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

A Journey in Transportation
1913 Iowa Department of Transportation 2013
100 years
Connecting people

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 T UPPER MISSISSIPPI RIV

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

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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 VEH

41 | July 1891 | April 1911 | April 1913 | 1926 | 1930

1832 | 1904 | 1926 | 1937 | 1958 | 1960 | 1967

Anniversary materials and coverage | Contact

Conversations

Join the discussion about Iowa's journey through transportation history

Explore

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

RSS feed

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 Iowan's 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...

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livefyre

leightonlc

2 people listening

@ + Follow in 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 Constrution 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

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Virtual museum

Architecture | Artifacts | Arts | Awards

"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.

IOWA DOT

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ey in Transportation
100 years
Iowa Department of Transportation 2013
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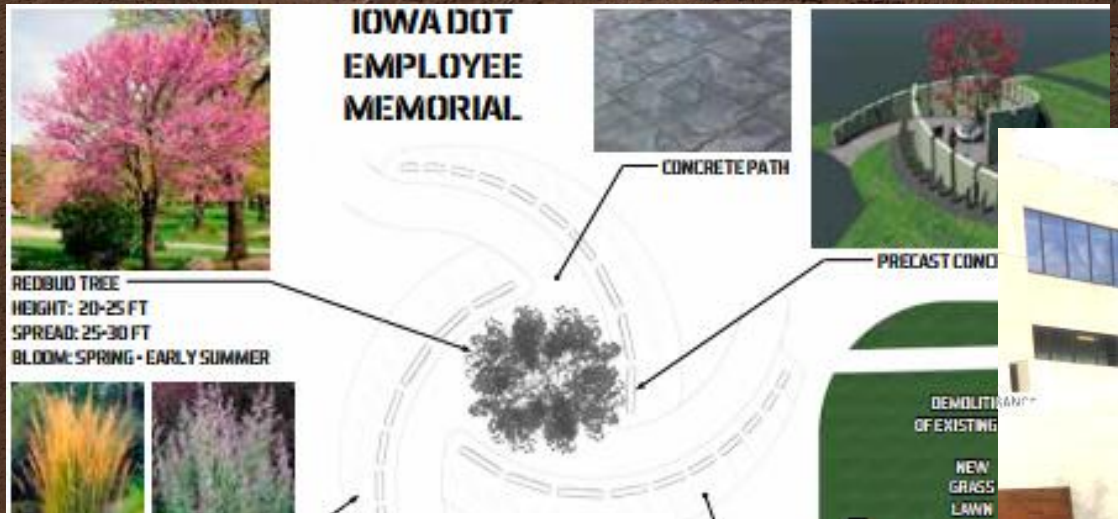
DOT 100th Anniversary Celebration
May 14, 2013

Keven Arrowsmith

Iowa DOT Worker Memorial

June 16, 2014



Leighton Christiansen

A Journey in Transportation:

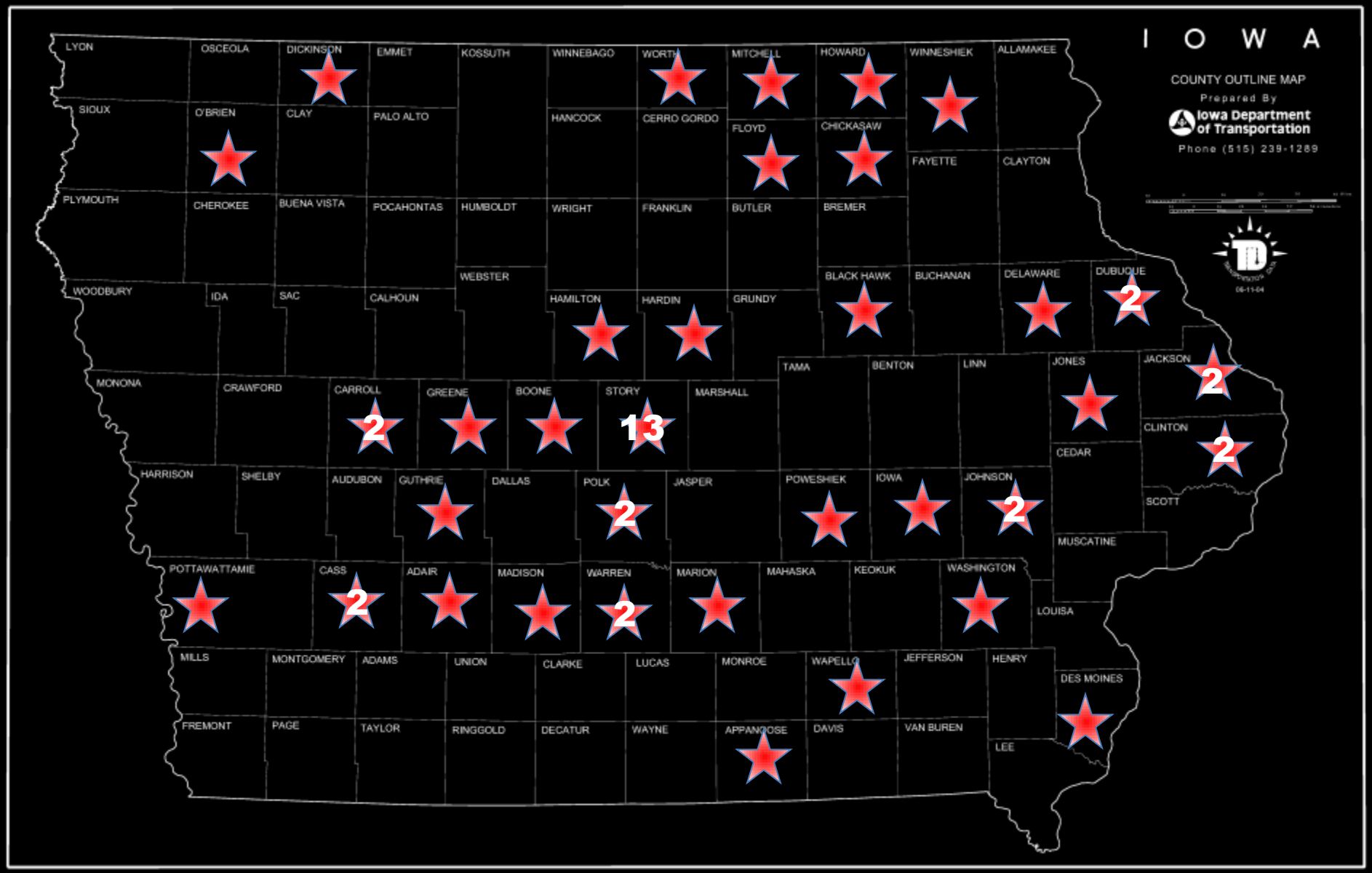
The Iowa Department of Transportation Centennial and Iowa Transportation History Highlights

Speaker

Date

Place

“I’ve Been Everywhere…”



Iowa DOT History Timeline

http://wwwa.iowadot.gov/history/home.html

The Iowa Department of Transportation

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

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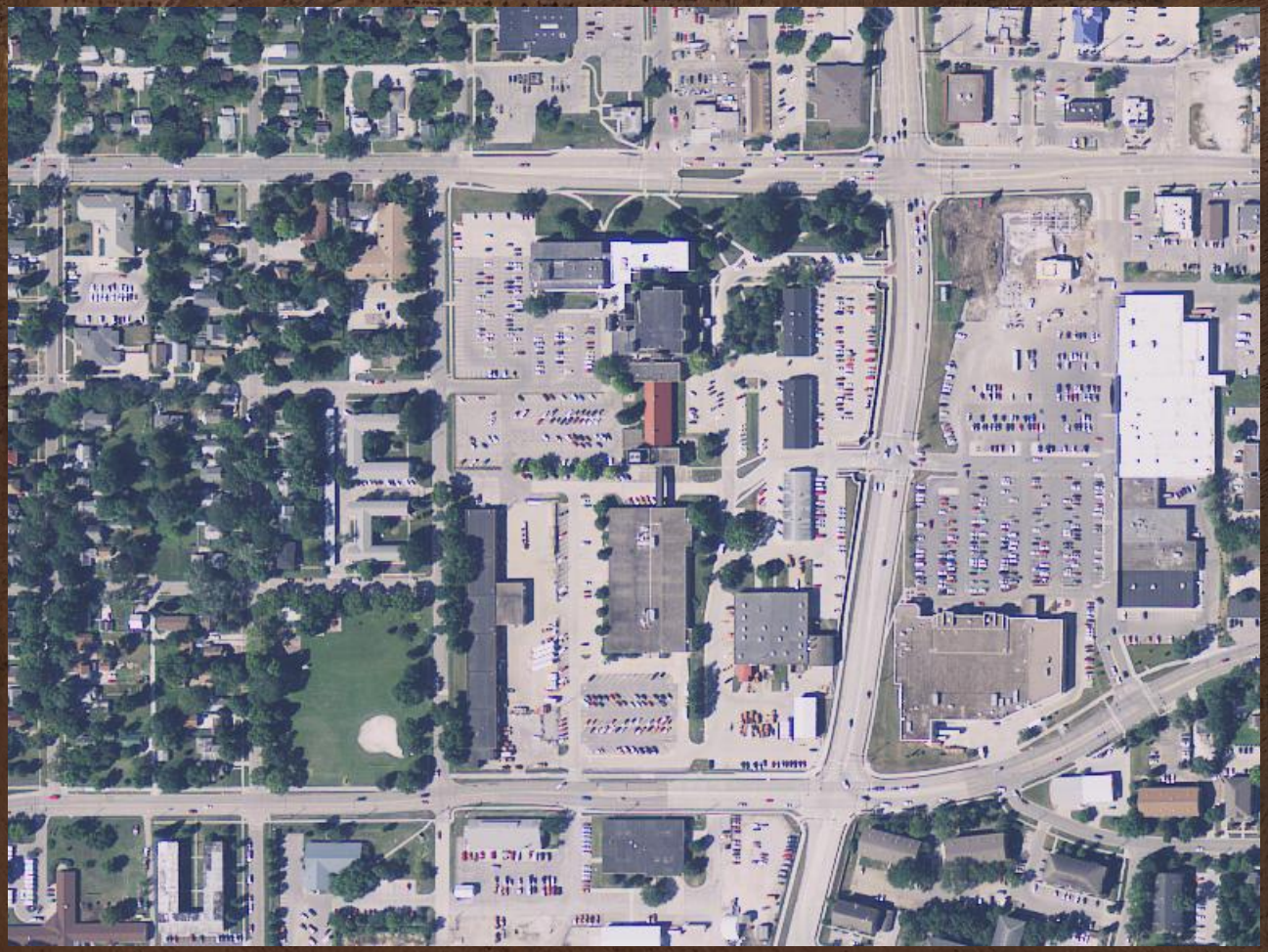

Photos from Iowa DOT Digital Archives and
Iowa State University Geographic Information Systems Support & Research Facility

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

Leighton Christiansen

Iowa DOT History Highlights

http://wwwa.iowadot.gov/history/home.html

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

April 1913

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

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Iowa in the Mud

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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

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100 years
Connecting people

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

1926

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...

July 1974

1893 1906 1919 1940 1964 1970 1977 1984 1991 1999 2006

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Connecting people

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

Leather License Plates http://www.leatherlicenseplates.com/Iowa_files/107_0275_1.JPG

Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers

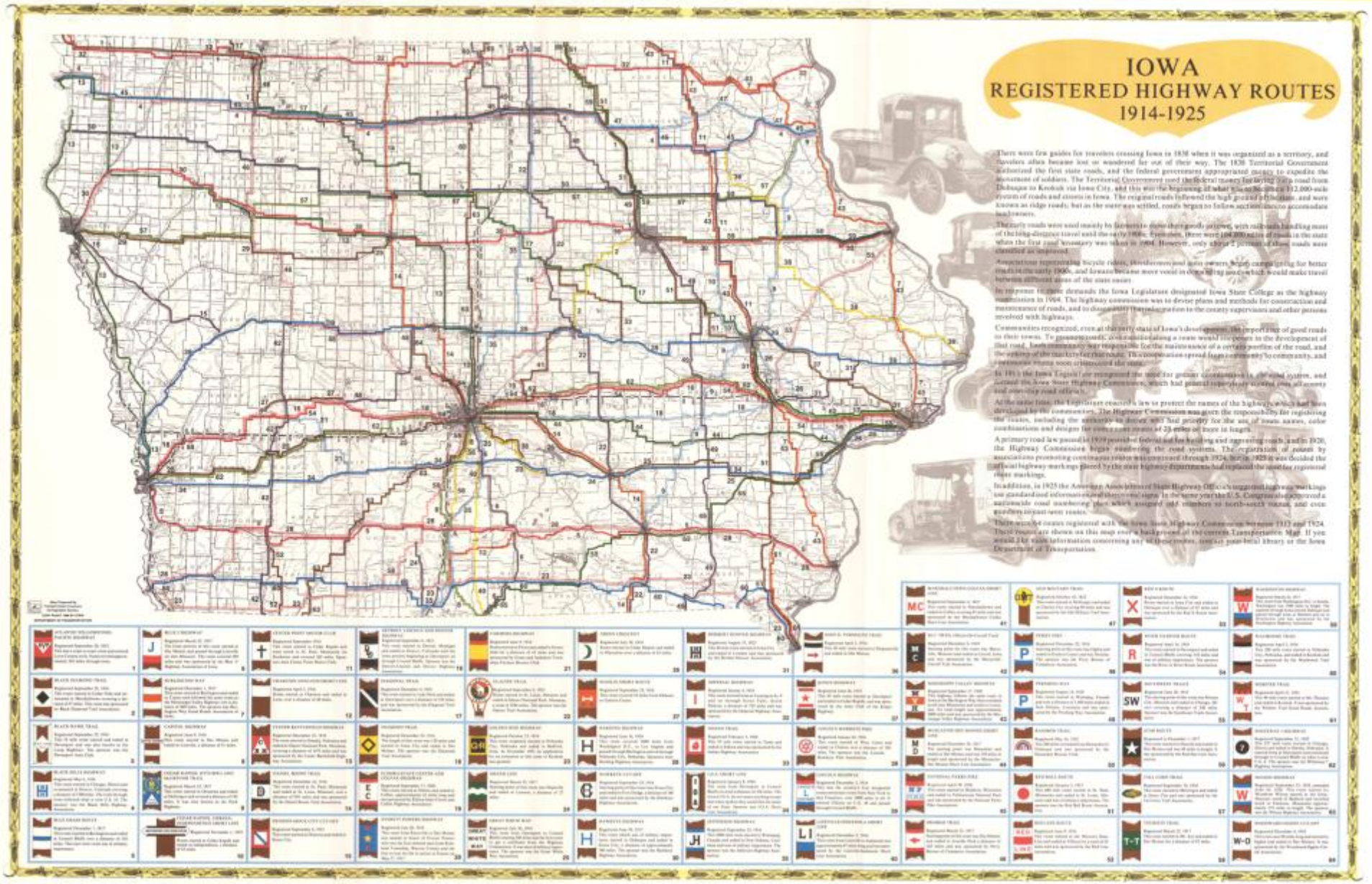
How many cars were registered in Iowa in 1904?

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

Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers
C. 931

https://sites.google.com/site/mitchellcohistoricalsociety/cedar-valley-memories

Iowa's Historic Auto Routes



Johnson County Auto Routes

Iowa City's Auto Routes

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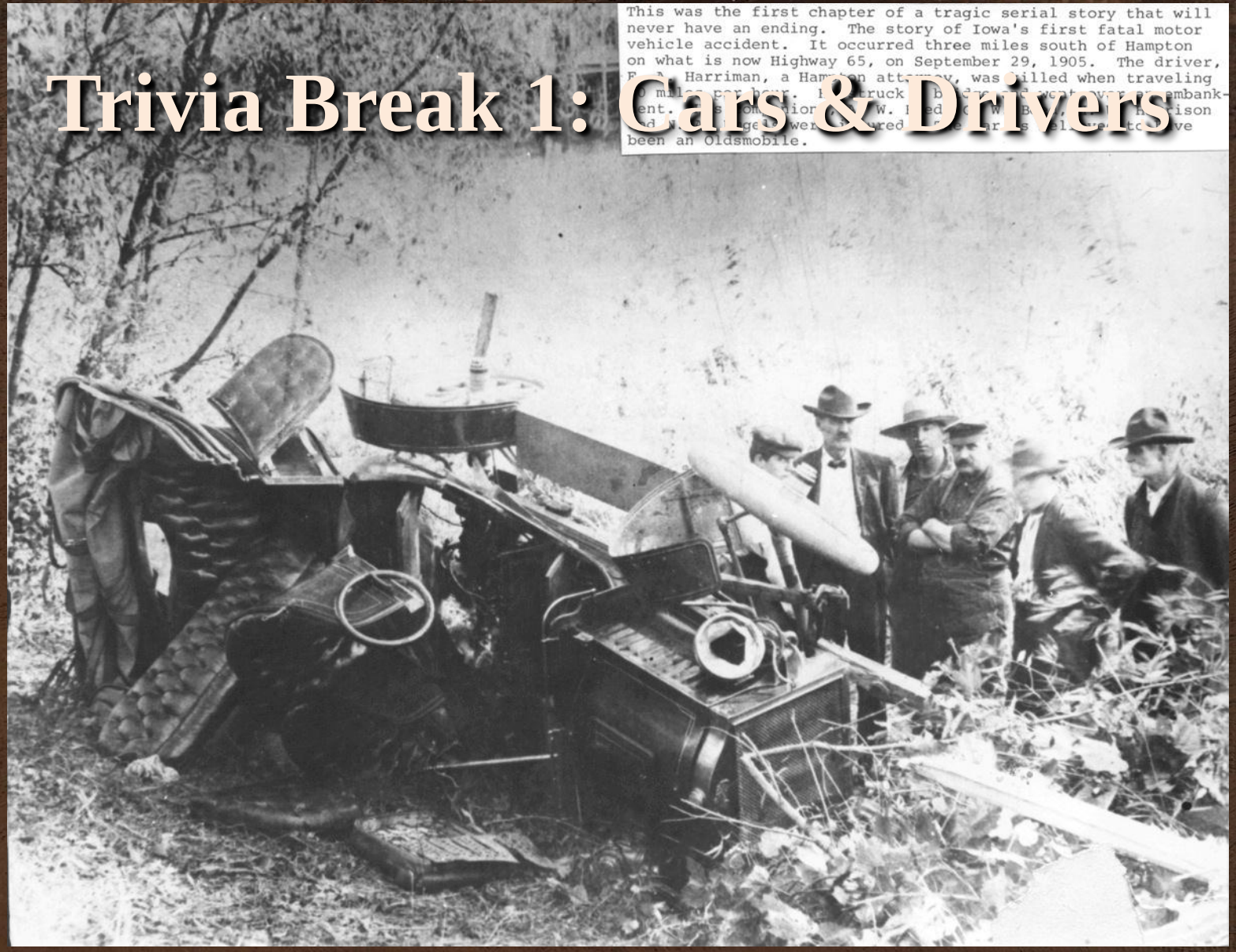
Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers

When was the first automobile crash fatality in Iowa?

A. 1903
B. 1905
C. 1907
D. 1909

Trivia Break 1: Cars & Drivers



B. 1905

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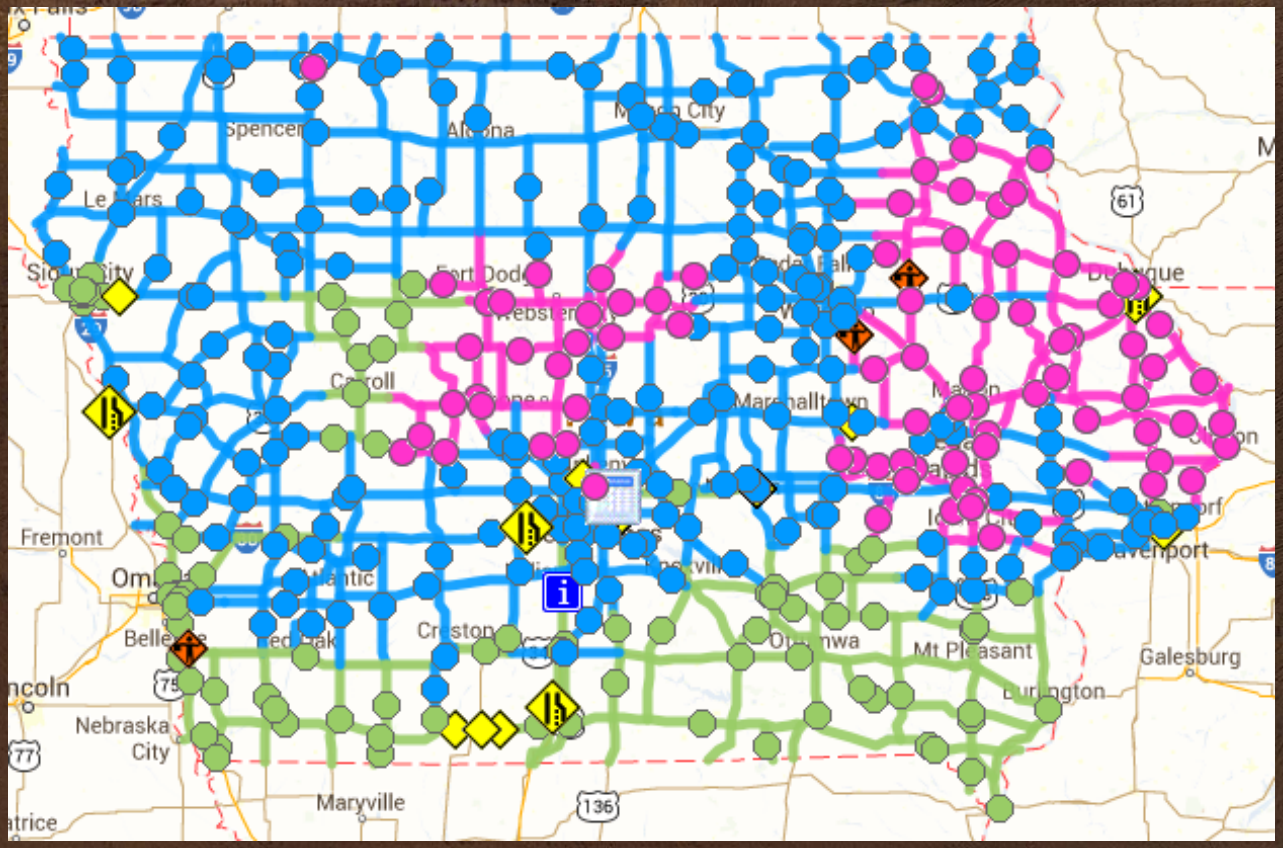
JOIN THE PLAN TO...
Save more lives
Fatality History
Iowa 1925 - 2012
912 in 1970
WWII
261 in 1925
360 in 2012
Fatalities
1,000
900
800
700
600
500
400
300
200
100
-
1925 1927 1929 1931 1933 1935 1937 1939 1941 1943 1945 1947 1949 1951 1953 1955 1957 1959 1961 1963 1965 1967 1969 1971 1973 1975 1977 1979 1981 1983 1985 1987 1989 1991 1993 1995 1997 1999 2001 2003 2005 2007 2009 2011
Iowa Department of Transportation

2013: 317

Iowa's 511



http://www.511ia.org/

Other Modes of Transport in Iowa

Water
Rail
Trail
Transit
Air

Iowa Water Navigation

Images (3) Videos (0) Audio (0) 1930 X

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.

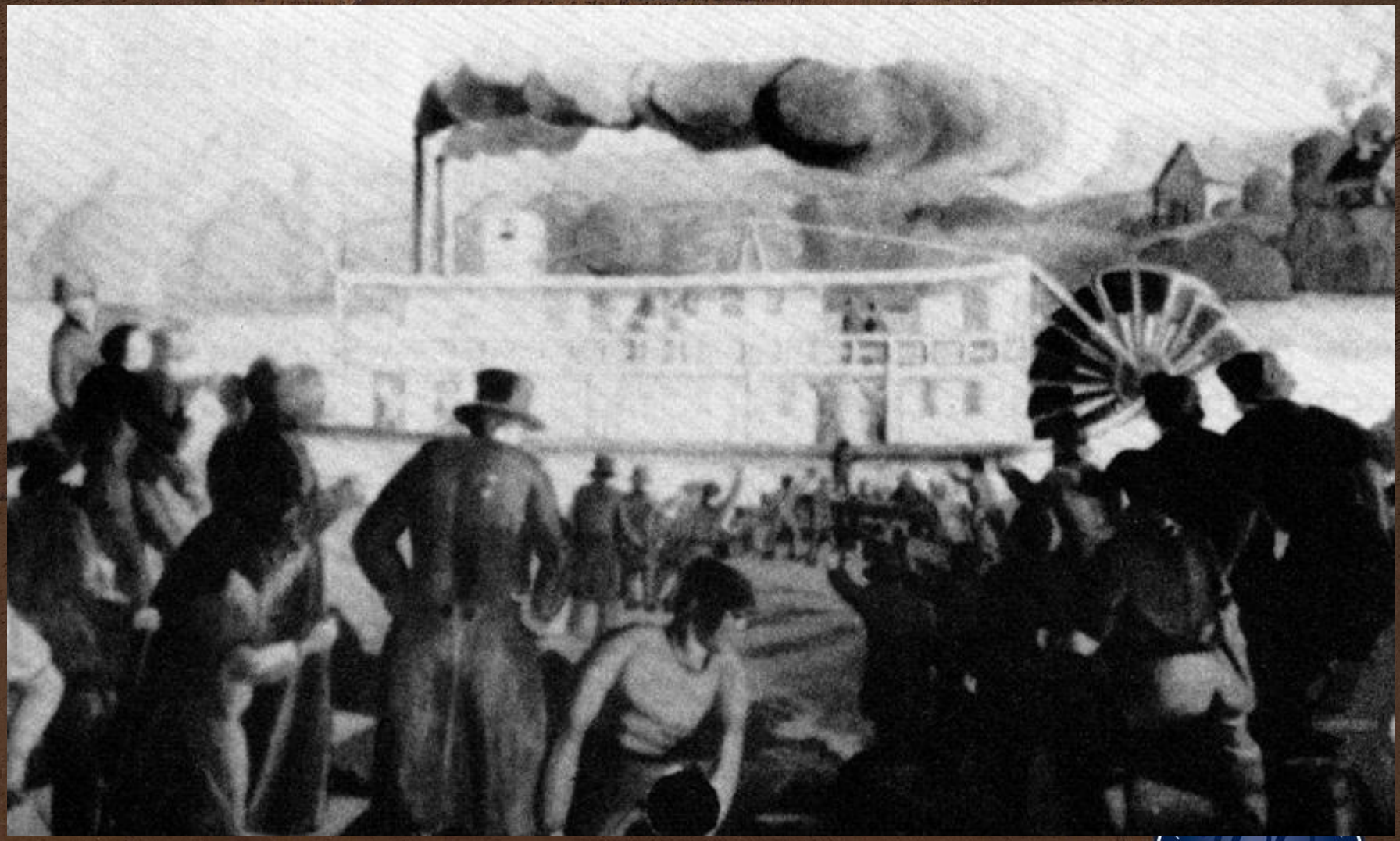
Because the Mississippi falls approximately 420 feet in the 670 miles between Minneapolis and St. Louis, traffic heading south before the

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

July 1974

Iowa City Water Navigation 1841



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

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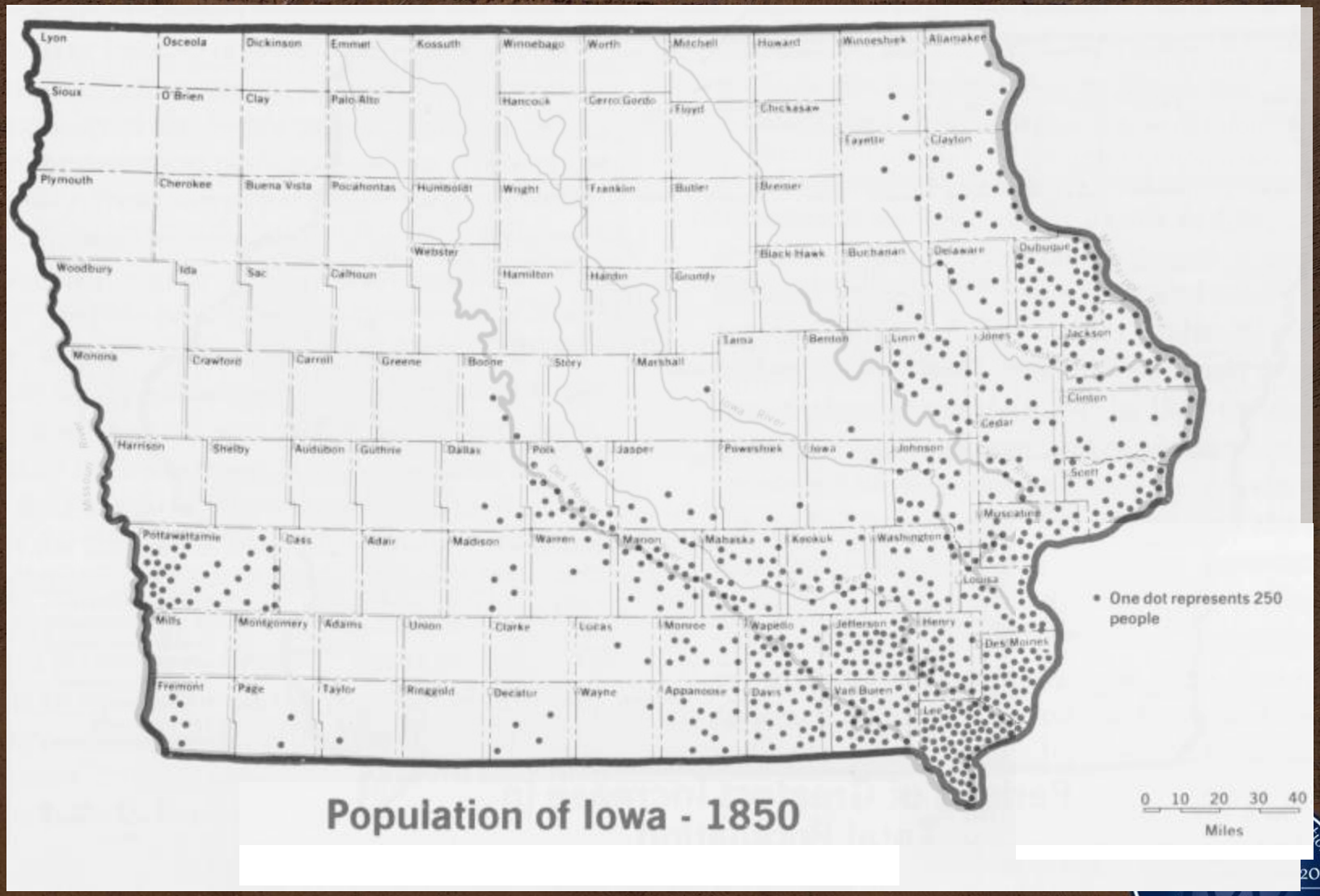
Iowa Water Navigation 1860s

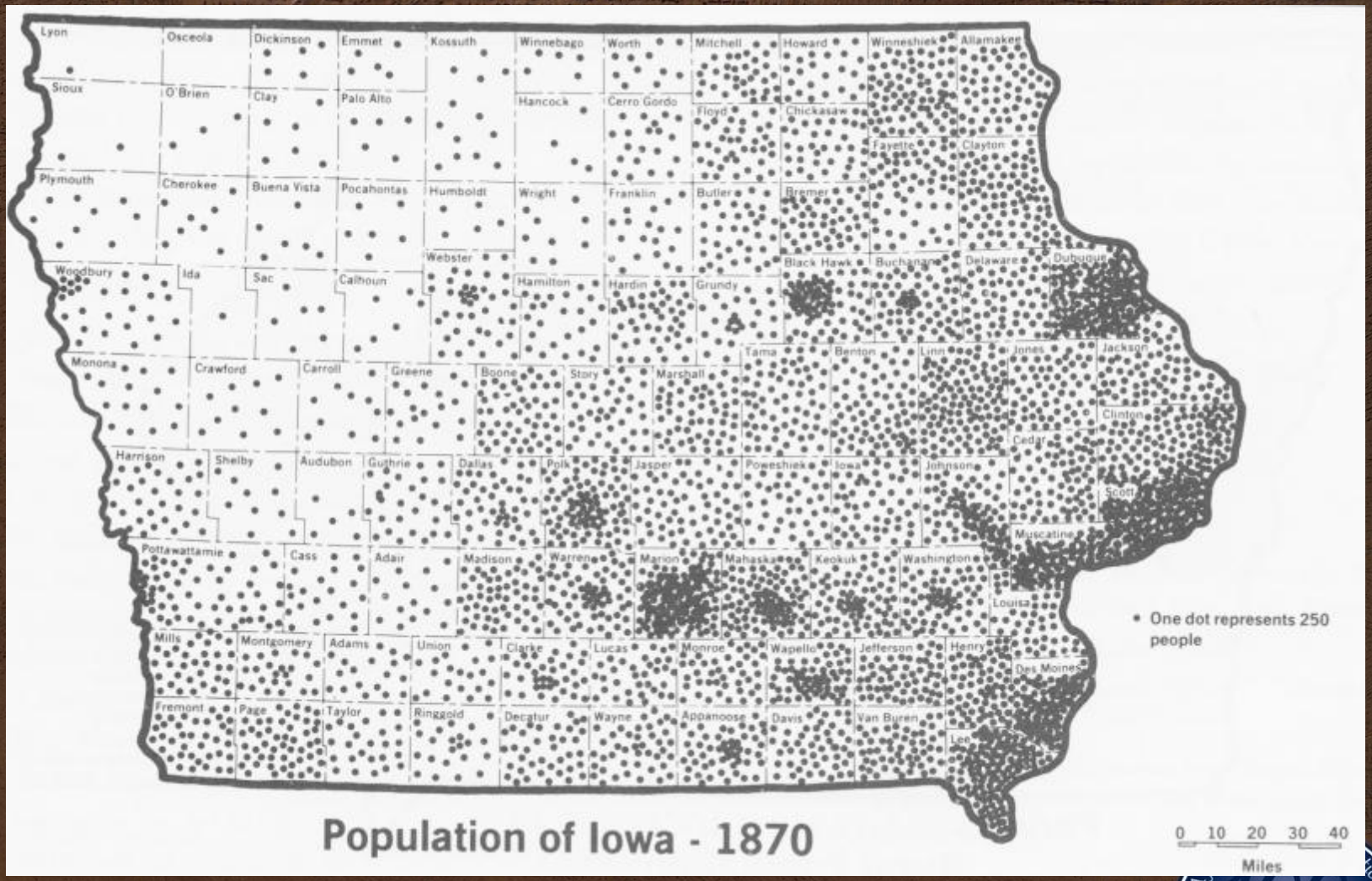
Iowa Population 1850s



Population of Iowa - 1850

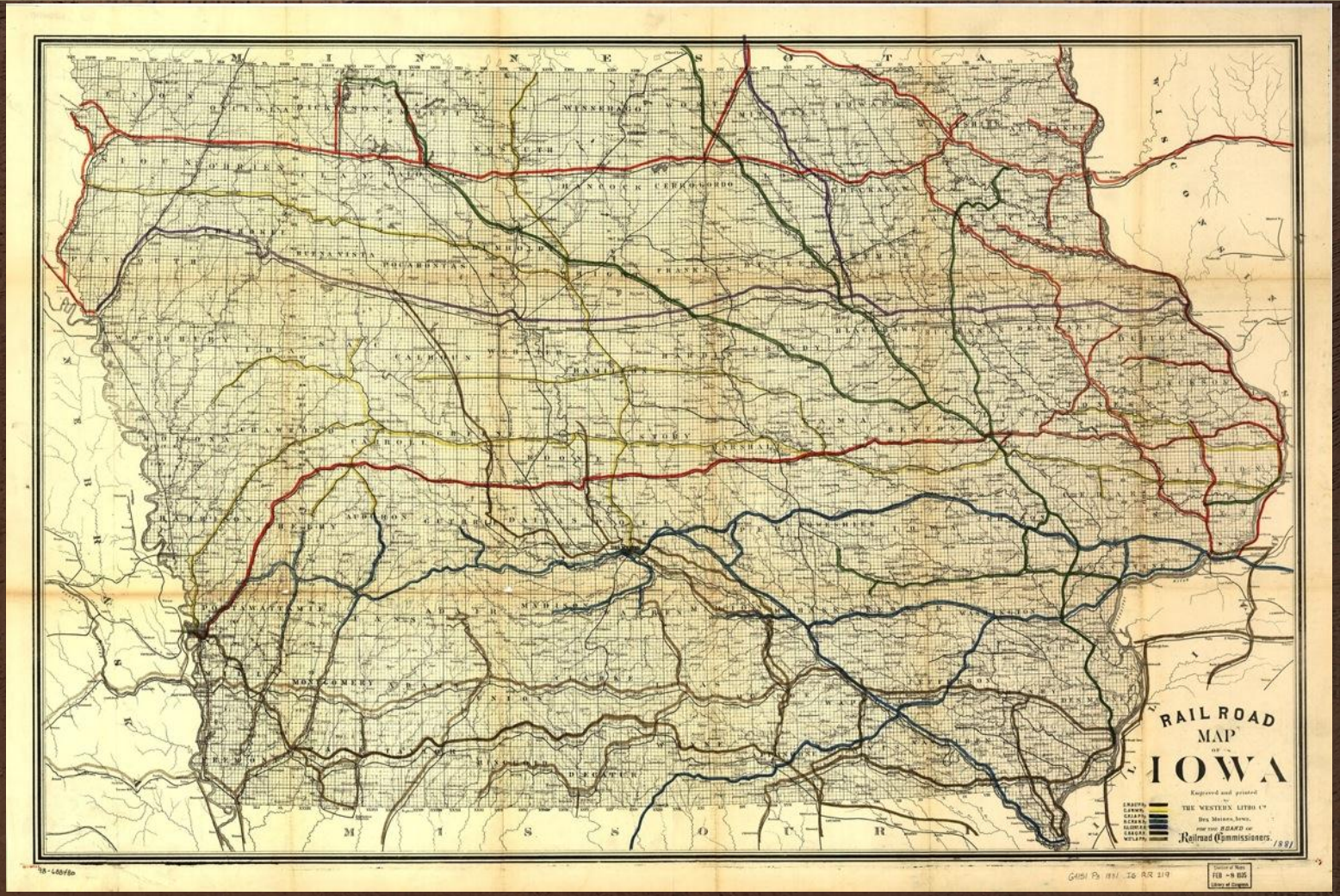
Transportation in Iowa, Thompson, 41

Iowa Population 1870s



Transportation in Iowa, Thompson, 41

Iowa Rail Development and Impact



Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. http://memory.loc.gov

Iowa City Rail

Doug Jones, Public Domain
http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/File:SteamAtRockIslandDepot.JPG

http://iagenweb.org/johnson/PostcardHibbs/Postcard29.htm

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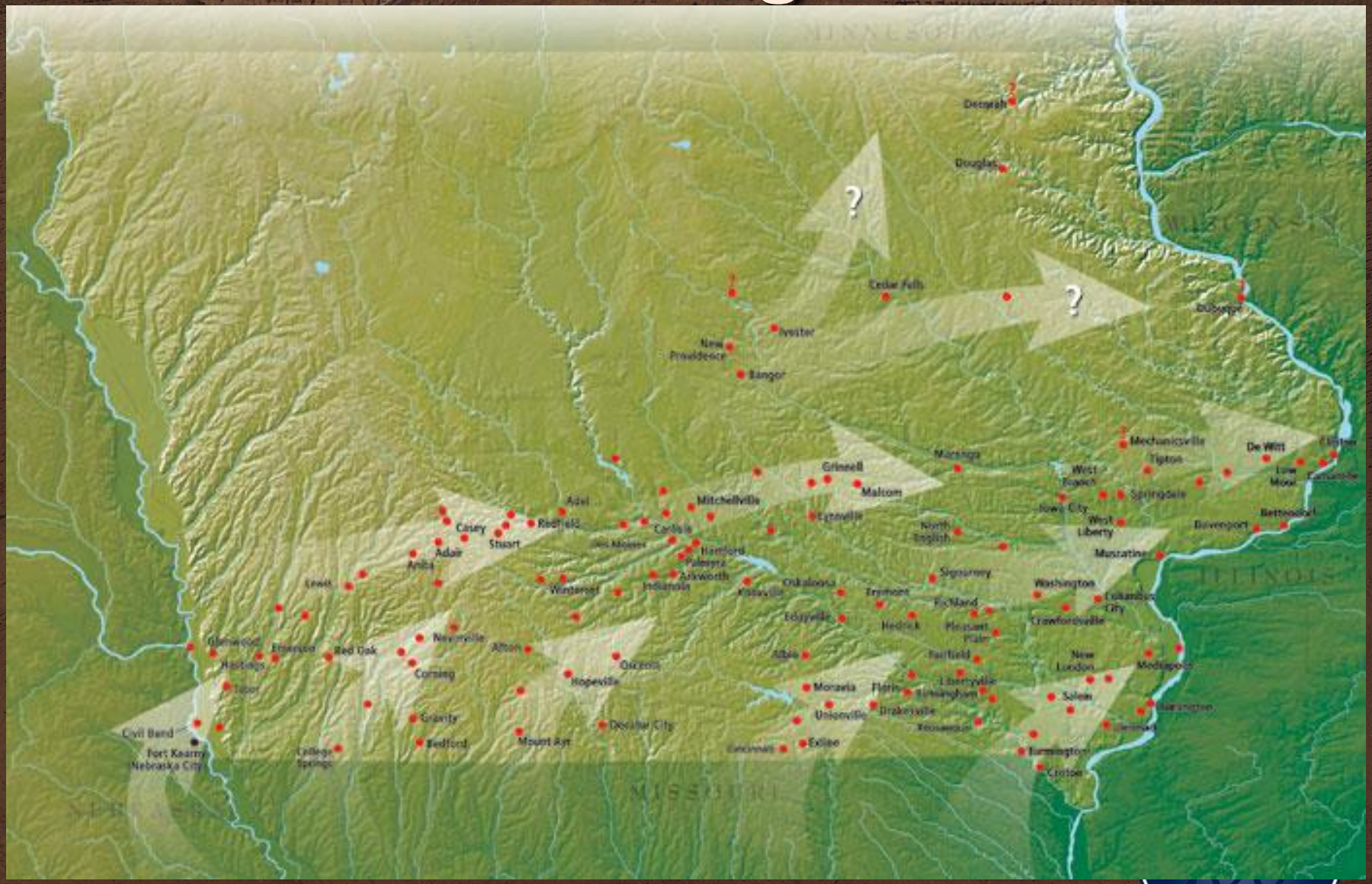
Iowa Rail Facts

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

Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. http://memory.loc.gov

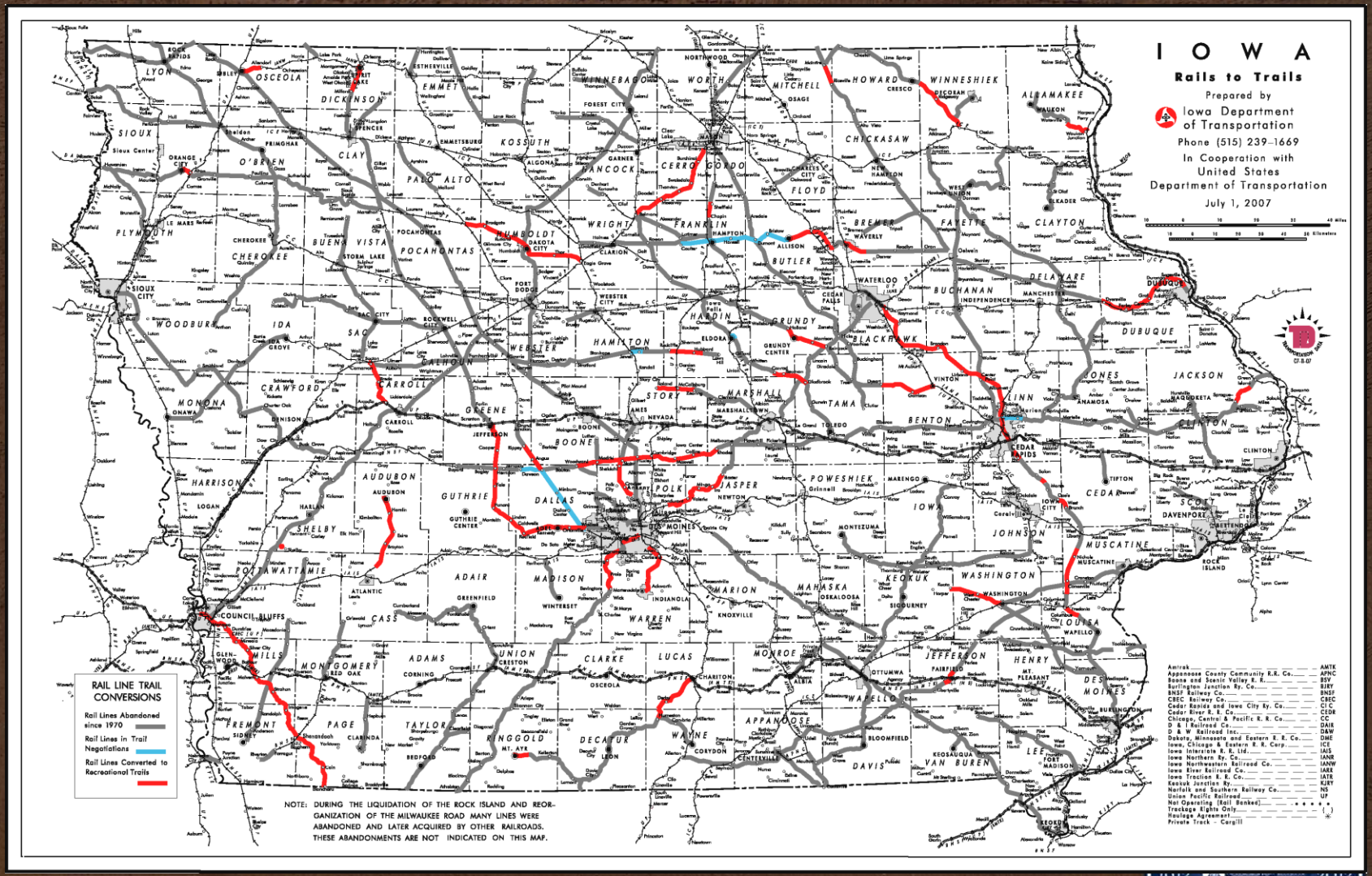
Iowa and the Underground Railroad



Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division. http://memory.loc.gov

What Do We Do with Abandoned Rail Lines?

Rails to Trails



http://www.iowadot.gov/iowarail/railroads/maps/RR_to_Trails_07.pdf

Iowa's Public Transit

http://www.iowadot.gov/transit/interactive_map.html

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

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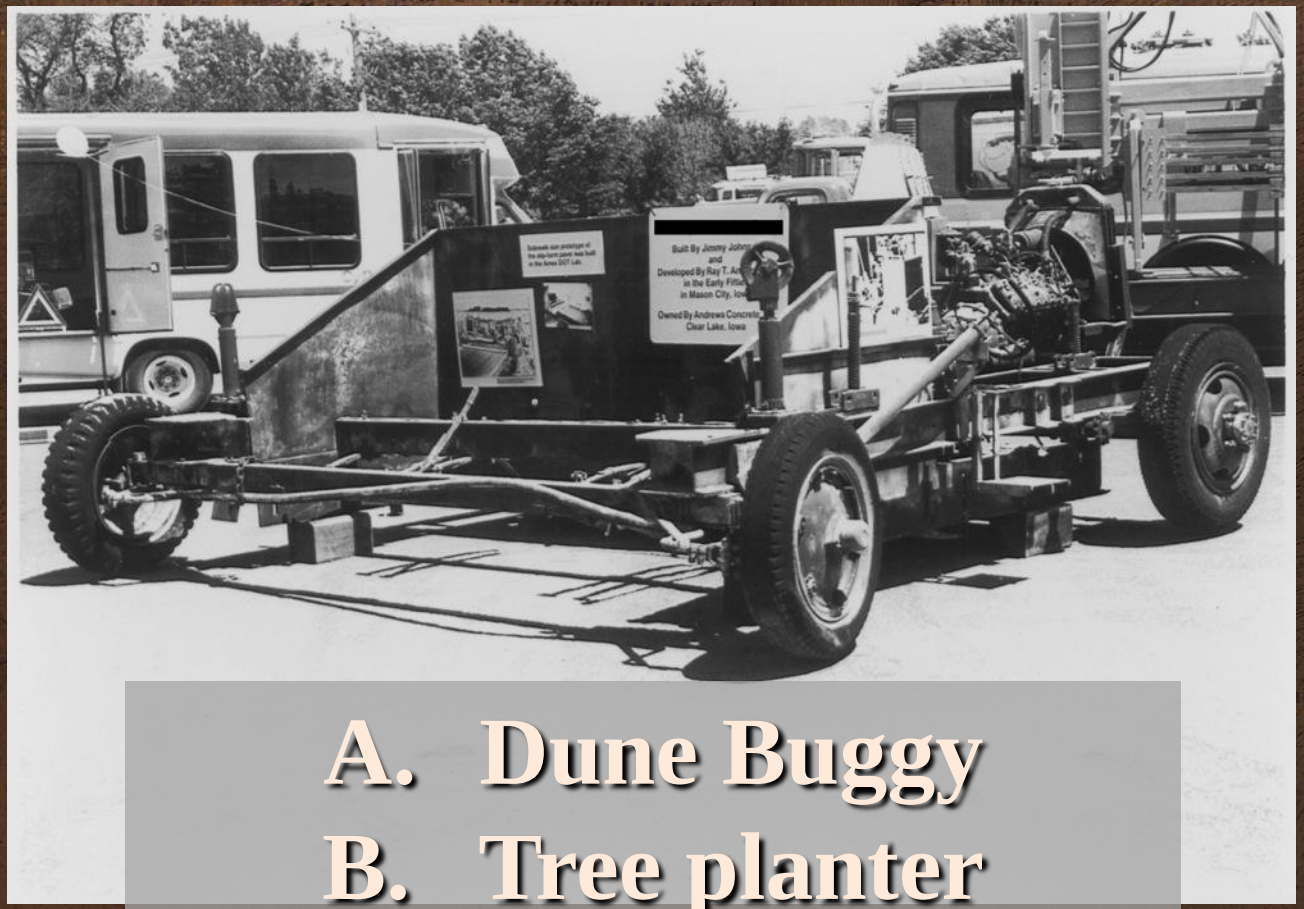
Trivia Break 2: Iowa Contributions to National Transportation

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?

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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...

UCTION

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More

SAFETY

FIRST NO P
CREATED

In Dec. 1959 th
Commission pl
"No Passing Zo

INTERSTAT

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COMMISSION

HIS IS YOUR HIGHWAY
OMMISSION VIDEO

1968, the Iowa State Highway
ommission (IHC), created and
leased "This is YOUR Highway

December 1958 | 1960 | November 1965 | 1966 | 1968

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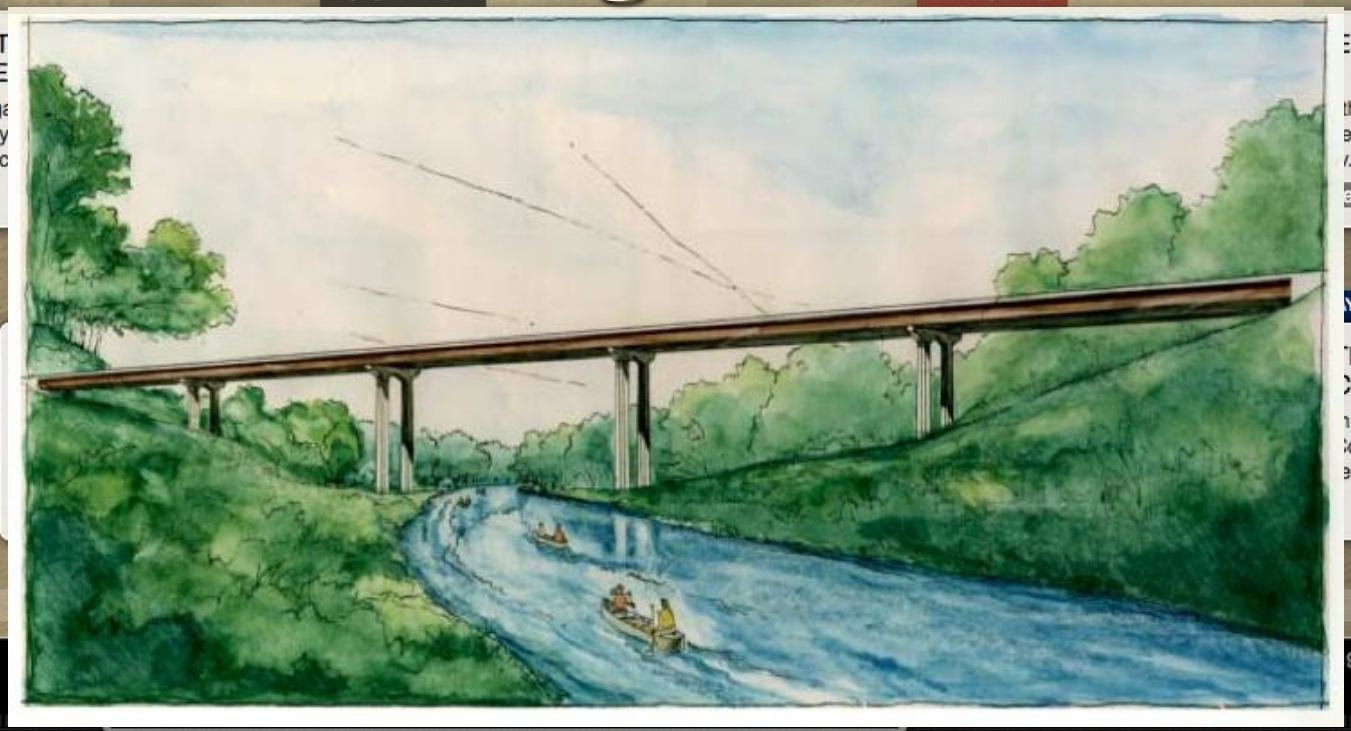
Iowa DOT History Highlights: Recent Decades

The Sioux Calumet

http://wwwa.iowadot.gov/history/home.html

Iowa DOT History Highlights: Recent Decades

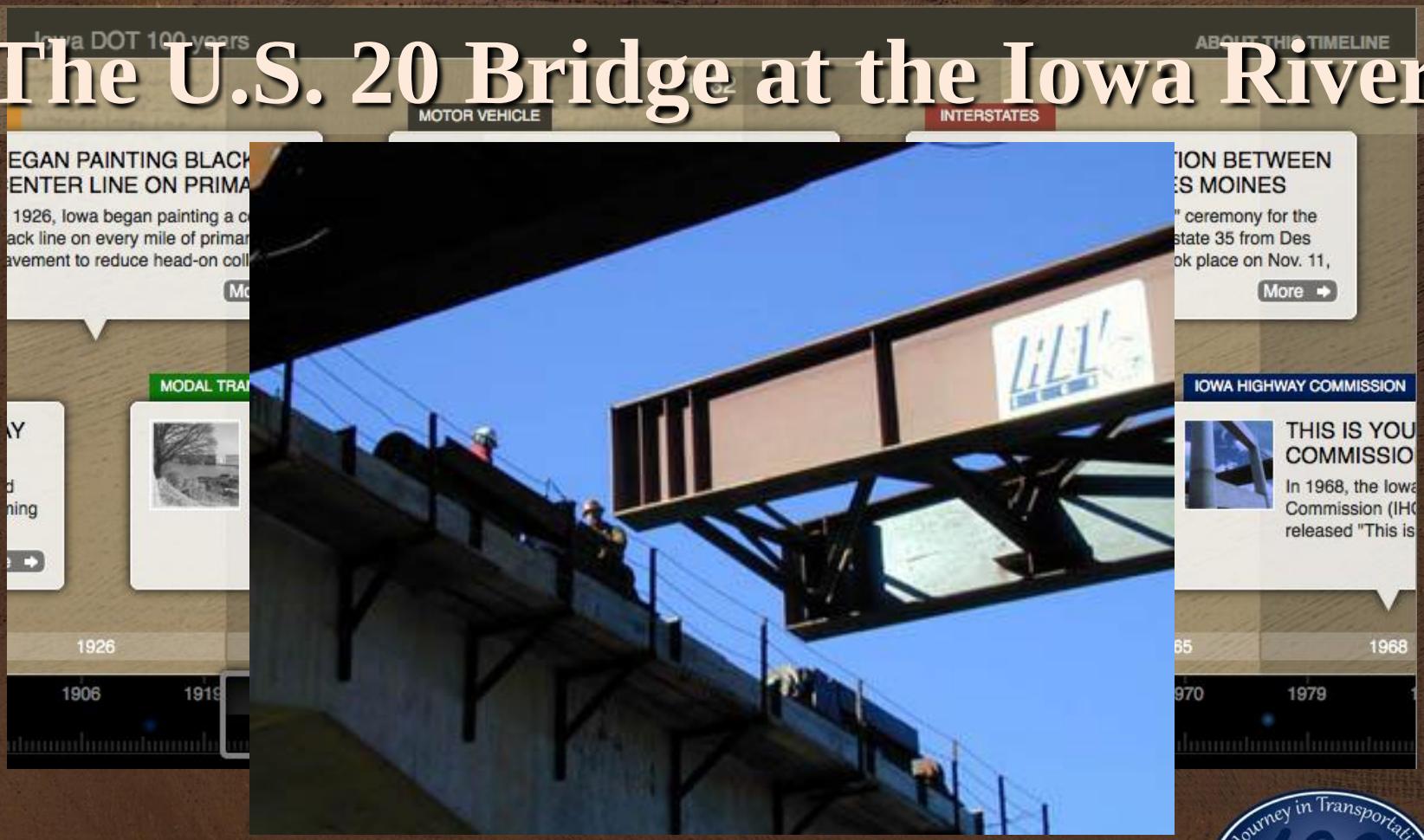
The U.S. 20 Bridge at the Iowa River



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

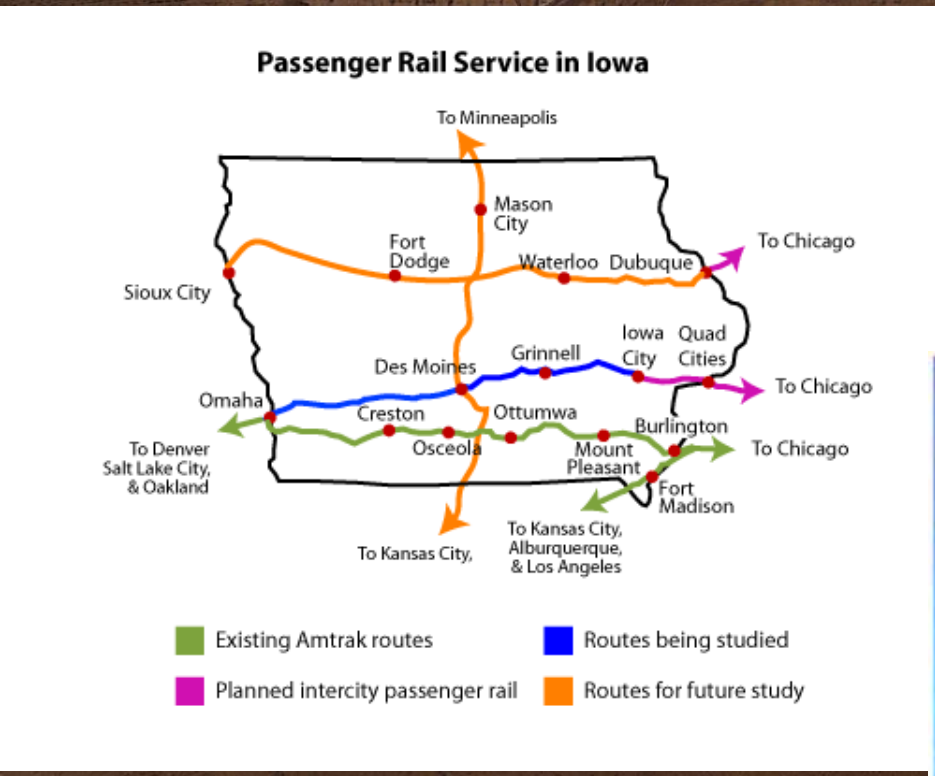
Iowa DOT History Highlights: Recent Decades

The U.S. 20 Bridge at the Iowa River



http://www.iowadot.gov/iowariverbridge/servlet/com.hntb.cs.servlets6689.html

The Future?



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

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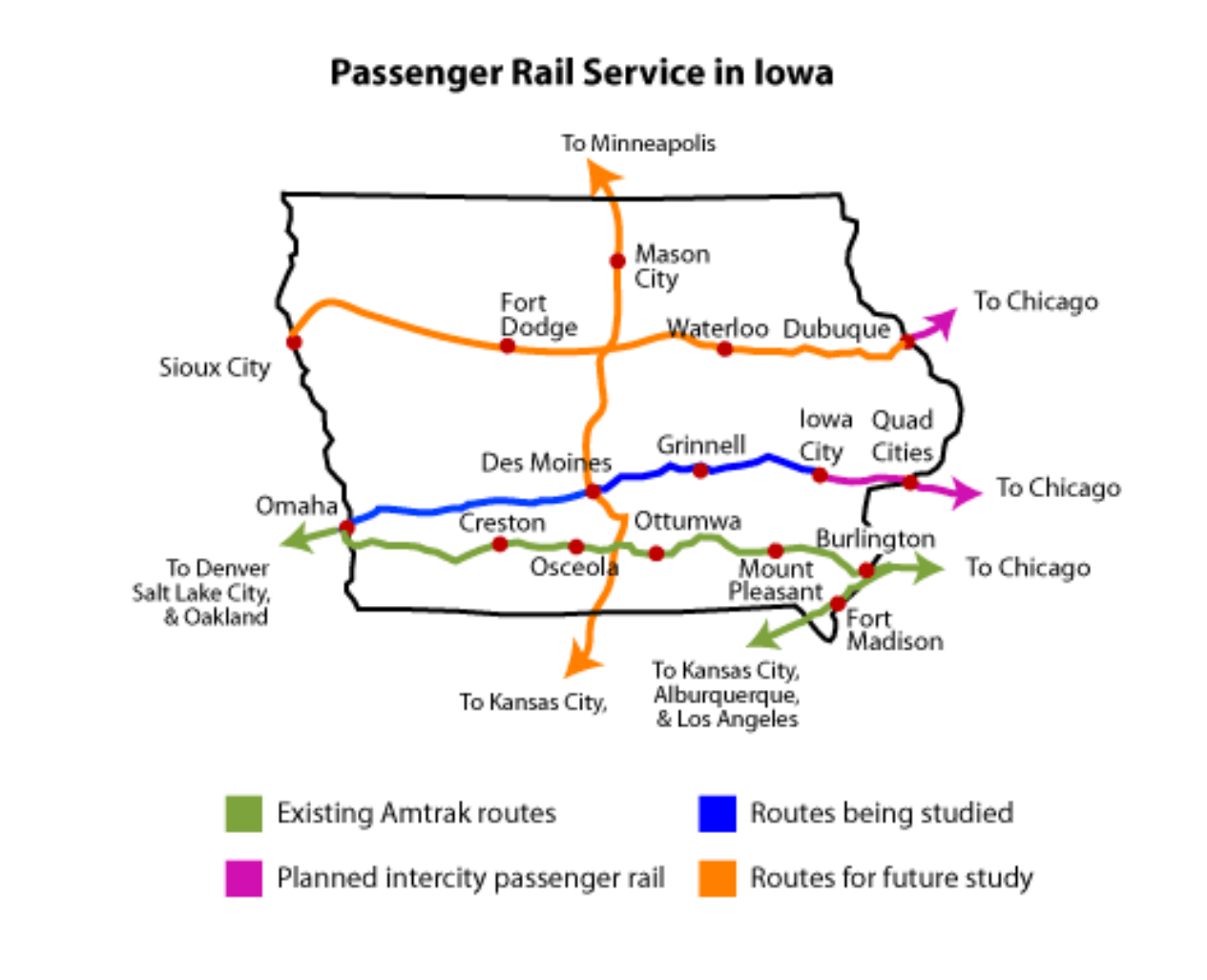
Future Passenger Rail?

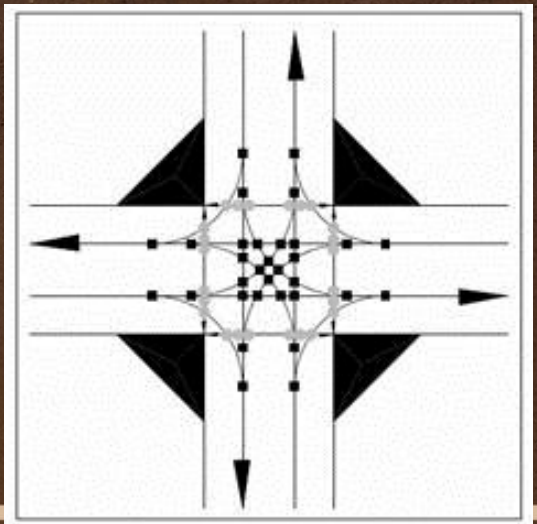
http://www.iowadot.gov/iowarail/passenger/visionplan.htm

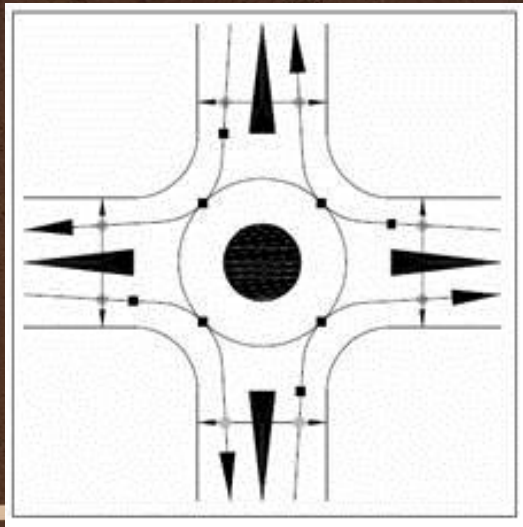


Future Roundabouts

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

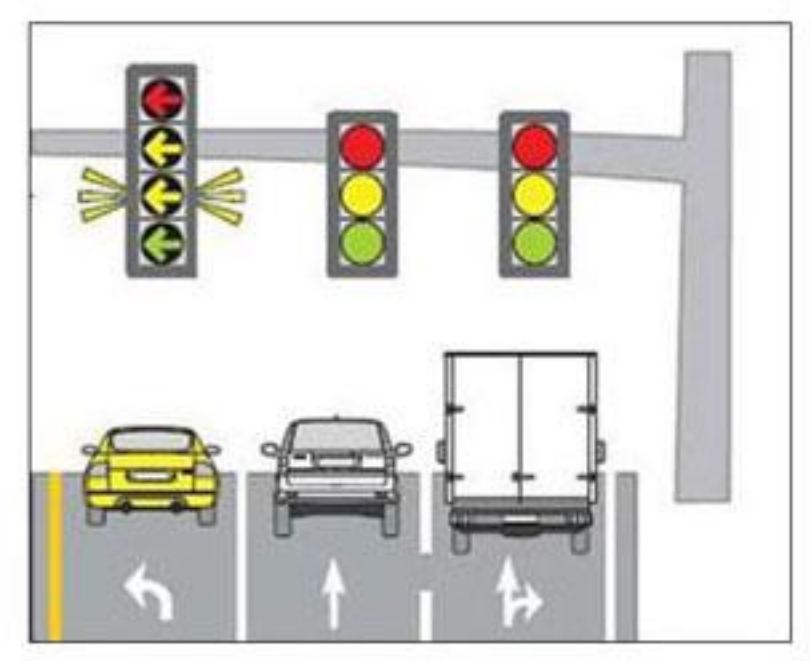
http://www.ctre.iastate.edu/pubs/8.5x11BROCHURE.pdf





Future Flashing Yellow Left Arrows

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



Stop and wait your turn

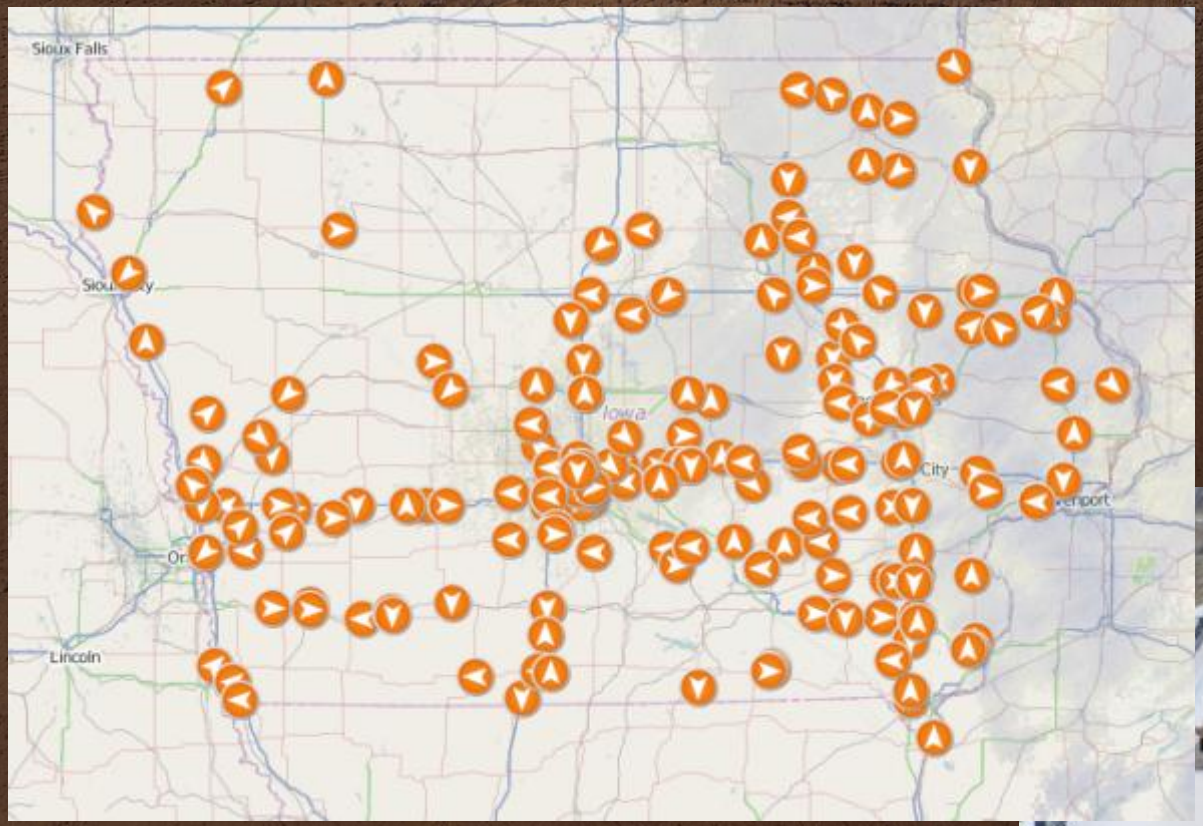
Left turn about to become red

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”

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/4/4b/TowPLow_front_view2.JPG

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