



9 October 2014

Celebrating Transportation History in Iowa

Leighton Christiansen, Iowa DOT Librarian



Celebrating Transportation History in Iowa

Being a Short Travelogue on The Iowa DOT Librarian's Experience
in Cultural Outreach & Notes to Future Travellers

Leighton Christiansen

October 9, 2014

Transportation Librarians Roundtable

DOT 100th Anniversary Planning Committee

**Newman Abuissa
Bryan Bradley
Leighton Christiansen
Beth Collins
George Feazell
Mary Godwin
Doyle Jacobs
Lori Jensen
Andy Loonan
George Martens**

**Linda Martens
Cathy Mather
Cherice Ogg
Krista Rostad
Dakin Schultz
Vicki Stamper
Linda Torgeson
Cheryl White
Sonya Willis**

**Special thanks to the DOT Strategic Information and Web Design teams,
for borrowed content.**



Iowa DOT 100 years

ABOUT THIS TIMELINE

1913

MODAL TRANSPORTATION



THE "DINKEY" MAKES ITS FIRST RUN

July 4, 1891, the Dinkey made its first run between downtown Ames and campus.

[More →](#)

IOWA HIGHWAY COMMISSION



THE IOWA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION (IHC)

On April 9, 1913, the IHC separated from the Iowa State College, becoming an independent state-administered

[More →](#)

MODAL TRANSPORTATION



LOCKS AND DAMS ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

In 1930, Congress authorized a nine-foot channel project on the Mississippi River between

[More →](#)

MODAL TRANSPORTATION



FIRST REGULAR PASSENGER BUS LINE

In April 1911, the Red Ball Transportation Company opened the first regular passenger bus line in Iowa,

[More →](#)

SAFETY



BEGAN PAINTING BLACK CENTER LINE ON PRIMARY

In 1926, Iowa began painting a center black line on every mile of primary road pavement to reduce head-on collisions.

[More →](#)

MOTOR VEHICLE



OF FERRIES

to operate a
y crossing from
was received by

[More →](#)



[Anniversary materials and coverage](#) | [Contact](#)



Join the discussion about Iowa's journey through transportation history.



Announcements

July 9, 2013

[A Journey in Transportation Lecture - Ames](#)

Join us at 7:00 p.m. at the Octagon Center for the Arts,



100th Anniversary



Join the conversation

Iowa has a rich transportation history that began 10,000 years ago. From nomadic hunters blazing trails as they followed game through the countryside to the whiz of today's interstates, every step is a unique piece of our history. As the Iowa Department of Transportation celebrates 100 years, we invite you to peruse our stories, ask us questions and share your transportation experiences with us.

05/07/2013

The evolution of the Iowa driver's license

Many Iowans have fond memories of getting their first driver's license. There is a sense of accomplishment and of maturity, along with a feeling of freedom to travel when and where you desire. Of course, the privilege of driving also carries a heavy responsibility for the safety of others on...

04/05/2013


Which came first: the driver's license or the automobile license plate?





Two of the most frequent questions Iowans have for the Iowa DOT Library are: What year was the first license plate issued? What year was the first driver's license required? As it happens, the automobile license plate predates the operator's license by quite some time. When did Iowa first require...

1 comment

livefyre

 leightonlc

2 people listening 

 @ + Follow    Post comment

[Newest](#) | [Oldest](#)



MikeClaggett

Mar 11, 2013

My father was a civil engineer for the Highway Commission/DOT for about 36 years. He started out at Decorah right out of college(SDSU) in 1956, when the federal Interstate Highway bill was providing money for interstates. My Dad, a Minnesotan, chose Iowa over Minnesota because, in his opinion, Minnesota would spend more money on snow removal rather than building highways. He wanted to build roads!! We later moved to Davenport, then to Atlantic in 1961 or 1962, where Dad was promoted to the Resident Construction Engineer position. Even though my brother Steve and I were pre-schoolers, then elementary students, at the time. Dad would take us out to see Interstate 80 being built. He had one rule: when he was talking to his men that worked for him or for the firm doing the construction, we were to not talk. We got to go twice a year for years, once in the summer and once in the fall. We go through ditches in his H.C car ,going from one site to another, watching concrete mixing plants mass- producing concrete, pouring its mix into open-top transport mixer. Then we traveled the dirt roads and ditches to the next site to watch the paving. We saw pile drivers operating, scapers leveling down to grade the steep hills of western Iowa, bulldozers pushing the loaded-down scapers. We saw bridge concrete poured on chilly fall days.

2  Unlike Reply



"Woman's Head" (1976)

An Ames icon first took shape in 1976, on the northeast corner of the Iowa DOT's complex. In 1998 and 1999, it was transformed into a more durable material. Learn how the Iowa DOT became home to Ames' most famous public art work: "Woman's Head."

Welcome to the Iowa DOT's virtual museum.

The virtual museum will highlight the art, artifacts, awards, and architecture collected and created by the Iowa DOT over the past 100 years and into the future. New items and structures will be featured every couple of months, giving the public a view of the Iowa DOT and Iowa's transportation infrastructure they may not have expected.

Please click one of the four tabs at the top of the page to get started with your tour. We hope that you will enjoy the items and stories shared here.

Thank you for visiting.

DOT 100th Anniversary Celebration

May 14, 2013



Iowa DOT Worker Memorial

June 16, 2014

**IOWA DOT
EMPLOYEE
MEMORIAL**

REDBUD TREE
HEIGHT: 20-25 FT
SPREAD: 25-30 FT
BLOOM: SPRING - EARLY SUMMER

CONCRETE PATH

PRECAST CONCRETE

PHALT

STEEL PLAQUES

DEMOLITION OF EXISTING
TO ADMIN
NEW GRASS LAWN
NEW MEMORIAL SITE

LYNN KNIGHT
1988

GARRET
2006

OLLIE MILLER
1953



A Journey in Transportation:

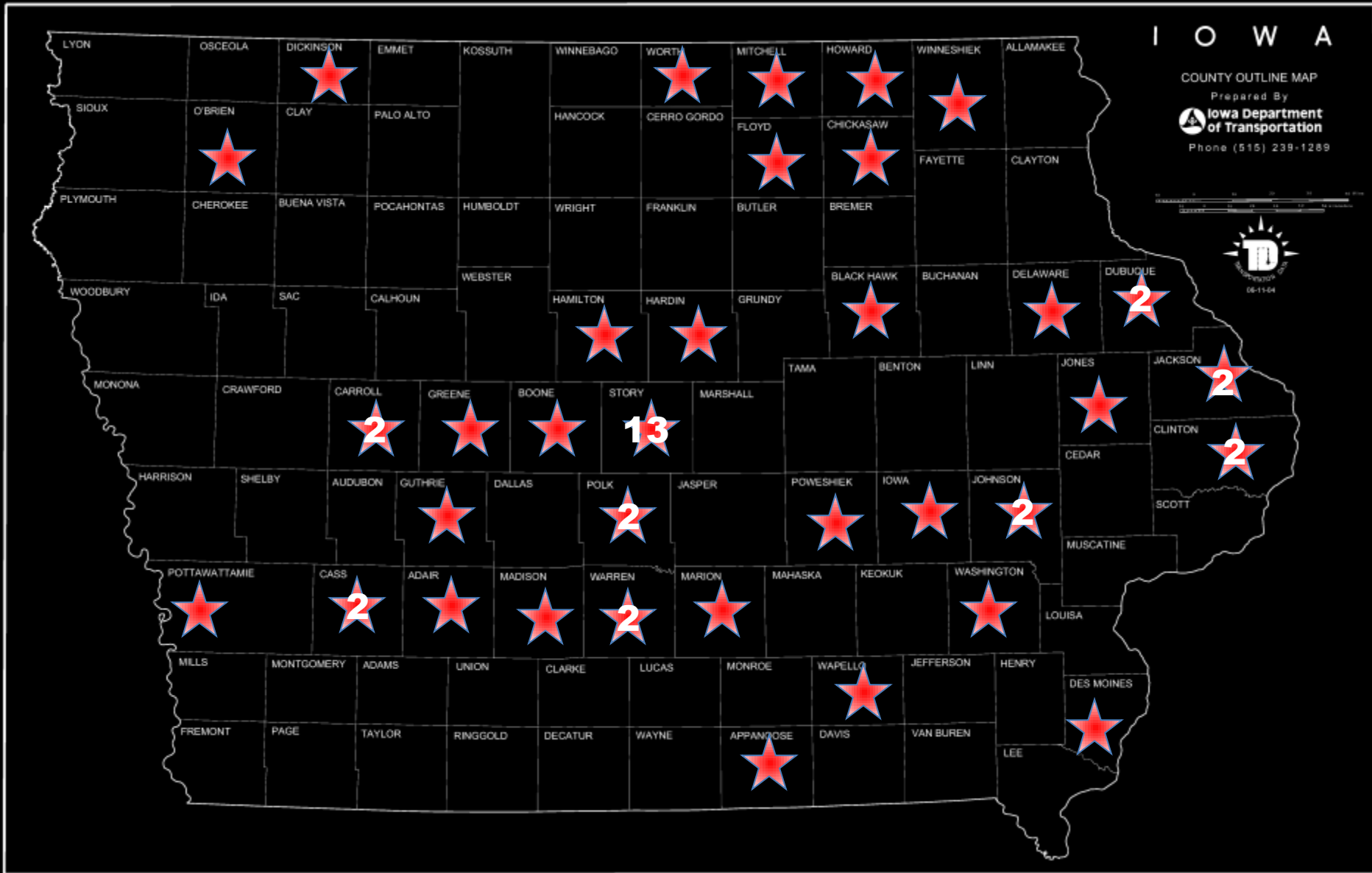
The Iowa Department of Transportation Centennial and Iowa Transportation History Highlights

Speaker

Date

Place

“I’ve Been Everywhere...”



Iowa DOT History Timeline



<http://www.iowadot.gov/history/home.html>



The Iowa Department of Transportation



Public
Transportation
*gets you where
you need to go*



2 Names, Several Additions, 1 Address (for 90 years)



Photos from Iowa DOT Digital Archives and
Iowa State University Geographic Information Systems Support & Research Facility



2 Names, Several Additions, 1 Address (for 90 years)



Photos from Iowa DOT Digital Archives and
Iowa State University Geographic Information Systems Support & Research Facility



2 Names, Several Additions, 1 Address (for 90 years)



Photos from Iowa DOT Digital Archives and
Iowa State University Geographic Information Systems Support & Research Facility



2 Names, Several Additions, 1 Address (for 90 years)



Iowa DOT History Highlights



Images (1) Videos (0) Audio (0)

April 1913

X



Anson Marston, first highway commissioner

THE IOWA STATE HIGHWAY COMMISSION (IHC) BECOMES AN INDEPENDENT STATE-ADMINISTERED ORGANIZATION

On April 9, 1913, the IHC separated from the Iowa State College, becoming an independent state-administered organization, managed by a three-member commission, comprised of Anson Marston, H.C. Beard and J.W. Holden.

1 of 10 stories ▶ began painting black center line on...

April 1913

1926

1960

1968

July 1974

1893

1906

1919

1940

1964

1970

1977

1984

1991

1999

2006





Iowa in the Mud



Iowa's Primary Roads, 1920-1930

Year	Miles	Paved	Gravel	Dirt
1920	6619	67	792	5760
1921	6616	236	1157	5224
1922	6615	334	1558	4723
1923	6641	419	1889	4333
1924	6660	502	2164	3994
1925	6674	569	2461	3644
1926	6654	650	2818	3186
1927	6665	940	3226	2499
1928	6761	1625	3221	1915
1929	6770	2317	3137	1216
1930	7274	3272	2863	1139

(Source: *Transportation in Iowa: A Historical Summary*. William H Thompson. Page 183.)



Pavement's Progress





Increased weights, few building codes



Images (1) Videos (0) Audio (0)

1926

X



BEGAN PAINTING BLACK CENTER LINE ON PRIMARY ROADS

In 1926, Iowa began painting a center black line on every mile of primary road pavement to reduce head-on collisions.

The Iowa State Highway Commission...

◀ 2 of 10 stories ▶

Locks and Dams on the Upper...

OF TRANSP

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sportation (lo

July 1974

1893 1906 1919 1940 1964 1970 1977 1984 1991 1999 2006





Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers

The first automobiles in Iowa were showcased at the Linn County Fair in 1899, and were slow to catch on in the state.

In what year did Iowa first require cars to be registered and display license tags or plates?

- A. 1900
- B. 1904
- C. 1908
- D. 1912



Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers

B. 1904



Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers

How many cars were registered in Iowa in 1904?

- A.1
- B.582
- C.931
- D.1398



Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers

C. 931



Johnson County Auto Routes



A Jour
9/3
Com

Iowa City's Auto Routes



Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers

When was the first automobile crash fatality in Iowa?

A.1903

B.1905

C.1907

D.1909



Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers

This was the first chapter of a tragic serial story that will never have an ending. The story of Iowa's first fatal motor vehicle accident. It occurred three miles south of Hampton on what is now Highway 65, on September 29, 1905. The driver, F. J. Harriman, a Hampton attorney, was killed when traveling 10 miles per hour. His truck, built by the first ever automobile plant, was on a hill. W. L. Ledford, W. L. Harrison and F. J. Harriman were the first three to have been an Oldsmobile.



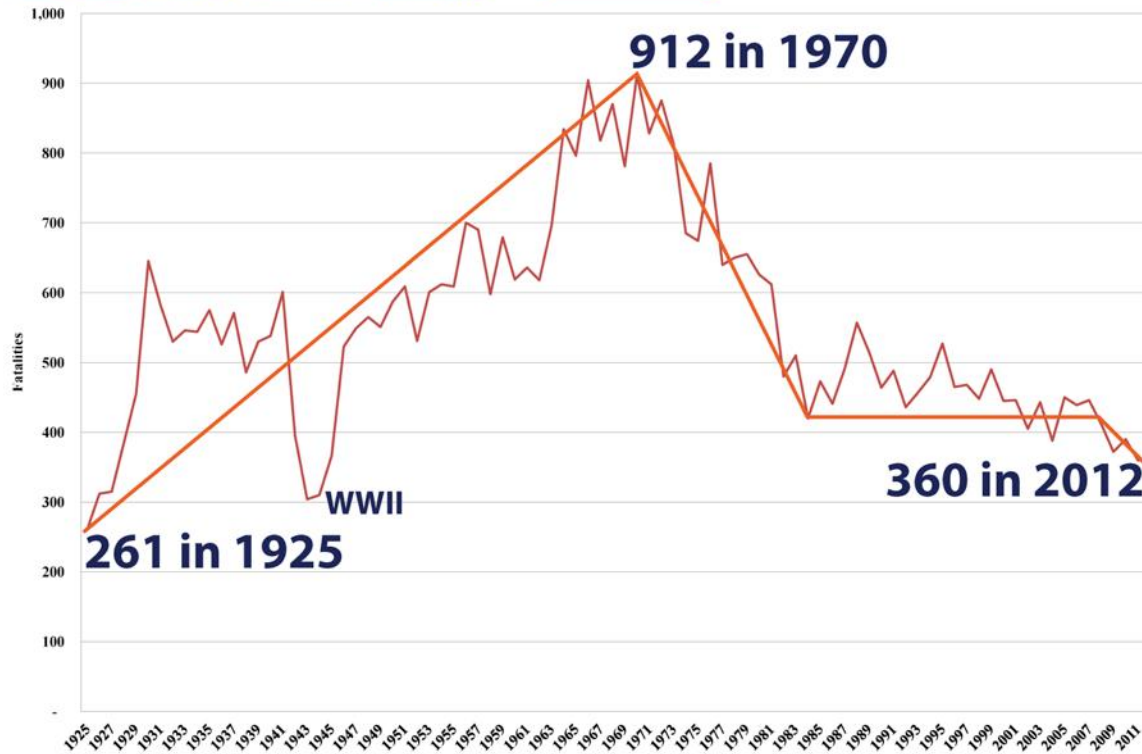
B. 1905



JOIN THE PLAN TO...
Save more lives



Fatality History Iowa 1925 - 2012



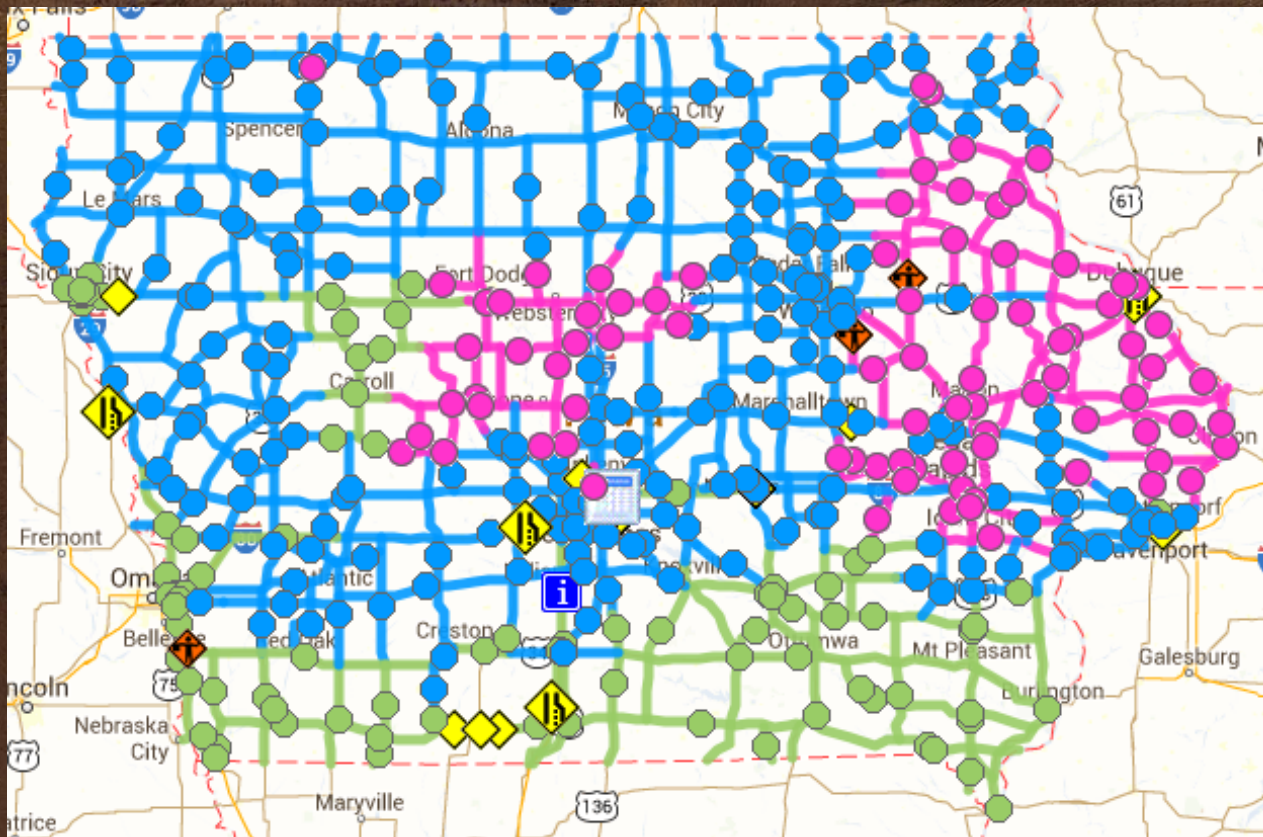
2013: 317



Iowa's 511

TRAVELER INFORMATION

CALL 511 OR 800-288-1047



<http://www.511ia.org/>

511 ON THE GO

511 easily viewed on mobile devices



Download the Iowa 511 smartphone app for iPhone and Android.



View the text-based version with cameras.



Other Modes of Transport in Iowa

Water
Rail
Trail
Transit
Air



Iowa Water Navigation

Images (3) Videos (0) Audio (0)

1930



Power Plant at Lock and Dam 19, Keokuk, on the Mississippi River



LOCKS AND DAMS ON THE UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

In 1930, Congress authorized a nine-foot channel project on the Mississippi River between Minneapolis-St. Paul, Minn., and the mouth of the Missouri River just above St. Louis, Mo.

The project became the responsibility of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Construction was performed primarily in the decade between 1930 and 1940, but, maintenance, improvements, and construction of auxiliary structures continue today. As a result of the Corps' completion of the initial massive project, there are now 29 locks and dams between Minneapolis-St. Paul and St. Louis.

Because the Mississippi falls approximately 420 feet in the 670 miles between Minneapolis and St. Louis, traffic heading south before the

began painting black center line on...

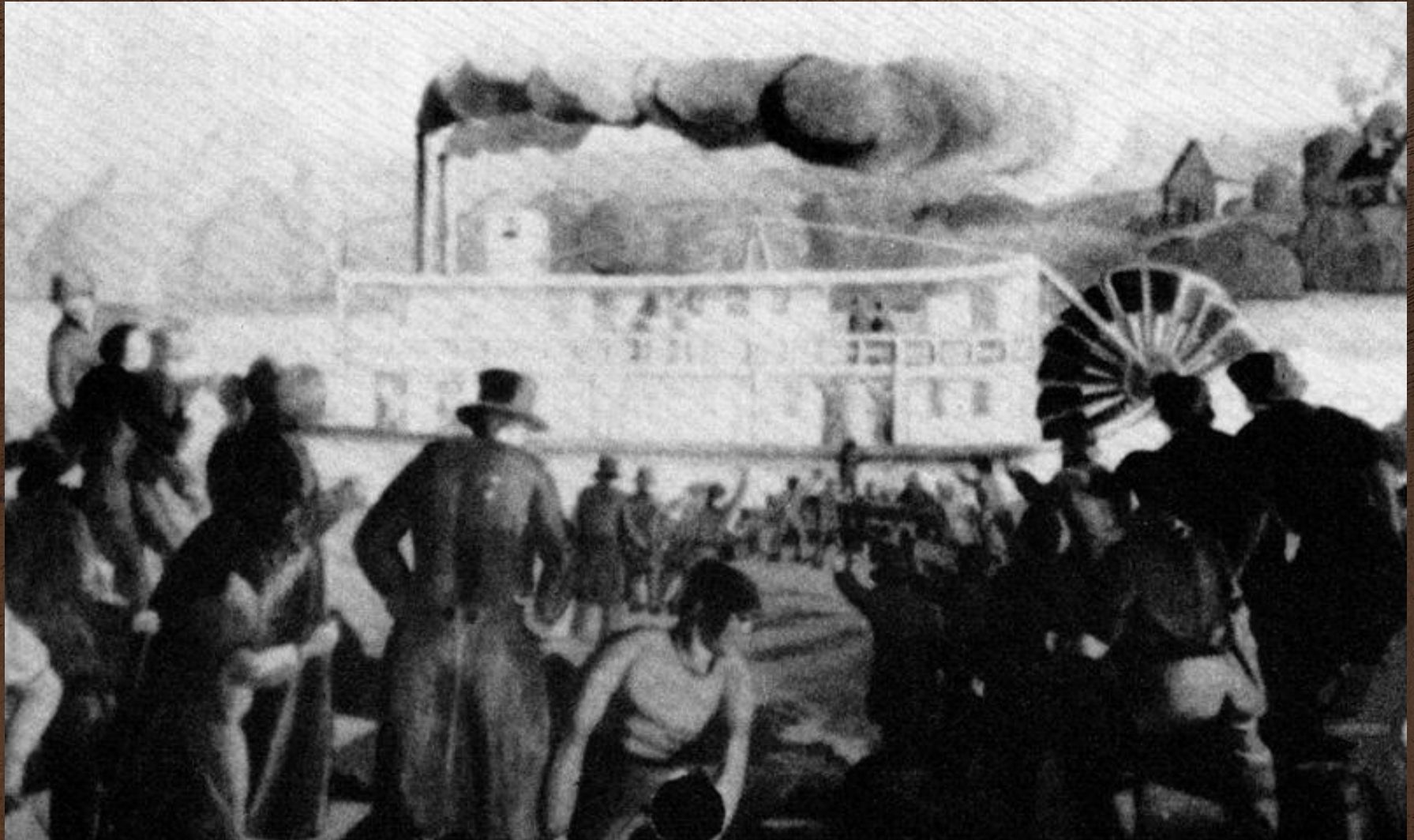
◀ 3 of 10 stories ▶

First operator's license

1893 1906 1919 1940 1964 1970 1977 1984 1991 1999 2006



Iowa City Water Navigation 1841

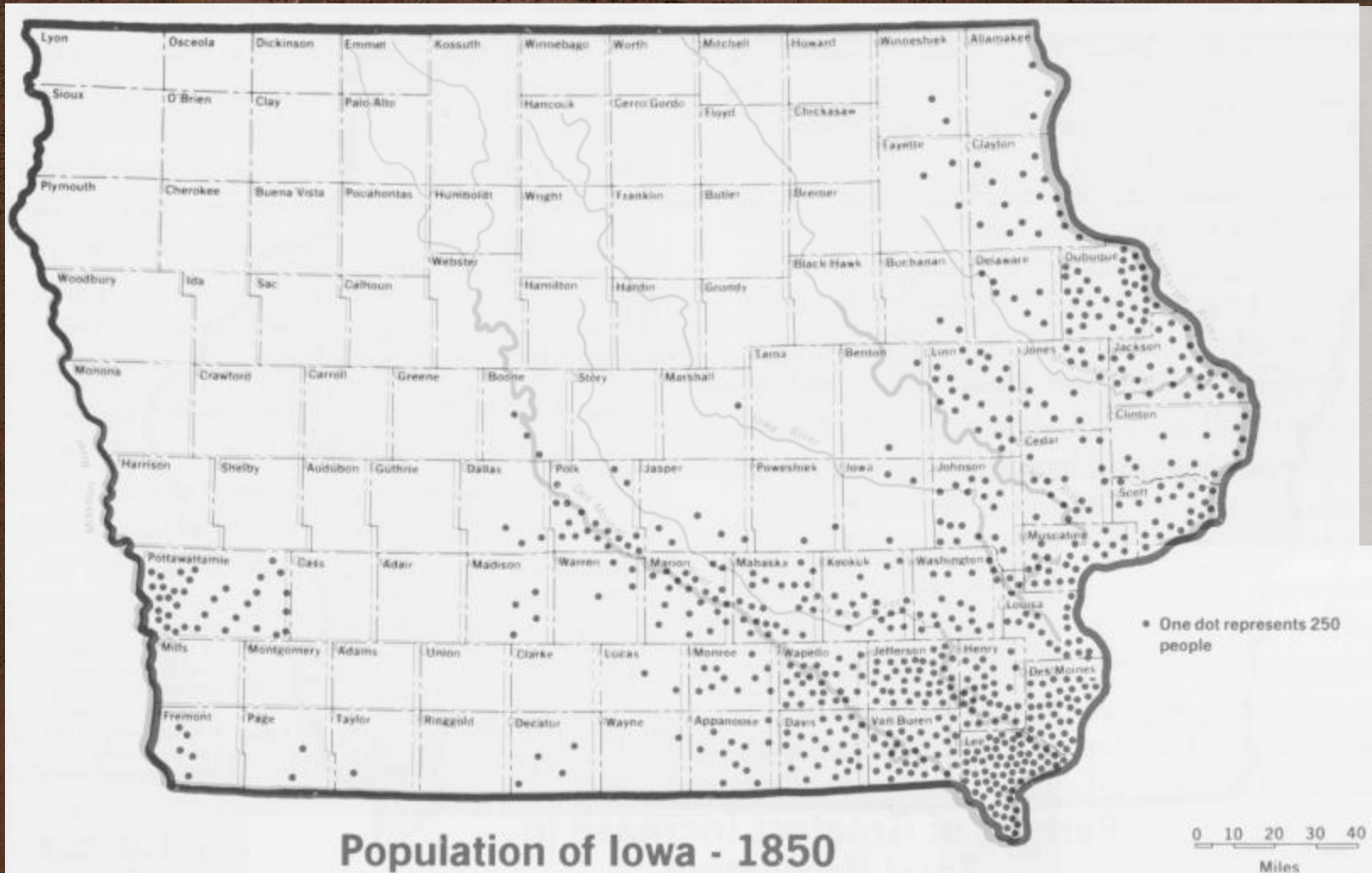


Mildred Pelzer, "Steamboat Ripple arrives," iagenweb.org/johnson/PostcardHibbs/Postcard16.htm

Iowa Water Navigation 1860s



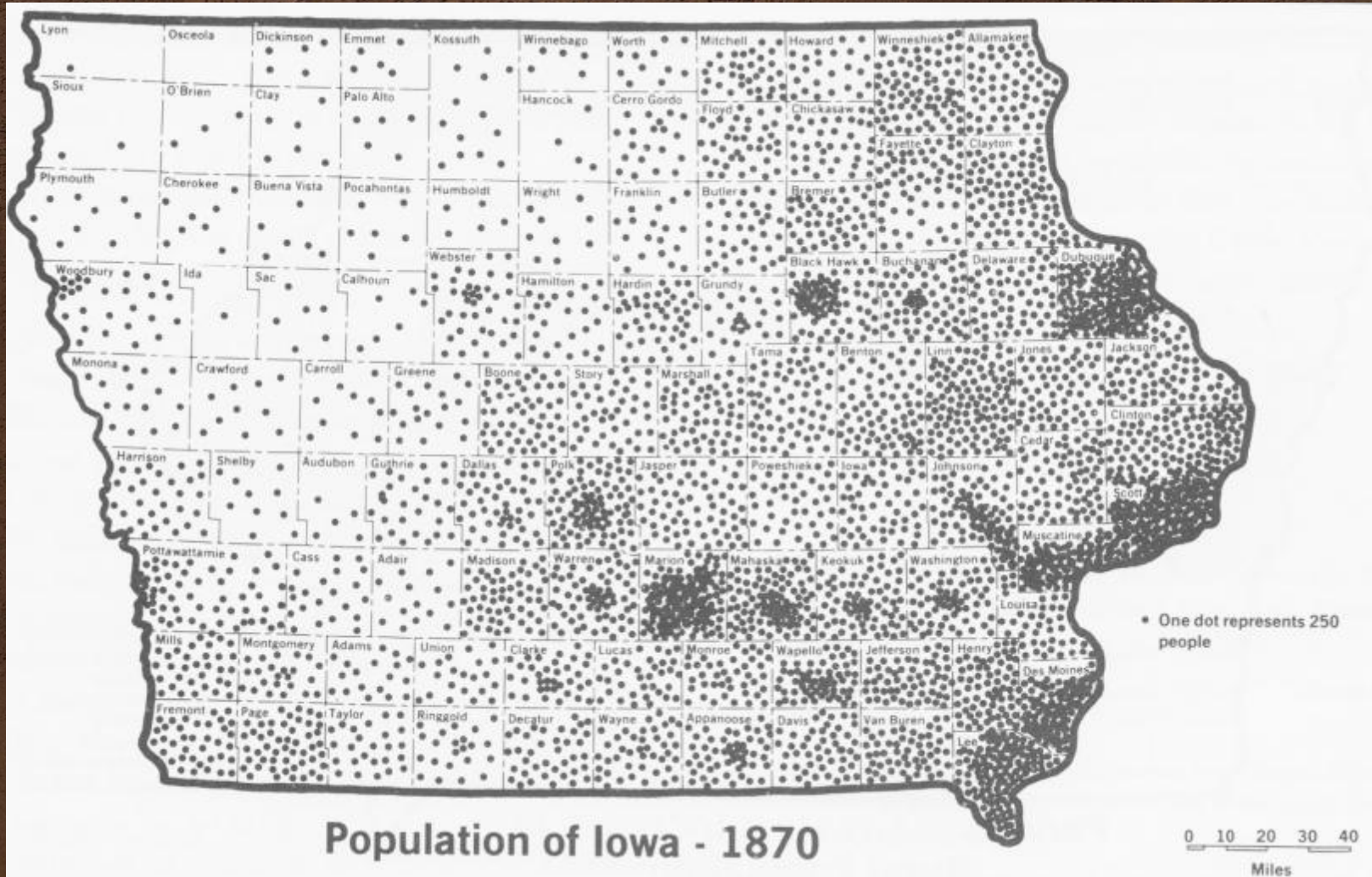
Iowa Population 1850s



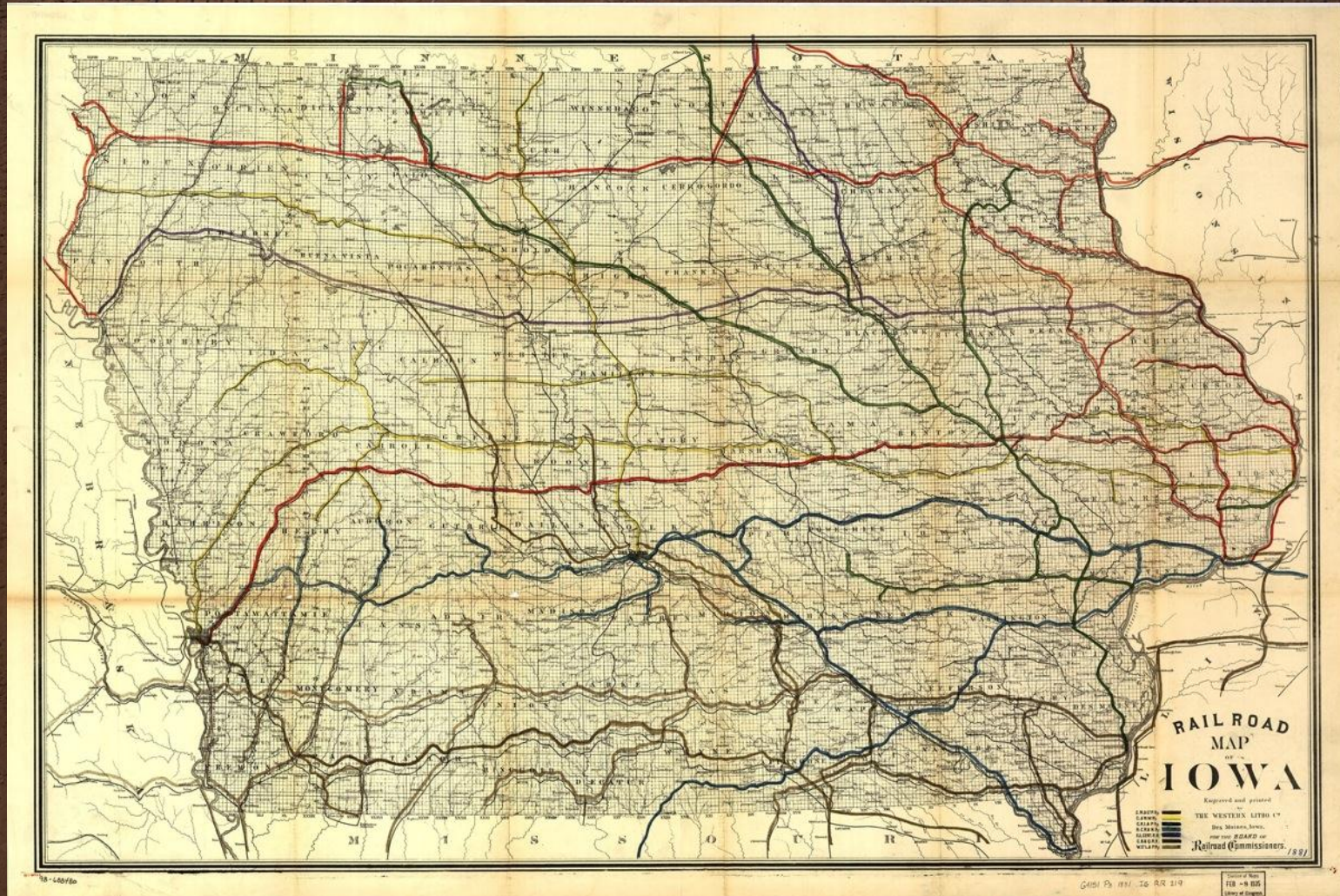
2013

years
Connecting people

Iowa Population 1870s



Iowa Rail Development and Impact



Iowa City Rail

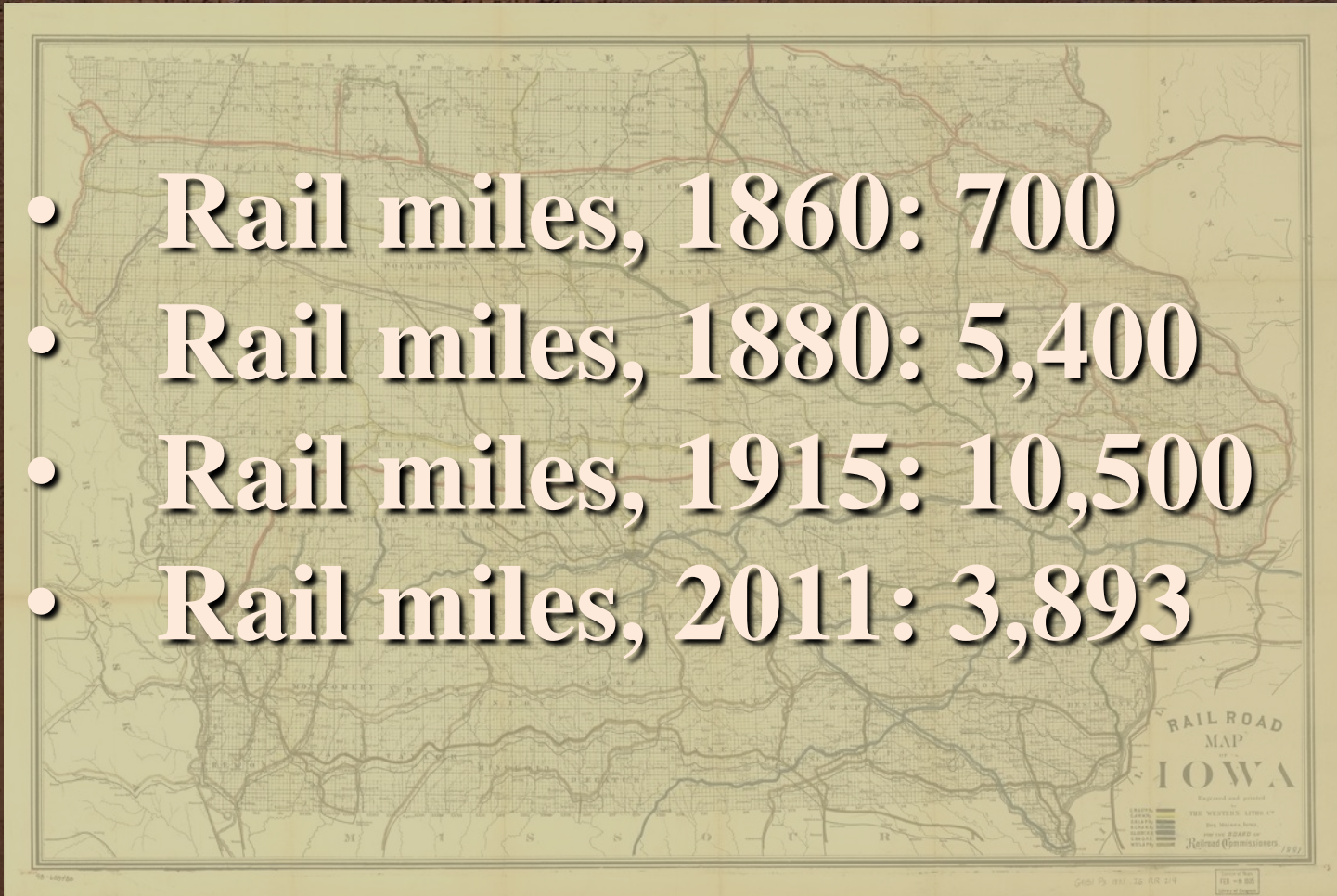


Doug Jones, Public Domain
<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SteamAtRockIsl andDepot.JPG>

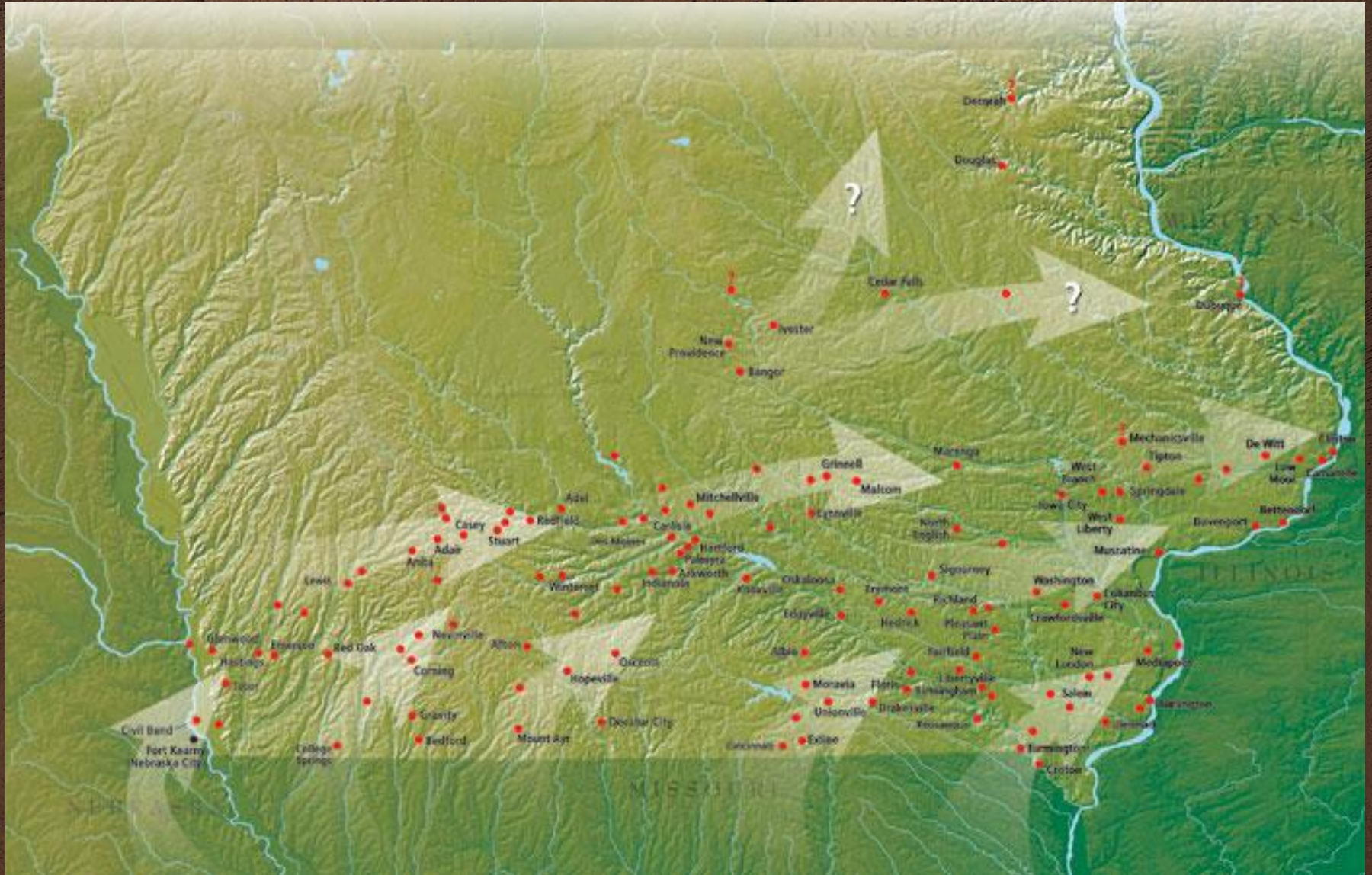


Iowa Rail Facts

- Rail miles, 1860: 700
- Rail miles, 1880: 5,400
- Rail miles, 1915: 10,500
- Rail miles, 2011: 3,893

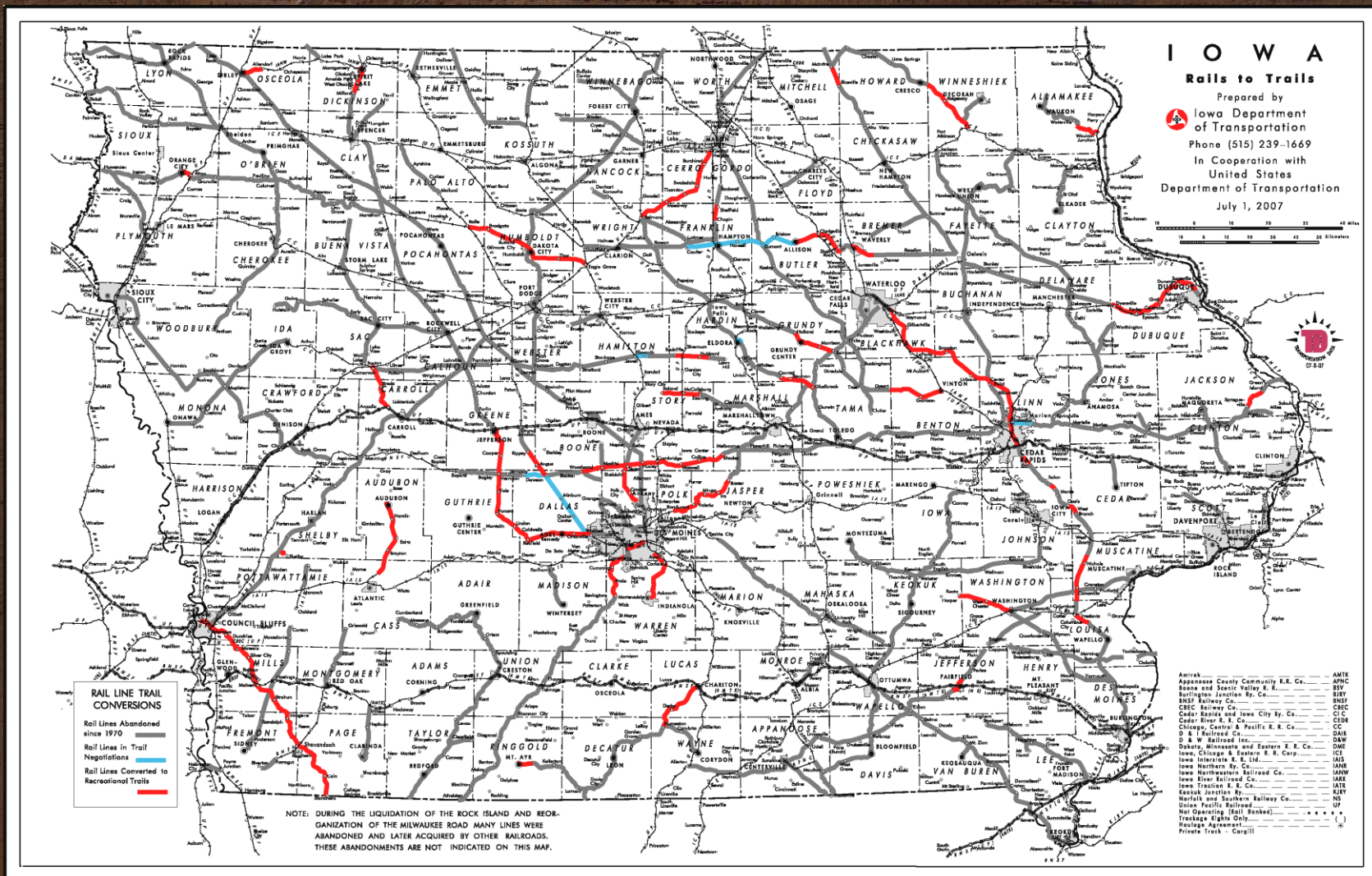


Iowa and the Underground Railroad



What Do We Do with Abandoned Rail Lines?

Rails to Trails



I O W A
Rails to Trails
 Prepared by
 Iowa Department
 of Transportation
 Phone (515) 239-1669
 In Cooperation with
 United States
 Department of Transportation
 July 1, 2007

RAIL LINE TRAIL CONVERSIONS

- Rail Lines Abandoned since 1970
- Rail Lines in Trail Negotiations
- Rail Lines Converted to Recreational Trails

NOTE: DURING THE LIQUIDATION OF THE ROCK ISLAND AND REORGANIZATION OF THE MILWAUKEE ROAD MANY LINES WERE ABANDONED AND LATER ACQUIRED BY OTHER RAILROADS. THESE ABANDONMENTS ARE NOT INDICATED ON THIS MAP.

- | | |
|---|-------|
| Amtrak | AMTK |
| Appanoose County Community R.R. Co. | APNC |
| Boone and Des Moines Valley R. R. | BRY |
| Buffalo Junction Ry. Co. | BJR |
| CB&Q Railway Co. | CB&Q |
| Cedar River R. R. Co. | CR |
| Chicago & North Western R. R. Co. | CN |
| D & M Railroad Co. | D&M |
| D & W Railroad Inc. | D&W |
| Dakota, Minnesota and Eastern R. R. Co. | DME |
| Iowa, Chicago & Eastern R. R. Corp. | IC&E |
| Iowa Interstate R. R. Ltd. | IIS |
| Iowa Northern R. R. | INR |
| Iowa Northwestern Railroad Co. | INW |
| Iowa River Railroad Co. | IR |
| Iowa Traction R. R. Co. | ITR |
| Keokuk Junction R. R. Co. | KJR |
| Norfolk and Southern Railway Co. | NS |
| Union Pacific Railroad | UP |
| Not Operating (Roll Banker) | ••••• |
| Trackage Rights Only | ••••• |
| Hoagland Agreement | ••••• |
| Private Trunk - Corral | ••••• |

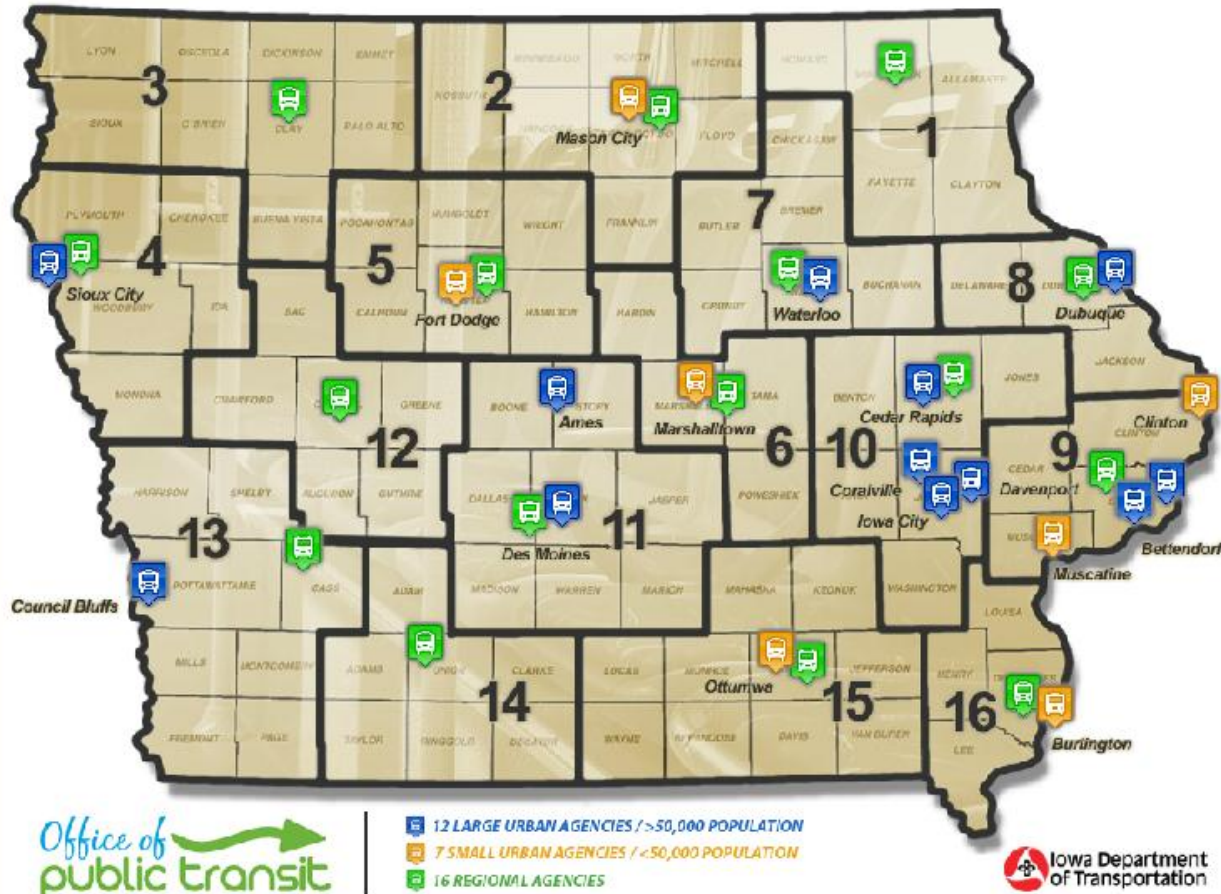


Iowa's Public Transit

Office of Public Transit

[Return to previous page](#)

Iowa's Public Transit System



Office of
public transit

Iowa Department
of Transportation



Iowa Aviation Events

- **First manned balloon - Hercules – 1856**
- **First man-carrying glider – 1898**
- **First powered airplane – 1910**
- **First licensed Black male pilot – 1924**
- **Iowa Aeronautics Commission – 1945**



<http://www.earlyaviators.com/banning.jpg>



Trivia Break 2: Iowa Contributions to National Transportation

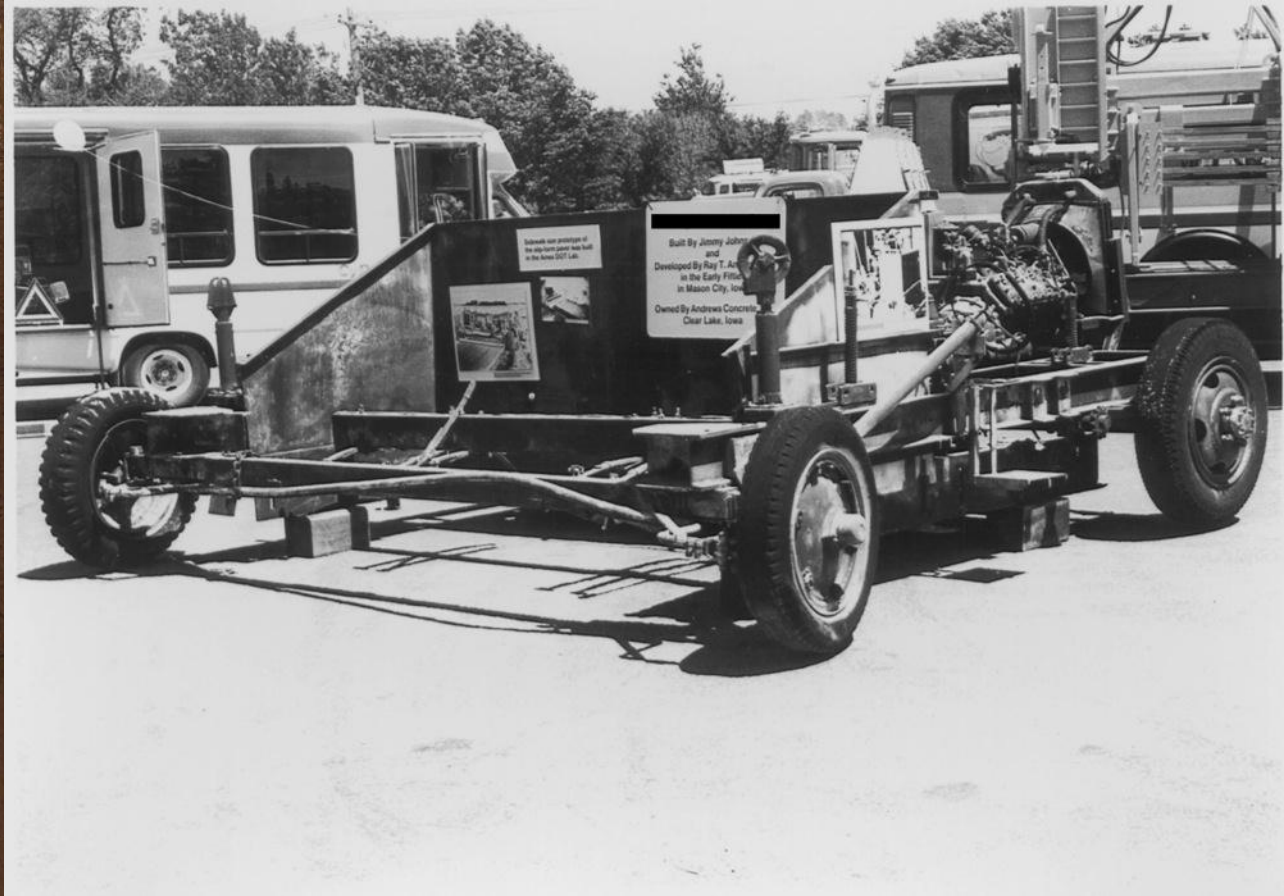
What
is
this?



- A. Dune Buggy
- B. Tree planter
- C. Corn detasseler
- D. Slip-form paver



Trivia Break 2: Iowa Contributions to National Transportation



D. Slip-form paver

http://www.iowadot.gov/50thpages/featured_articles.aspx?article=article3.txt



Trivia Break 2: Iowa Contributions to National Transportation

Which of these was first designed and deployed in Iowa?



Trivia Break 2: Iowa Contributions to National Transportation

Iowa DOT 100 years

ABOUT THIS TIMELINE

1965

IOWA HIGHWAY COMMISSION

Images (1) Videos (0) Audio (0)

December 1958



FIRST NO PASSING SIGN CREATED

In Dec. 1959 the Iowa State Highway Commission placed an experimental "No Passing Zone" sign on U.S. 30 from Clinton to the Missouri River.

The sign was created at a time when the organization was stressing the importance of highway safety through increased signage. The no passing pennant was adopted around the country and later included in the "Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Streets and Highways" which sets the standards for traffic signage across the nation.

I-35 construction begins ◀ 11 of 19 stories ▶ Highway Relocations (U.S. 30/Lincoln...)

December 1958

1960

November 1965

1966

1968

CONSTRUCTION

Between 1958 and 1975, several projects opening in the

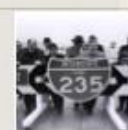
More →

SAFETY

FIRST NO PASSING SIGN CREATED

In Dec. 1959 the Iowa State Highway Commission placed an experimental "No Passing Zone" sign on U.S. 30 from Clinton to the Missouri River.

INTERSTATE



What
see-

More →

IOWA HIGHWAY COMMISSION

THIS IS YOUR HIGHWAY VIDEO

In 1968, the Iowa State Highway Commission (IHC), created and released "This is YOUR Highway" video.



Iowa DOT History Highlights: Recent Decades

Iowa DOT 100 years

The Sioux Calumet

ABOUT THIS TIMELINE



TRANSPORTATION

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION CREATED

65th Iowa General created the Iowa Department of Transportation (DOT), albeit through

More →

1974

IOWA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



CEREMONIAL PIPE (CALUMET) PRESENTED TO

On Sept. 11, 1982, Hereditary Chief Ernest Wabasha VII of the Mdwakanton Dakota tribe and Maria

More →

September 1982

1967

March 1975

1971

1981

Iowa DOT History Highlights: Recent Decades

The U.S. 20 Bridge at the Iowa River

The screenshot shows an interactive timeline interface. At the top, it reads "Iowa DOT 100 years" and "ABOUT THIS TIMELINE". Below the title "The U.S. 20 Bridge at the Iowa River", there are two category tabs: "MOTOR VEHICLE" and "INTERSTATES". The main content is a watercolor illustration of the U.S. 20 Bridge, a long concrete viaduct with multiple piers, crossing a river. The riverbank is lush with green trees and grass. In the foreground, a small boat with two people is on the water. To the left of the illustration, there is a text box that says "EGAN PAINT CENTER LINE" and "1926, Iowa began to paint a center line on every road to reduce accidents". Below this, there are two more text boxes, one partially visible with "Y" and "d ning". To the right of the illustration, there is a text box that says "EEN" and "the as 7. 11, 3 →". Below the illustration, there is a timeline bar with markers for 1926, 1906, 1968, and 1979. To the right of the timeline bar, there is a text box that says "Y COMMISSION" and "THIS IS YOUR COMMISSION". Below this, there is a text box that says "In 1968, the Iowa Department of Transportation (IHDOT) released 'This is Your Commission'".

<http://www.iowadot.gov/iowariverbridge/Downloads/article.pdf>



Iowa DOT History Highlights: Recent Decades

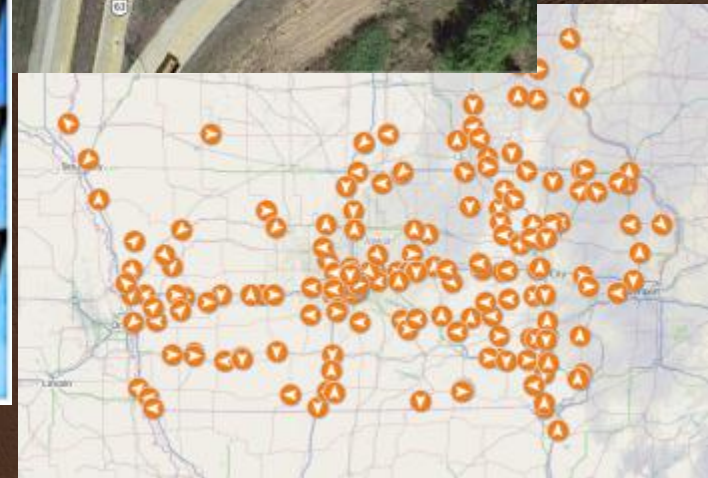
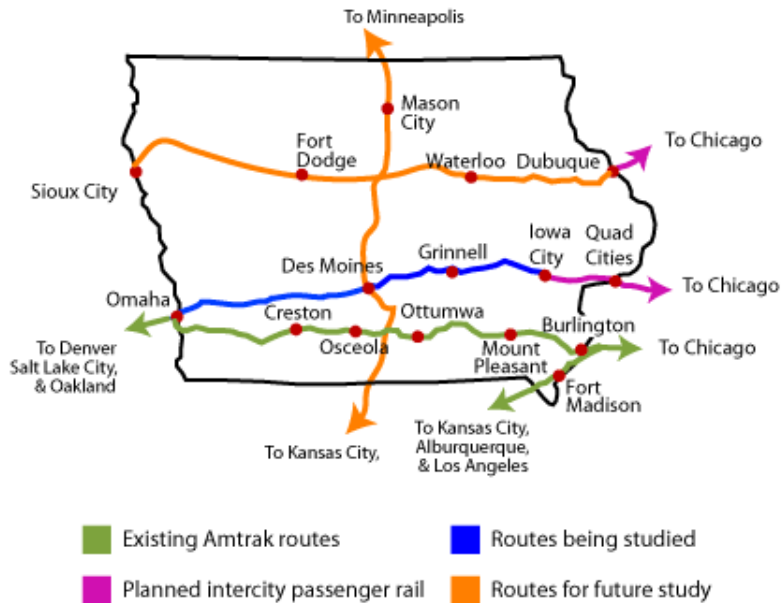
The U.S. 20 Bridge at the Iowa River

The screenshot shows a digital timeline interface for the Iowa DOT's 100th anniversary. At the top, it says "Iowa DOT 100 years" and "ABOUT THIS TIMELINE". Below this are two tabs: "MOTOR VEHICLE" and "INTERSTATES". The main content area features a large, central photograph of the U.S. 20 Bridge at the Iowa River, showing its steel structure and construction workers. To the left of the photo, a text box reads: "EGAN PAINTING BLACK CENTER LINE ON PRIMARY PAVEMENT" and "1926, Iowa began painting a black line on every mile of primary pavement to reduce head-on collisions." Below this is a "MODAL TRANSPORTATION" section with a small image of a road. To the right of the photo, another text box reads: "ION BETWEEN DES MOINES" and "ceremony for the opening of Interstate 35 from Des Moines took place on Nov. 11," with a "More" button. Below the photo is a "IOWA HIGHWAY COMMISSION" section with a small image and text: "THIS IS YOUR COMMISSION" and "In 1968, the Iowa Highway Commission (IHC) released 'This is Iowa'." At the bottom of the screenshot is a horizontal timeline with markers for 1906, 1913, 1926, 1965, 1968, 1970, and 1979.



The Future?

Passenger Rail Service in Iowa



<http://www.iowadot.gov/iowarail/passenger/visionplan.htm>

<http://www.iowadot.gov/roundabouts/roundabouts.htm>

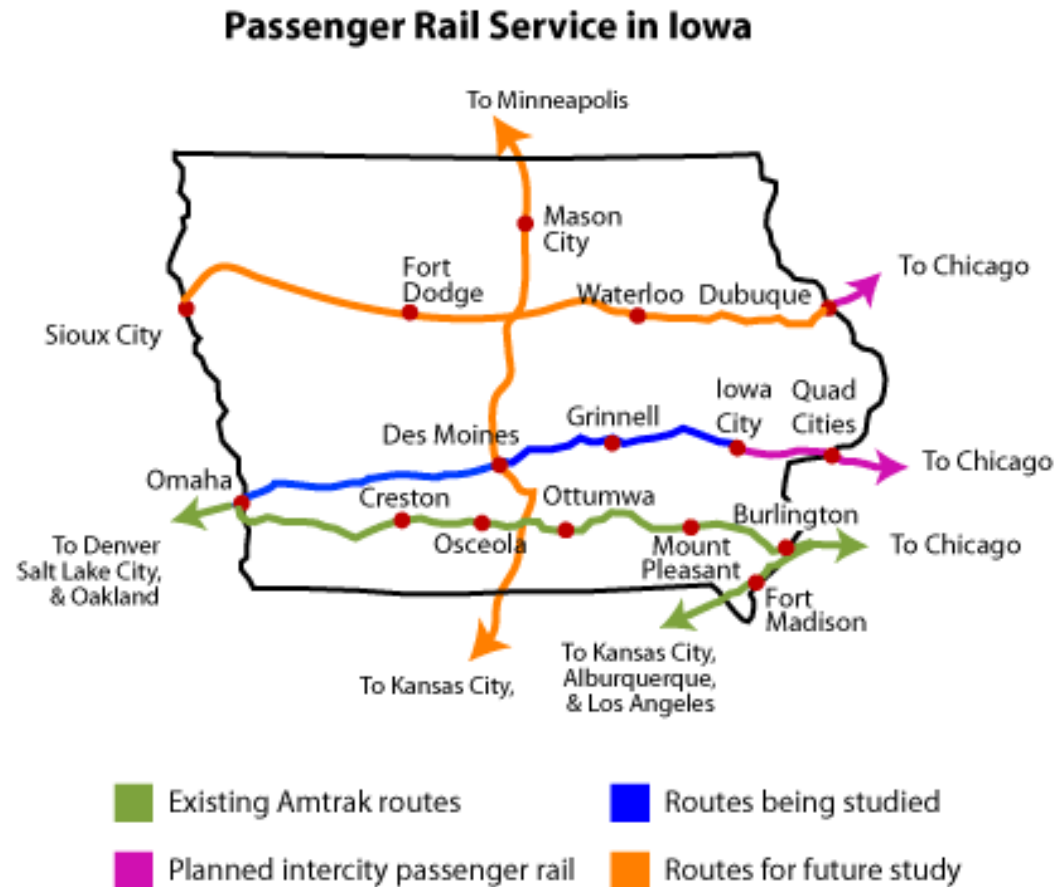
<http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ods/flashingyellowarrow.html>

Bettendorf, Iowa roundabout: Google Maps



Future Passenger Rail?

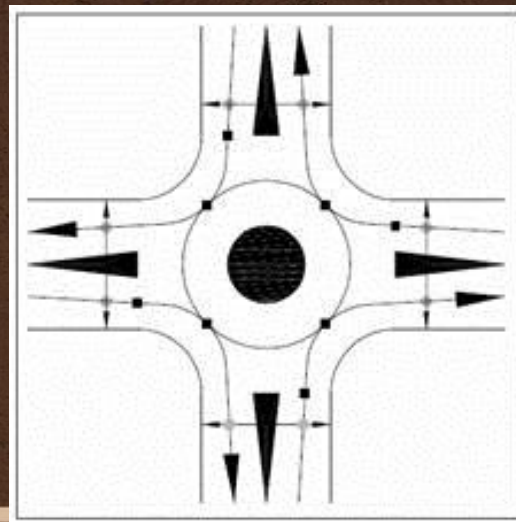
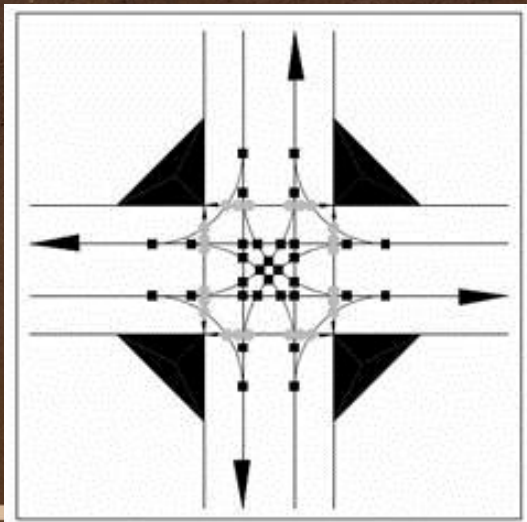
<http://www.iowadot.gov/iowarail/passenger/visionplan.htm>



Future Roundabouts

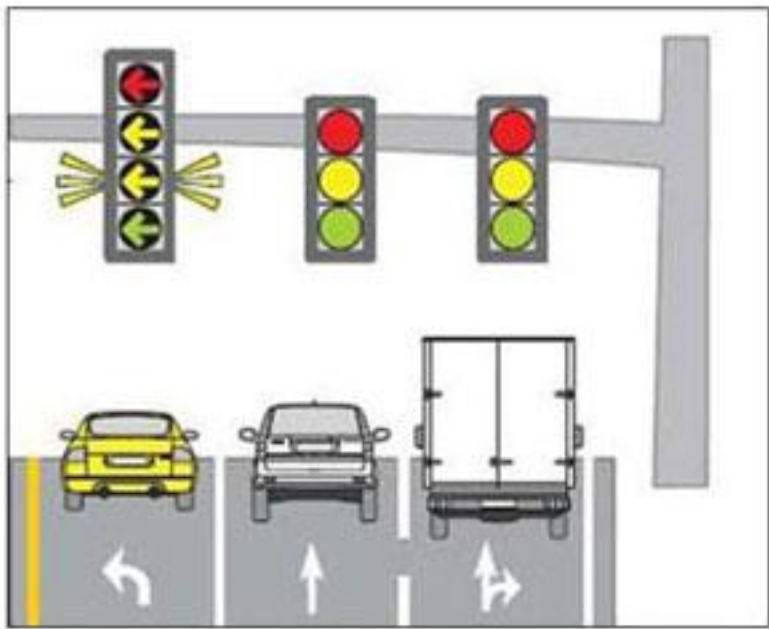
<http://www.iowadot.gov/roundabouts/roundabouts.htm>

<http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/8.5x11BROCHURE.pdf>



Future Flashing Yellow Left Arrows

<http://www.iowadot.gov/mvd/ods/flashingyellowarrow.html>



Stop and wait your turn

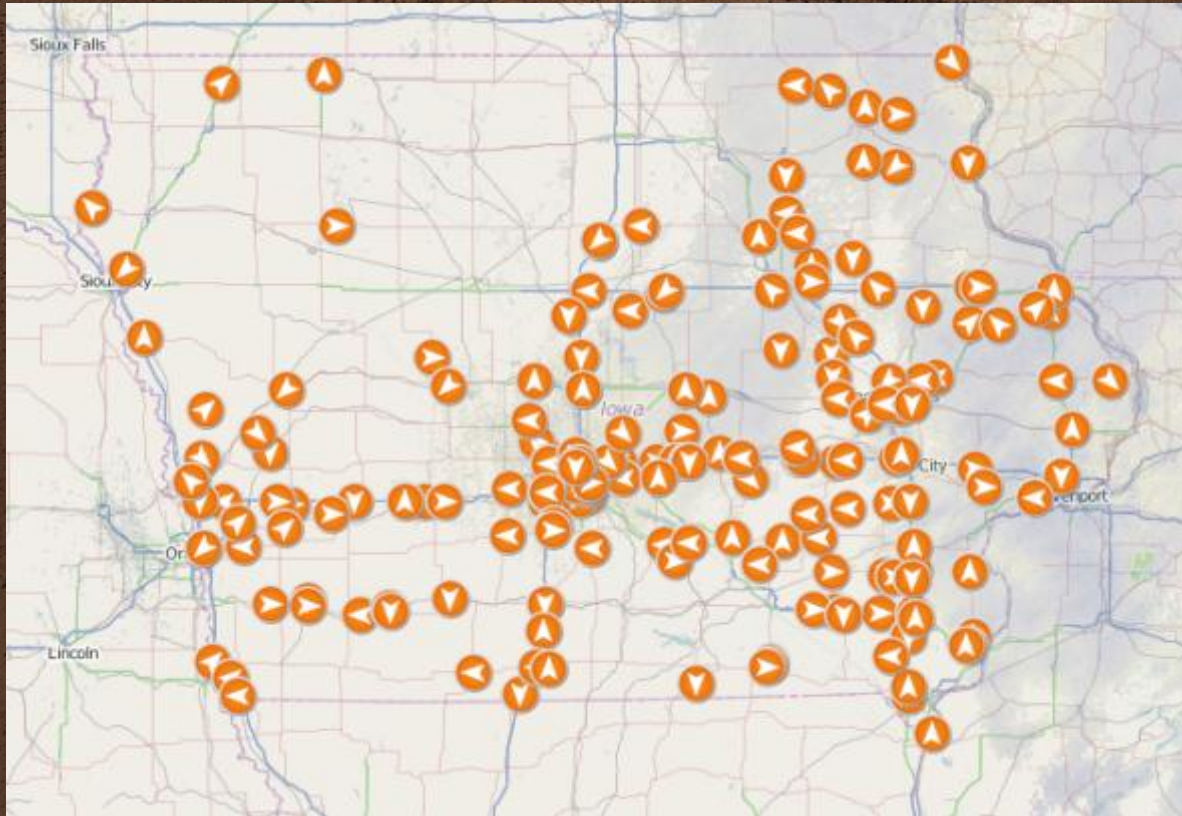
Left turn about to become red

Yield to oncoming traffic and pedestrians

Make Left turn, oncoming traffic is stopped.

Current Snowplow Locations

<http://www.iowadot.gov/travel.html#/winterdriving>



Go to Winter Driving
page

Click on “Snowplow
Locations”



Your Turn:

DOT History Conversations

You can:

- Learn more
 - <http://www.iowadot.gov/history/home.html>
- Comment on a story
- Share using Facebook, Twitter, and Pinterest
- Email: dot.library@dot.iowa.gov
- Put a stamp on it:
 - Iowa DOT Library, attn: 100th Anniversary, 800 Lincoln Way, Ames, IA 50010



Celebrating Transportation History in Iowa

Being a Short Travelogue on The Iowa DOT Librarian's Experience
in Cultural Outreach & Notes to Future Travellers

Thank you.
Questions?

www.iowadot.gov/history/home.html

