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# THE ROAD AHEAD PARTNERSHIP

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**4th Quarter 2022 Update Report & Next Steps**

**Prepared by Mr. Bill Thomas  
Chairman, Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership  
January 30, 2023**

## **Overview**

Following is a brief overview of activity for the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership during the period of October 1 thru December 31, 2022.

We believe it is important to let everyone know what the Road Ahead is doing. As you read this report, we hope you gain a better sense of what the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership is and what we are working to achieve.

We welcome and encourage feedback and questions regarding the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership in general, and this Expanded Update Report in particular. Please feel free to forward your thoughts, questions, ideas, and suggestions to: [rt66theroadahead@gmail.org](mailto:rt66theroadahead@gmail.org).

Finally, as you read this Expanded Update Report, we hope you are motivated to be even more involved in the work that awaits us on the road ahead.

Onward and upward...

Bill Thomas, Chairman  
Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership

**Report on Work Undertaken on the Goals of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership  
During October 1, 2023 thru December 31, 2023 along with Next Steps Planned for the 2023**

The goals of our organization are designed to achieve a set of desired outcomes, which in turn, are based on our mission.

The mission of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership is:

*To revitalize and sustain Route 66 as a national icon and international destination, for the benefit of all Route 66 communities, travelers, and businesses/attractions, through collaborative partnerships focused on promotion, preservation, research/education, and economic development.*

Following is a list of the outcomes we are working to achieve, along with the goals designed to help us achieve those outcomes. Presented below is an update on the status of each goal as of 12/31/23, along with next steps for 2023. You'll note that the current update report is highlighted in BLUE text, while past updates are in black text.

**Outcome 1 – Increased Collaboration:** We want to improve communication and participation among and between sectors (tourism, preservation, associations, transportation, economic and community development) to leverage their work for the benefit of the entire road.

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS - EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE & CHAIRMAN'S REPORT**

GOAL	2023 STATUS	NEXT STEPS FOR 2023
<p><b>Goal 1.1 – Establish one professionally – led, representative body with a Board of Directors focused on achieving our organization’s set of desired outcomes designed, ultimately to accomplish our mission.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report –The Route 66 Road Ahead Board of Directors meet via a Zoom call on December 9, 2022. Minutes of the 12/9/22 Board of Directors meeting can be access on the Road Ahead website.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report –The Route 66 Road Ahead Board of Directors meet via a Zoom call on July 27, 2022. Minutes of the 7/27/22 Board of Directors meeting can be access on the Road Ahead website.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report – The pandemic derailed plans for the scheduled November 2021 Road Ahead Board of Director’s meeting. Fortunately, an in-person meeting was finally able to be held in April 2022. Nearly all members of the Board attended, along with representatives from our partner organizations, the National Park Service and the National Trust for Historic Preservation. The meeting was held in Springfield, Missouri. Minutes will be posted on the Road Ahead website soon. It was also possible to schedule a meeting of the Research Route 66 consortium the same week, which allowed a number of Road Ahead Board members to attend the consortium’s meeting. The Research Route 66 group and the Road Ahead Directors spent time reviewing proposed strategic goals of the Research Route 66 group and identifying opportunities for collaboration between the two organizations.</p>	<p><b>Conduct an Executive Committee meeting during February 2023 and conduct the Board’s Annual, face-to-face meeting in March 2023, to discuss/monitor the organization’s goals and outcomes.</b></p>

**Outcome 1 – Increased Collaboration:** We want to improve communication and participation among and between sectors (tourism, preservation, associations, transportation, economic and community development) to leverage their work for the benefit of the entire road.

STATE ASSOCIATIONS ADVOCACY WORKING GROUP UPDATE

GOAL	2023 STATUS	NEXT STEPS FOR 2023
<p><b>Goal 1.1 – Discuss and identify Route 66 needs/concerns and communicate them to the Road Ahead Board of Directors. Come up with potential solutions.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>The New Mexico Association has started process to engage state for Centennial efforts. CA Association working with CADOT and local Senator to find a solution for bridges that are out. No physical progress at Glenrio but locals still working on project, per NM. AZ working on solution for Twin Arrows conditions.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:            No progress in Glenrio TX after partial demolition; concern it will be re-abandoned. NM working to assemble Centennial Commission but struggling to get state engagement. AZ making progress with state. OK Executive Director retires at end of Sept, 19 year Association veteran. CA DOT not anticipating bridges fixed in San Bernardino county until after the Centennial.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:            A Centennial Committee formed in Texas. The Old Route 66 Association of Texas has been engaged. Kansas state government has also expressed interest in setting up a Centennial Committee. The Gasconade Bridge project in Missouri continues to have difficulty with MODOT cooperating. Portion of Glenrio Texas have been purchased and are being restored by private entity.</p>	<p><b>Still working to assemble list of annual events across all eight states. NM could use some guidance to help establish state Centennial Commission. Anything to speed up CA DOT work on bridges would be welcome.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 1.2 – Discuss and identify areas of common interest and opportunities to work together on projects/activities/challenges to be solved.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>AAA RoadFest in OK proceeding to second year; talking to IL and TX about additional events. Route 66 Info Fair in Needles proceeding in Feb, all Associations invited. Victorville CA museum and other properties purchased with revitalization plans. OK and TX working on joint Motor Tour in 2023.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report            No progress on Ribbon Road Preservation work with Ottawa County in OK. AAA RoadFest in OK was not well attended but was well received; site visit in Amarillo by AAA conducted for future event. Birthplace Fest in MO well attended. MO and TX motor tours having high engagement; TX raising funds for work at McLean Phillips 66 Station. AZ launched digital passport and expanded cost-share grant program. IL Scenic Byway now a regular part of monthly calls.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:            OK and MO are working together on a Ribbon Road preservation committee to help guide county action and prevent unnecessary damage. A California info fair in Feb was well attended by several states. Still no IL representation in the State Associations group. Further discussion was had regarding some form of “route wide” collateral for all Associations. A sticker idea is being explored. No participation from AZ or NM in 1QTR meeting.</p>	<p><b>Continue meeting monthly to identify needs and cross-Association working opportunities.</b></p>

<p><b>Goal 1.3 – Assist the Board of Directors in communicating its work with the greater Route 66 community.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>Communicated introduction of Nat’l Trail Legislation in the Senate, with the caveat it’s at the end of session and has low change of passage due to time constraints.</b></p> <p>9/20/22 Update Report:          No updates to report.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:          Grant opportunities were communicated to various Association membership via Social Media.</p>	<p><b>Continue monitoring legislative activity and other Road Ahead initiatives for engagement opportunities</b></p>
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**Outcome 2 – Effective Promotion:** We want to promote the road and increase the number of visitors, both domestic and international, coming to Route 66, with the specific aim of increasing their length of stay and the amount of money they spend along Route 66.

<b>GOAL</b>	<b>2023 STATUS</b>	<b>NEXT STEPS FOR 2023</b>
<p><b>Goal 2.1 - Ensure each Route 66 State establishes a state-level Route 66 100th Anniversary Commission</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>The Illinois Route 66 Centennial Commission will hold its first 2023 meeting 1/26/23 in Joliet, IL. Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership Bill Thomas will attend.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:          Oklahoma, Illinois, Missouri have passed legislation. Missouri’s is not funded. Oklahoma’s new Commission is funded at \$6 million per year. Illinois – no funding with their Commission, but they hope for line item funding. CVBs along the Route got \$4 million last year and this year in funding for projects. EV is a priority, they are getting grant money for that</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:          Illinois had its first commission meeting. Oklahoma’s next meeting is in May. No updates received from other states.</p>	<p><b>Continue to offer support to the states that don’t have legislative commissions designated.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 2.2 - Work to identify contacts in each state that can be connected with to help influence National Route 66 Centennial Commission appointments.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>The White House sent out a Press Release announcing the names of the first 12 individuals the President intends to appoint to the Route 66 Centennial Commission. Included is Bill Thomas, Chairman of the Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership. Three appointments will remain to be made.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:          10 names have been put forth to date. They are hoping for a mid-November planning meeting. Initial tagline that identifies what they want to achieve is “A Party With A Purpose.”</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:          Work continues to ensure each Route 66 governor recommends someone to sit on the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission.</p>	<p><b>Identify key personnel in each governor's office that the Route 66 Road Ahead group can reach out to in an effort to help influence national appointments.</b></p>

<p><b>Goal 2.3 - Discuss ways to expand Oklahoma's AAA Route 66 Road Fest to all Route 66 states.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  Plans are now in place to have the Road Ahead, AAA Oklahoma, and SRO – the production firm that administered RoadFest in Tulsa in 2022, coordinate communications with each state regarding the expansion of RoadFest across Route 66.</p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:  Jared Peterson with AAA Oklahoma presented results of first annual event. AAA is 120 years old. They are trying to position their brand in new places and spaces. They connected with the Rt. 66 Road Ahead Partnership early on and have been in close collaboration to establish the Road Fest with the hope of having it expand to other states. US Rt. 66 Centennial Commission is offered as the official Rt. 66 Centennial Road Fest to each of the states if they are interested in incorporating it into the individual state plans. The goal is not to compete with existing events in each state but to have it complement offerings in a customizable way. Goal is to work with each state individually to create an experience that best supports the state.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  The inaugural AAA Route 66 Road Fest in Oklahoma is scheduled for June of 2022. Oklahoma will be an active participant in the event and will share the findings with the other states after the initial festival. Oklahoma shared Route 66 visitor data from Datafy.</p>	<p><b>Goal is for AAA to work with each state individually to create an experience that best supports the state.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal. 2.5 - Work to develop Route 66 Charging Stations infrastructure.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>No Update to report.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:  No Update to report.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  The Road Ahead has developed a program it is calling the “Route 66 Alternative Fuels Corridor Initiative”. This idea will be proposed by the Road Ahead to the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission as a capstone project of the overall Centennial celebration.</p>	<p><b>Identify possible infrastructure money available and how to secure it for charging stations.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 2.6 - Develop group marketing initiatives for 2026: Passport, Audio Guide, Marketing Tool Kits for industry members, etc.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>No Update to report.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report  No Update to report.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  The Working Group discussed Passport, App, Marketing Tool Kits, and Asset Database ideas.</p>	<p><b>Discuss ideas for shared collateral. Possible funding/budget.</b></p>

**Outcome 3 – Purposeful Preservation:** We want to purposefully preserve the historic resources (i.e. buildings, structures, sites, districts, objects, and landscapes), traditions, and experiences that give Route 66 its idiosyncratic character.

GOAL	2023 STATUS	NEXT STEPS FOR 2023
<p><b>Goal 3.1 – Collaboratively share best practices and ideas between such groups as State Historic Preservation Offices (SHPOs) and State Departments of Transportation (DOTs).</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>                      The Preservation Working Group invited by Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program, National Park Service (NPS), to help plan Route 66 symposium with Federal Highway Administration, State and Local Departments of Transportation.</p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report                      No Update to report, other than the Road Ahead’s Historic Resources Specialist remains available to participate in Section 106 consultations.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:                      The Road Ahead’s Historic Resources Specialist, Anne Haaker, provided the following updates regarding the status of projects she is involved with and/or tracking per her Historic Resources Specialist position:</p> <p>The Illinois DOT Cultural Resources Contact                      The Road Ahead’s current IL DOT Cultural Resources contact has retired. Anne has connected with the new contact, Emilie Land, and introduced her to the Road Ahead Project to make sure she has access to a copies of the National Register of Historic Places documents associated with Illinois Route 66. She and Emilie discussed ongoing and upcoming projects in Illinois.</p> <p>Amarillo Helium Plant                      The Texas DOT continues its work to complete educational materials for the Amarillo Helium Plant and has shared all drafts with the consulting parties to review as per the terms of a Memorandum of Agreement. This relates to mitigation measures the Texas DOT is taking as a result of impacts to Route 66 near the Amarillo Helium Plan. In addition to education materials designed to interpret and tell the story of the plant’s connections to Route 66, installation of a storyboard on site is expected to be completed by May 31, 2022. Per the MOU, should excess funds remain after these initial efforts, provisions are included in the MOU for groups to apply for use of those funds.</p>	<p><b>Assist NPS to develop draft plan for symposium.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 3.2 – Share info about the meaning &amp; benefits of preservation &amp; the tools, techniques, &amp; incentives for preservation outcomes.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>No update since the 9/30/22 update - The Working Group (WG) submitted final “Quick Reference Guide for Financial Incentives” to the RAP Executive Director at the end of September 2022.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report                      The Working Group (WG) submitted final “Quick Reference Guide for Financial Incentives” to the RAP Executive Director at the end of September 2022.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:                      The Working Group (WG) will review an updated draft of the “Quick Reference Guide for Financial Incentives” in late Spring 2022.</p>	<p><b>Post the Guide on the Road Ahead Website Resources page.</b></p>

<p><b>Goal 3.3 – Share information with the Board of Directors about Section 106 and the preservation of historic properties.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>No change/update since the 9/30/22 update.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:  The Working Group still needs to post the link to the Section 106 Review Guide directly on the RAP Resources page. No change.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  The Working Group still needs to post the link to the Section 106 Review Guide directly on the RAP Resources page. No change.</p> <p>3/31/2020 Update Report: The link to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation publication: <u>Protecting Historic Properties: A Citizen’s Guide to Section 106 Review</u> is located on the Section 106 Fact Sheet (December 2, 2018), Resources page, in the Road Ahead Website. The Working Group has requested posting the link directly on the Resource page, in order to make it more easily accessible.</p>	<p><b>Post the link on the Resources page when the forthcoming Historic Preservation Toolkit website is posted.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 3.4 – Utilize social media to share information on preservation resources and the Section 106 process, currently available on the Road Ahead Partnership website.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>No change/update since the 9/30/22 update.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:  The Preservation Working Group discussed the idea of developing a framework for posting specific preservation challenges and situations common to Route 66 stakeholders. Preliminary information is being compiled.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  The Preservation Working Group discussed the idea of developing a framework for posting specific preservation challenges and situations common to Route 66 stakeholders. Preliminary information is being compiled.</p> <p>3/31/2020 Update Report: Develop a framework for posting specific preservation challenges and situations common to Route 66 stakeholders. No change in status for posting link to the Section 106 Review Guide directly on the RAP Resources page.</p>	<p><b>WG has paused effort until discussions by RAP on topic progress further.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 3.5 – Develop an online “Historic Preservation Toolkit for Route 66 Communities and Property Owners”</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report: No change/update since the 9/30/22 update.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report  The Route 66 Historic Preservation Toolkit has been incorporated into the beta version of the U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission website, which will be made public following the Commission’s inaugural meeting.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  The Consultant engaged by the Road Ahead submitted the final Route 66 Historic Preservation Toolkit to the RAP Executive Director. Preparation of a draft website is underway for posting on the RAP Resources page.</p>	<p><b>Launch the Toolkit when the Route 66 Commission’s website is made public.</b></p>



**Outcome 4 – Increased Economic Vitality:** We want to act as a catalyst for community and economic development by helping sustain and strengthen existing Route 66 businesses and attractions, and by helping new ones develop.

GOAL	2023 STATUS	NEXT STEPS FOR 2023
<p><b>Goal 4.1 – Restructure the Economic Development Working Group’s focus to three distinct goals; new strategic focus –Audience, Communication Channels &amp; Resources.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>The Economic Development Working Group met on Dec 19<sup>th</sup>. Road Ahead Chairman Bill Thomas attended the meet and shared a proposed strategic direction with the entire working group.</b></p> <p><b>9/30/22 Update Report</b>  <b>No Update Report to submit this Quarter.</b></p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report                      The Economic Development Working Group has not meet since September of 2021. It has, however, been in contact via email. We have a meeting scheduled for the 5<sup>th</sup> of April.</p> <p>We have identified cities that will be first to be targeted by our efforts.</p>	<p><b>Contact all state Rt 66 leaders to request their help identifying those communities that need/want help as it relates to economic development.</b></p> <p><b>Identify an initial audience on which EDWG focus’ its efforts.</b></p> <p><b>Identify specific ways of communication with the above targeted audience.</b></p> <p><b>Review and detail key statistics from existing resources that have already been developed. Use these stats to identify the structure for sharing and organizing the key stats that are most important.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 4.2 – Begin bi-monthly meetings starting in February</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>February meeting is not set as of today.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report                      No Update Report to submit this Quarter.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report                      David Knudsen has developed a starting point for our economic development tool kit. The kit is a multi-page, booklet that will be transformed into a 1-2 page document with info-graphics.</p>	<p><b>Schedule February meeting by or before end of January.</b></p>

**Outcome 5 – Quality Research and Education:** We want to ensure that the history and stories associated with Route 66 are both accurate and accessible to the public, to researchers, and to educational institutions in order to enhance and encourage greater connection to, and understanding of, the Mother Road.

GOAL	2023 STATUS	NEXT STEPS FOR 2023
<p><b>Goal 5.1 – Establish a national Research/Education Working Group to support professional and amateur educators and researchers in their efforts to inspire and renew public understanding of Route 66.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b> <span style="float: right;"><b>This</b></span>  <b>group remains in place, though its members have shifted. We may be adding one or two more soon.</b></p> <p><b>9/30/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>This group remains in place and continues to work on identified goals.</b></p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:            This group remains in place, though its members have shifted. We may be adding one or two more soon.</p>	<p><b>Add additional high school level members to the Working Group.</b></p>
<p><b>Goal 5.2 – Assist educational institutions at all levels in presenting Route 66 research to students, travelers, tourists, and the general public.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>The first ever bibliography of Route 66 was completed during 4th quarter. The Route 66 corridor Preservation Program will publish the bibliography in 2023. The National Endowment for the Humanities awarded a national grant to Northern Arizona University to develop a Route 66 curriculum. Plans are already in preparation for a follow up grant from the NEH for 2024.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:            1. The WG has exciting news to report. The History of Route 66 article from Oxford has now been made permanently available from the Oxford Research Encyclopedia. Anyone can access it at:  <a href="https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-967">https://oxfordre.com/americanhistory/view/10.1093/acrefore/9780199329175.001.0001/acrefore-9780199329175-e-967</a></p> <p>2. The National Endowment for the Humanities funded the grant to train teachers. This means that in July 2023, 72 teachers from around the country will be flown into flagstaff for training and curriculum development in a new, multicultural vision of the Mother Road. Two WG members, David Dunaway and Gretchen Macallister prepared the grant application. The NEH has also asked for additional grants in this direction, which the WG will discuss.</p> <p>3. The Bibliography of Route 66, prepared by David Dunaway and Steve Mandrogoc, has been set into type and will be available starting in December, 2022 from the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program in print and online (free).</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:            The last six months of this group’s effort has been to publicize the new article on the history of Route 66 with links and sources from the Oxford Research Encyclopedia by co-chairs David Dunaway and Steve Mandrogoc. And to begin work on a National Endowment for the Humanities grant, prepared by Dr. Dunaway and Dr. McAllister. This was finally completed in March 2022. If funded 72 teachers from around the country will meet for a two, one-week sessions in training on the history of Route 66 and end by developing units for a curriculum. In addition, Drs. Mandrogoc and Dunaway have spent the last six months developing the bibliography, which now numbers nearly 200 pages. This will be published by the National Park Service.</p>	

<p><b>Goal 5.3 – Establish a Route 66 National Center</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report:</b>  <b>Recent Accomplishments for UNM as “Rt. 66 National Repository” as further support and evidence for Rt. 66 National Center Initiative:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>New (January 2023)-UNM/National Trust for Historic Preservation renewed internship to identify and document extant under-represented Rt. 66 properties in New Mexico. Dr. Audra Bellmore is currently supervising this project with Amy Webb, NTHP. Working on documenting the Santa Fe-Santa Rosa portion of the pre-1937 Old Alignment.</b></li> <li>• <b>On-going-Fall semester 2022-UNM/National Trust for Historic Preservation internship established to identify and document extant under-represented Rt. 66 properties in New Mexico. Dr. Audra Bellmore is currently supervising this project with Amy Webb, NTHP. Worked on documenting the Los Lunas-Santa Fe portion of the pre-1937 Old Alignment.</b></li> <li>• <b>On-going-UNM is the repository for documentation materials of recently funded NPS documentation project/Donatella Davanzo’s photo-documentation project (currently underway).</b></li> </ul> <p>9/30/22 Update Report:  The Road Ahead working to coordinate efforts with the Research Route 66 Consortium and the University of New Mexico to explore the feasibility of establishing a Route 66 National Center. Bill Thomas is the Road Ahead’s liaison for this initiative and is working with Dr. Audra Bellmore, member of the Research Route 66 Consortium. Following is an overview of progress to date, supplied by Dr. Bellmore:</p> <p>On December 8, 2021, representatives from the National Park Service initiative, Research Route 66 (UNM Faculty and UNM RR66 rep., Dr. Audra Bellmore), the National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program Coordinator (Kaisa Barthuli), and the Road Ahead, the NPS’s private, non-profit partner (Chairman, Bill Thomas) met with UNM administration representatives (Teresa Costantinidis, Lisa Marbury, Barbara Rodriguez, Amy Coburn, Rosie Dudley, Larry Ryan-UNM Foundation). It was decided that Dr. Bellmore would move forward with gaining support for the National Center Initiative amongst UNM faculty, NPS Partners, Road Ahead Board, local, county, state-wide community entities.</p> <p>January 11, 2022, Audra Bellmore (UNM), Kaisa Barthuli (National Park Service, Bill Thomas met to draft a Mission, Vision, Values statement for National Center Initiative.</p> <p>April 12-14, 2022, Joint meeting-Research Route 66 and the Road Ahead in Springfield, Missouri. During this meeting the goal of a National Center at UNM was confirmed by support of both groups. Audra Bellmore met with Amy Webb, of the National Trust for Historic Preservation to further conversation about NTHP support of National Center Initiative and possibility of UNM/NTHP partnership on Route 66 funding opportunities and internship for New Mexico Rt. 66 documentation project.</p> <p>May 20, 2022. Audra Bellmore met with Aaron Mahr, Director of the National Park Service, National Trails programs to discuss support for National Center at UNM and combined national Trails/UNM opportunities.</p> <p>June 17, 2022. Audra Bellmore met with Angelica Sanchez Clark, National Trails Coordinator to gain support for National Center and ways to further the Rt. 66 Hispano Legacies Project at UNM.</p>	<p>Drafting standard letter of support to send out to all above entities. They can modify and print on their own letterhead. The letters will be turned into UNM Office of the Provost for Research to verify wide support local, statewide support for initiative. A draft of the Mission Vision and Values statement will accompany the letter.</p> <p>Schedule meeting to move initiative along with Office of Provost for Research to discuss official UNM support.</p> <p>Schedule meeting to discuss moving forward with ideas for funding with UNM Foundation, Larry Ryan.</p>
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	<p>July 12, 2022, Audra Bellmore and Amy Webb, NTHP finalized Rt. 66 internship programming with UNM.</p> <p>August 17, 2022, Audra Bellmore and Amy Webb began Rt. 66 fall semester internship with UNM.</p> <p>Other conversations to gain support for National Center at UNM have been had with the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• City of Albuquerque, Department of Cultural Affairs</li> <li>• Bernalillo County, Route 66 Visitor Center</li> <li>• New Mexico State Historic Preservation Division</li> <li>• Historic Santa Fe Foundation</li> <li>• Spanish Colonial Arts Museum</li> <li>• Indian Pueblo Cultural Center</li> </ul> <p>Recent Accomplishments for UNM as “Rt. 66 National Repository” as further support and evidence for Rt. 66 National Center Initiative include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• UNM/National Trust for Historic Preservation internship established to identify and document extant under-represented Rt. 66 properties in New Mexico. Dr. Audra Bellmore is currently supervising this project with Amy Webb, NTHP.</li> <li>• UNM is the repository for documentation materials of recently funded NPS documentation project/Donatella Davanza’s photo-documentation project (currently underway).</li> </ul>	
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National Historic Trail Designation Task Force Report		
GOAL	2023 STATUS	NEXT STEPS FOR 2023

<p><b>Goal 1 – Establish a National Historic Trail Designation Task Force to secure Federal designation of Route 66 as a National Historic Trail.</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report</b>  <b>Efforts to pass legislation to designate Route 66 a National Historic Trail before the end of the 117<sup>th</sup> Congress were not successful. The measure will be reintroduced in the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress and efforts will resume. On a very sad note, Route 66’s longtime friend and advocate, John Conoby [retired National Park Service] passed away in late December 2022. John worked tirelessly to help with the initiative to designate Route 66 a National Historic Trail. His expertise and friendship will be sorely missed.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report          In August, the Chair of the Road Ahead met in person with Congressman LaHood to seek additional assistance in moving legislation to designate Route 66 a National Historic Trail forward. The goal is to schedule the Trail Bill, which has already passed out of Committee, for a full vote on the floor of the House of Representatives. Members of the California Route 66 Association have assisted through contacts made with the bill’s co-sponsor, Representative Napolitano. Efforts have also been made to prepare for moving the bill forward in the Senate. Time is running short in this session of Congress, but efforts will continue.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:          Legislation to designate Route 66 a National Historic Trail has unanimously passed out of Committee in the House and awaits a vote – hopefully per the unanimous consent process. It then still needs to be re-introduced in, and passed by, the Senate.</p>	<p><b>Ensure all possible steps are taken for the bill to pass the House and Senate during 2023.</b></p>
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Financial Sustainment Task Force Report		
GOAL	2023 STATUS	NEXT STEPS FOR 2023
<p><b>Goal 1 – Implement a Strategic Financial Sustainment Plan for the Road Ahead</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report</b>  <b>Corporate and foundation fundraising efforts remain on hold awaiting the inaugural meeting of the Route 66 Centennial Commission.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report  Much work continues to identify potential corporate and other sources of financial support for Centennial related initiatives. Specific actions will not, however, be taken until after the Commission’s inaugural meeting.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  In January, the Board of Directors approved a new Agreement to engage The Sweeney Group throughout 2022.</p> <p>3/31/2021 Update Report: During its 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Board of Directors teleconference meeting, the Board gave its approval to extend its agreement with The Sweeney Group, the professional fundraising organization with which it has been working since last year. Per this extension, the Sweeney Group will work with the Road Ahead’s Financial Sustainment Task Force over the next 10 months to implement the strategic fundraising campaign it has prepared.</p>	
<p><b>Goal 2 – Launch the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Initiative</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report</b>  <b>Sufficient funds are almost in hand to move forward with a second round of the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Grant Program. The EW Grant Initiative will be a featured program of upcoming Route 66 Centennial efforts, in the hope the national exposure afforded the attention the Centennial generates will secure the final funding needed to launch a second round of the grant program.</b></p> <p>9/30/22 Update Report  Funding needed to conduct a second round of the Route 66 Extraordinary Women grant program is growing, but remains insufficient to move forward.</p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  The Route 66 Extraordinary Women Initiative is close to having raised enough funds to support a second round of the Route 66 Extraordinary Women Micro-Grant Program. The first round of the program was completed in May of 2021, with \$10,000 in grant awards made to eight recipients across Route 66. It is hoped a second round of the Micro-Grant program will be conducted during the summer of 2022</p>	<p><b>Conduct Round 2 of the EW Micro-Grant program.</b></p> <p><b>Continue fundraising for the EW Initiative.</b></p>

<p><b>Goal 3 – Secure Financial Sustainment for the Road Ahead by Planning the Work of the Route 66 Centennial Commission</b></p>	<p><b>12/31/22 Update Report</b>  <b>Action remains on hold regarding Centennial work, pending completion by the White House of the approval of Commissioners to the Route 66 Centennial Commission.</b></p> <p><b>9/30/22 Update Report</b>  <b>Action remains on hold regarding Centennial work, pending completion by the White House of the approval of Commissioners to the Route 66 Centennial Commission.</b></p> <p>4/30/22 Update Report:  The Road Ahead has done extensive preparatory work for the upcoming Route 66 Centennial – including development of an overall strategy for leveraging the road’s 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary designed to help the millions of people who live, work, and travel along the road. Areas of focus will include celebrations, commemorations, and programs/projects targeting promotion, preservation, research/education, and the economic development of Route 66. The U.S. Route 66 Centennial Commission is one commissioner short of the quorum needed to hold its first meeting. The plans and proposals devised by the Road Ahead will be presented to the Commission for discussion/action at this inaugural meeting.</p>	<p><b>Work with the individuals/offices noted in the Commission legislation to ensure recommended appointments to the Commission are made.</b></p>
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**Conclusion**

The Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership will continue to focus on national, “whole-road” issues throughout 2023. Primary attention will be on securing National Historic Trail status, planning for the newly enacted national Route 66 Centennial Commission, and each of the other goals identified above.

We have successfully established our new organization – and we have *planned our work*. Now comes the challenging task of *working our plan*. This is not easy and it will be a long journey, but traveling it together will bring us to the destination we seek on the road ahead.

Onward and upward... Bill Thomas, Chairman - Route 66 Road Ahead Partnership