



City of Grand Island

Tuesday, June 11, 2013

Council Session

Item C-1

Recognition of Lincoln Highway – Grand Island Seedling Mile to the National Register of Historic Places

The following summary paragraph was submitted in the application to the National Register of Historic Places for the Lincoln Highway - Grand Island Seedling Mile:

"The Lincoln Highway was envisioned to be a paved, toll free cross-country highway. Organized by the Lincoln Highway Association, which was founded in 1913, supporters propelled the highway into national significance as the nation's first transcontinental automobile route. In one of its earliest and most enthusiastic promotional devices, the Lincoln Highway Association conceived the "Seedling Mile" program just one year following the organization and routing of the Lincoln Highway. The Seedling Mile program demonstrated the value of improved roads, not only to area motorists but also to those traversing the highway long distance. The roadway represents a single event - the construction of Nebraska's first Seedling Mile - and a pattern of events - the Lincoln Highway Association's promotional scheme to demonstrate the value of improved roads. It was also an early "object lesson" in the use of concrete as a permanent, all-weather road surface. The Grand Island section of Seedling Mile, constructed in 1915, was the first of only three that were approved and built in the state. No other example of a Seedling Mile is known to be extant in any of the five states that built Seedling Miles."

On April 24, 2013 the Lincoln Highway - Grand Island Seedling Mile was officially listed on the National Register of Historic Places through the United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service. Mayor Vavricek will present the Hall County Historical Society with a certificate denoting this honor.

Staff Contact: Mayor Jay Vavricek

*The Nebraska State Historical Society
and the
United States Department of the Interior,
National Park Service*

certify that the

*Lincoln Highway—Grand Island Seedling Aile
is listed in the
National Register of Historic Places*



April 24, 2013

Date listed

Michael J. Smith
State Historic Preservation Officer