

Dirt

Gravel



Indiana's Lincoln Highway Byway

A Turn-by-Turn Road Guide
For the 1913 and 1928 Routes

including

Educational Discovery Stops

*See America First...
Starting in Indiana*

Brick Pavers

Concrete

Tarmac



Where will it take you?

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This document is available on our website:
indianalincolnhighway.org

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Black & white images of the road courtesy of the University of Michigan
Lincoln Highway Digital Image Collection; Special Collections Library

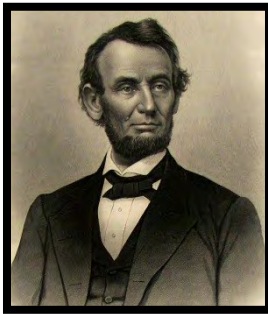
Postcard images courtesy of Russell Rein

Produced for the Indiana Lincoln Highway Association by
Bruce and Marcia Butgereit (2012)

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The Lincoln Highway

“A coast-to-coast memorial to Abraham Lincoln”



“Therefore, be it resolved: That the Lincoln Highway now is and henceforth shall be an existing memorial in tribute to the immortal Abraham Lincoln.”

It all began on July 1, 1913, when a group of American industrialists, including Indiana’s own Carl G. Fisher, created the Lincoln Highway Association to promote their vision of a “continuous improved highway from the Atlantic to the Pacific, open to lawful travel of all descriptions, without toll charges. This highway is to be known, in memory of Abraham Lincoln, as The Lincoln Highway.”



By September that year, the announcement was made that the route was 3,389 miles long. Several realignments were made in later years, in an effort to shorten the route and for safety. In 1928, the Lincoln Highway was marked across America with concrete posts set by the Boy Scouts. Upon completion of the highway, the original Association dissolved. The road, its purpose and its memories live on today.

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The Road Today in Indiana

Named in honor of our nation’s 16th president, the historic Lincoln Highway remains an active auto corridor today linking the people of Indiana to New York and San Francisco. Since 1913, the Lincoln Highway (Lincolnway) has stretched across northern Indiana with two distinct routes.

Today, the route provides evidence of Indiana’s significant automotive and road building history. Along the drive, tourists will discover wonderful landscapes showcasing both rural and urban areas, quaint and grand architecture, and vistas that provide glimpses back in time. The culture of northern Indiana is revealed through stops at diners, restaurants, bed and breakfasts, museums, historical sites and through strolls along main streets.

When the national highway numbering system was implemented in 1926, a large portion of the Lincoln Highway became US Route 30. In Indiana the original Lincoln Highway alignment became US 30 (through Fort Wayne), US 33, US 20, and Indiana 2 until it realigned with US 30 in Valparaiso. The 1926 Indiana alignment became US 30 from the Ohio-Indiana line to the Illinois state line.

We hope you enjoy traveling on the first national memorial to Abraham Lincoln.

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Images of the Past: Early Road Conditions



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One of the early slogans for building improved roads was -

Pull America out of the mud!

Sometimes real horsepower did!



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"Let's build it before we're too old to enjoy it."

Carl Graham Fisher

Carl Graham Fisher (January 12, 1874 – July 15, 1939) was an American entrepreneur. Despite having severe astigmatism, he became a seemingly tireless pioneer and promoter of the automotive, auto racing, and real estate development industries. He is widely regarded as a promotional genius.

Fisher operated what is believed to be the first automobile dealership in the United States in Indianapolis, and also worked at developing an automobile race-track locally. After being injured in stunts himself, and following a safety debacle at the new Indianapolis Motor Speedway, of which he was a principal, he helped develop paved racetracks and public roadways. Improvements he implemented at the speedway led to its nickname "The Brickyard".

In 1912-13, Fisher conceived and helped develop the Lincoln Highway, the first road for the automobile across the entire United States of America.

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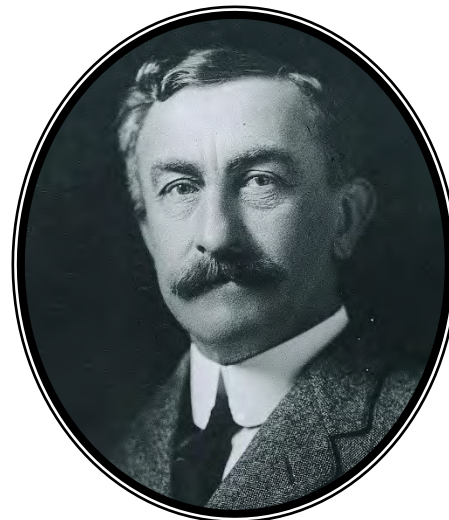
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"The Lincoln Highway is the greatest thing I ever did."

Henry Bourne Joy (November 23, 1864 – November 6, 1936) was President of the Packard Motor Car Company, and a major developer of automotive activities as well as being a social activist.

Henry was born in Detroit, the son of Michigan Central Railroad president James F. Joy. James Joy was involved with the great railroad push to Missouri, and hired **Abraham Lincoln** to assist him with mergers.

In 1913, Joy and Carl Graham Fisher were driving forces as principal organizers of the Lincoln Highway Association, a group dedicated to building a concrete road from New York to San Francisco. After the first several years, Fisher had become more involved instead with creation of the north-south Dixie Highway project and became a developer of Miami Beach, but Joy was dedicated to the Lincoln Highway for the long-haul. Naming it after former U.S. President Abraham Lincoln was one of the moves Joy led, and his Lincoln Highway project was completed in his lifetime.



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Images of the Past: Improved Roads



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Improved Road Types:

- Gravel*
- Oiled Gravel*
- Macadam
- Brick
- Concrete

*Not shown in these photos



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Greetings!



A "Hoosier" Welcome Awaits You in Every City Along the Indiana Lincoln Highway

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Everyone Loves a Parade!



The above postcard is of the 1st anniversary celebration of the Lincoln Highway that took place in Goshen.

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The postcard below is of the 1915 Lincoln Highway Day celebration in Elkhart.



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Every project must have a Vision**Carl Fisher's Vision of the Lincoln Highway**

"The Lincoln Highway will never be finished. You and I will be able to drive over it from New York to San Francisco in 1915. Perhaps ten years from now every mile will be of concrete, but there will always be something more to do, some improvement to make.

Not only is the Lincoln Highway a perpetual memorial, but a road to be perpetuated by the energies of future generations.

The best minds in the country are laying the foundation now for the beautification of the Lincoln Highway -

They are working today that the tourist of fifty and one hundred years from now may cross the country over the most beautiful and inspiring roadway in the world. The Lincoln Highway is to be something more than a road-It will be a road with personality, a distinctive work to which the Americans of future generations can point with pride - an economic but also artistic triumph."

**In celebration of the 100th anniversary
of the Lincoln Highway in 2013,
the Indiana Lincoln Highway Association
is proud to have that same vision.**

