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Media Release

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Joliet Promotes Illinois Lincoln Highway With installation of Illinois Lincoln Highway Interpretive Mural

Through the partnership of the City of Joliet and Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition, Shaw Craft Signs of Belvidere Illinois created the mural to be installed Friday, February 19, 2010. The mural will be located on the west exterior wall of Thayer Brothers Deli, at 753 Ruby Street, Joliet, Illinois.

The City of Joliet received a \$10,000 grant from the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition to participate in this state wide Interpretive Mural Program. Joliet is one of 40 locations that the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition will install new Interpretive Murals along the Illinois Lincoln Highway National Scenic Byway and its travel corridor in northern Illinois.

The Joliet mural showcases historical events along Illinois Lincoln Highway. Specifically, the mural illustrates the transition travelers made from horse to motor car travel as well as the use of Pilcher Park as a primary camp site for travelers because hotels were not easily found in the 1920's.

The Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition, as the designated byway management agency overseeing the 179 mile Byway, continues to seek ways to recognize the significance of the highway and ways to make the stories come alive. After receiving a National Scenic Byway Grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and an Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity - Bureau of Tourism, Attraction Development (TAP) Grant, ILHC worked with the vendor, Jay Allen of Shaw Craft Signs, to make these projects come to life.

The Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition in partnership with the City of Joliet and the city's historical preservation liaison, worked collectively to select the images and content of the mural. The mural is valued at \$10,000. The Joliet mural will be highlighted with the other existing murals and gazebos throughout Illinois in a print piece by the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition complete with a map and small description of the mural.

"Illinois Lincoln Highway is rich in history and heritage and our hope is to share the wonderful stories about the evolution of travel with the visitors who explore the many communities along our 179-mile route", said Sue Vos, Chair of the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition and President/CEO of Aurora Area Convention and Visitor Bureau. "This has been a collaborative process working directly with our local historians and civic leaders, the ILHC staff, and a talented artist – all necessary ingredients to make this project a reality." For more information on the Illinois Lincoln Highway, places to see and things to do, stories of the highway's significance and history, or to request ILHC's 2010 Visitor Guide, visit www.drivelincolnhighway.com.

The City of Joliet is the fourth largest city in the state of Illinois, located just 45 miles southwest of Chicago's Loop. Home to over 152,000 residents, in addition to thriving businesses and attractions, the City of Joliet is easily accessible by rail, auto and bus transit. A perfect place to live, work and play, Joliet is constantly striving to promote growth and diversity. For more information on Joliet visit www.visitjoliet.org or call 815.724.4000.

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