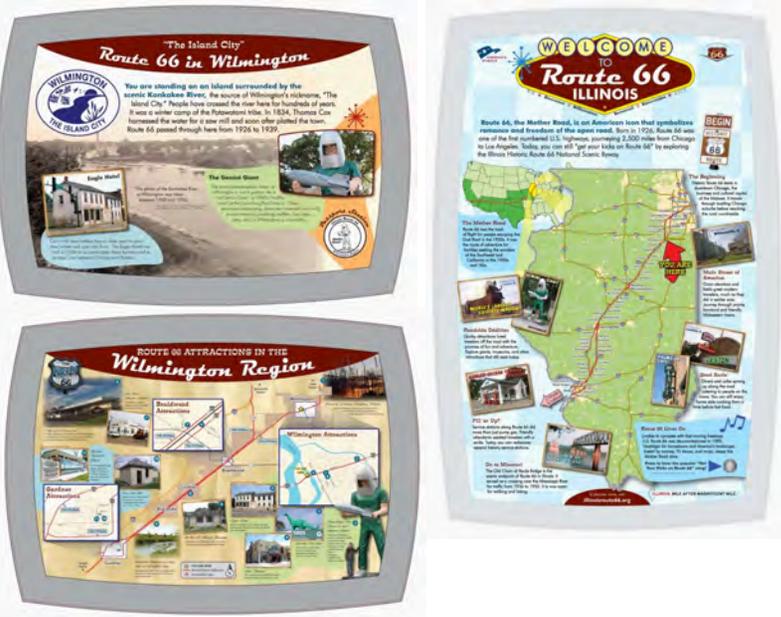


SIGNS AT THE 6 STOPS

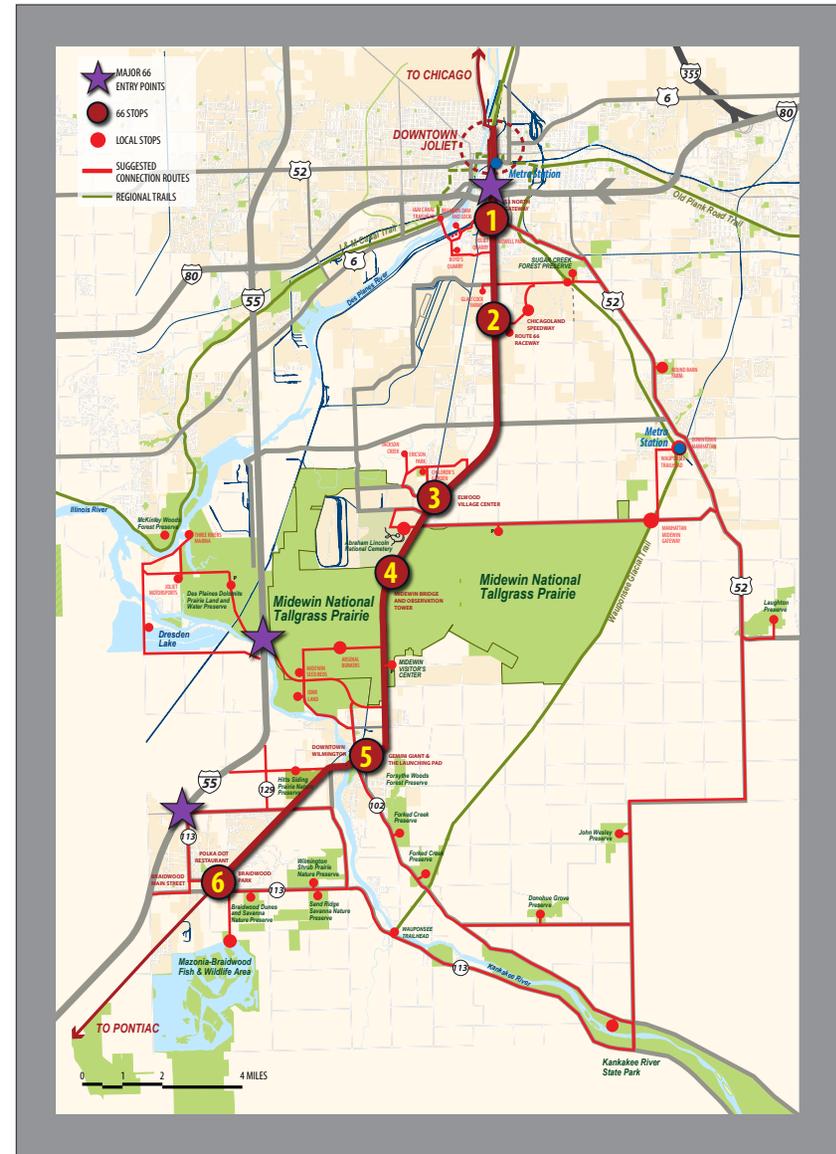
These signs are located at the 6 STOPS on 66 to provide information about the STOP and also the nearby attractions. These signs may also include QR codes for visitors to download regional information to their smart phones.



ROUTE 66 FAMILY OF SIGNS: EXAMPLES



ADD THE 6 STOPS ON 66 MAP (RIGHT) AT EACH STOP TO DIRECT VISITORS TO OTHER AREA ATTRACTIONS.





Boat Launch



Trailhead



Canoe



Marina



Campfire



Fishing



RV
Campground



Picnic Area



Food Service



Wheelchair-
Accessible



Horse Stable



Horseback Riding
(rental, guided tour)



Snowmobile
Trail



Showers



Campground



Ice Skating



Bicycle Trail



Store



Shelter



Drinking
Water



Restrooms



First Aid



Telephone



Parking



Gas Station



Information



Bus Stop/Shuttle
Stop



Recycling



Duck Crossing



Observation
Tower

EXISTING AMENITIES + FUTURE POSSIBILITIES

A MAJOR MIDWEST TOURIST DESTINATION



Fossil Hunting



Hunting



All Terrain
Driving



Cliff Diving



Bike Racing



Equestrian
Sports



Zip Lining



High Speed
Rail



Dam



Cemetery



Climbing



Canoe Access



Archery



Kayaking



Horse Riding



Hot Air
Balloon Ride



Sledding



Scenic
Overlook



Fishing Pier



Lodging



Bison Pasture



App



Bout Tour



Gateway
Bridge



Swimming



Motor Bike
Trail



Truck Stop



Racing



Golfing



Sailing