



## Background

The National Park Service Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program was established in 2001 through an Act of Congress (Public Law 106-45) to assist local, state, tribal, and federal agencies; nonprofits and individuals in establishing priorities for the preservation of historic Route 66. The program provides grants, technical assistance, and clearinghouse services to assist with historic preservation, research, oral history, interpretation, and educational outreach. Through collaboration and partnerships, the program helps to stimulate business, economic growth, and community revitalization across 36 congressional districts, and eight states through which the route passes. FY2007 represents the seventh year of program operations. The program will legislatively terminate in 2009, at which time a non-federal entity may assume program responsibilities, unless the program is re-authorized by Congress. A summary of Fiscal Year 2007 activities follows.

## Budget

The program's enabling legislation has authorized up to \$10 million in federal appropriations to carry out program activities through 2009. Actual appropriations to date total \$1.99 million.

\$298,000 was authorized for program expenses in FY2007, to include grant awards, two full-time staff salaries, travel, special projects, and other costs.

## Partnerships

The program actively pursues partnerships to accomplish its goals. In FY2007, program staff held over 50 community and individual meetings, presentations, and workshops for the purpose of building partnerships and raising awareness about historic preservation on Route 66. This including Scenic Byway and Main Street Program community workshops and meetings with business owners, local leaders, Route 66 Associations, preservation organizations, educational institutions, State Historic Preservation Offices, Departments of Transportation, Tribal Agencies, Environmental Protection Agencies, the National Trust for Historic Preservation, and others.

## Clearinghouse Functions

The Program serves as a point of contact and network for Route 66 preservation information. The information is focused on the unique needs of historic highways and Route 66. Clearinghouse activities include:

- Management of program website
- Management of Route 66 library and preservation-related materials
- Addressing general and technical information requests
- Production of annual newsletter, brochures, special reports, and a Directory of Financial and Technical Resources
- Development of an inventory database
- Development of Historic Route 66 National Register of Historic Places Travel Itinerary

## Technical Assistance

Program staff provides limited technical assistance. In FY2007, staff made numerous site visits, and addressed hundreds of phone and email inquiries. Technical assistance includes cursory building inspections, treatment advice, project monitoring, community preservation planning consultation, and corridor management plan review.



**Top:** Rehabilitation of the Vickery Phillips 66 Station was completed this year in Tulsa, Oklahoma with program grant assistance. The property is now in use as a rental car facility.

**Middle:** The façade, roof and structural members of the Palms Grill Café in Atlanta, Illinois were restored with program grant assistance. The long term goal is to restore the building for use as a limited-service café.

**Bottom:** The Phillips 66 Station in Baxter Springs, Kansas received program grant funds to assist with rehabilitation. The station is now in use as a visitor center.



Top: An initiative to repair the neon and windows of the Blue Swallow Motel in Tucumcari, New Mexico is one of 10 projects awarded program grant funding in Fiscal Year 2007. A complete list of awards is available online at [www.nps.gov/history/rt66](http://www.nps.gov/history/rt66).

Bottom: A plaque presentation in El Reno, Oklahoma celebrated the rehabilitation of the Oasis Drive-In sign. The program presented a number of plaques this year to recognize completed grant projects.



National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

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## Cost-Share Grant Assistance

The program provides cost-share grant assistance for eligible historic preservation projects. Grant assistance is also provided for research, oral history, interpretation, and educational purposes. Grants are offered through an annual, competitive grant cycle. Since the program's inception in 2001, \$3.6 million in grant requests have been submitted. Seventy-eight projects have been awarded \$1.2 million, based on funding availability.

In FY2007, 24 eligible applications requesting \$634,000 were submitted. Ten projects were selected for a total award of \$163,516.

## Special Projects

The program undertakes special projects at its discretion, based on demonstrated need and available resources. Special projects undertaken in FY2007 included the following:

- The program is partnering with ten archival institutions to spearhead the Route 66 Archive and Research Collaboration (Route 66 ARC). The mission of Route 66 ARC is to work cooperatively to collect, preserve and make accessible historical research materials to facilitate education, preservation and management of the historic Route 66 corridor. Institutions include the Illinois State Library, Missouri State University, University of Missouri - Rolla, Baxter Springs Heritage Center, Oklahoma State University, Oklahoma Historical Society, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, University of New Mexico, Northern Arizona University, and the Autry National Center.
- The program is partnering with the National Trust for Historic Preservation and Rutgers University to conduct a preliminary assessment of the economic impacts of tourism on Route 66.
- The program is partnering with the New Mexico Department of Transportation, New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office, Paul Daniel Marriott and Associates, and others to organize the next Preserving the Historic Road Conference to be held September 11-14, 2008 in Albuquerque, New Mexico.
- The program facilitated a series of preservation mini-workshops at the National Route 66 Festival in Clinton, Oklahoma. Topics included local tools for protecting historic properties, scenic byway designation, and using media to support preservation efforts.
- A temporary employee was hired to compile and finalize information for the Historic Route 66 National Register Travel Itinerary, which will be forwarded to Washington DC for processing and posting on the National Register website.
- A volunteer is assisting the program with the development of a GIS base map of Route 66 road alignments and features.

## Federal Advisory Council

A Federal Advisory Council convened in November, 2006 to advise the Secretary of Interior on matters relating to the Route 66 Corridor Preservation Program. The Council has made recommendations on program activities and priorities, which can be reviewed at <http://www.nps.gov/history/rt66/news/indexFACA>.

## Conclusion

The program continues to see momentum growing at grassroots and governmental levels toward a greater awareness of the significance of Route 66 and the need to preserve it. Recent Most-Endangered Places listings for Route 66 through the World Monuments fund, National Trust for Historic Preservation and two state preservation organizations reinforces the growing awareness and interest. As the program enters its eighth year, it looks forward to continued work with these and other concerned entities.