

# Victor Joins the Effort to Re-Introduce Historic U.S. Route 6 to the Nation

By Angie Nolte

If you've driven in and near Victor in the past week or so, chances are you've noticed the new Historic U.S. Route 6 signs. They're part of a nationwide effort to revitalize this two-lane highway by offering drivers an alternative to the interstate and a chance to live life a little slower.

At 3,652 miles, historic U.S. Route 6 is the longest continuous highway in the nation, running through 14 states from Long Beach, California to Provincetown, Massachusetts.

In Iowa, the highway connects over 40 communities in 13 counties. Locally it passes through the towns of Grinnell, Brooklyn, Victor, Ladora, Marengo, South Amana and Homestead.

The overall revitalization effort is spearheaded by the U.S. Route 6 Tourist Association. Founded in 2001, it is a non-profit organization dedicated to the economic development and cultural preservation of inner-cities, small towns and rural communities located along this Grand Old Highway, also known as the "Grand Army of the Republic Highway."

David Darby, originally of Davenport, serves as Executive Director of the Iowa Chapter of the U.S. Route 6 Association. He said that for Iowa, travelling U.S. Route 6 is all about the scenery, small towns and locally owned businesses - three things you just don't experience while traveling the interstate.

He is currently working with towns across the state to help them re-connect with Route 6 and help grow tourism along the two-lane highway.

For local business owner and resident Linda Jack, she said she's in favor of Victor's involvement because "there's a lot of treasures in small towns and hopefully this project will help boost area tourism and help bring people back through our small towns."

Each town along the route is responsible for purchasing and installing their own signs. Interested residents and business owners in Victor raised the money for approximately 9 area signs. Installation was provided by Iowa County.



One of the many historic U.S. Route 6 signs recently installed around Victor. At 3,652 miles, historic U.S. Route 6 is the longest continuous highway in the nation, running through 14 states from Long Beach, California to Provincetown, Massachusetts.

Most of the signs have been erected although some will not be installed until after construction is finished on Hwy. 6.

Signs have also been purchased in nearby Poweshiek County and in eastern Iowa as the effort to clearly mark Hwy. 6 for travelers moves across the state.

Interest in the historic route is already gaining momentum with a River to River Classic Car Road Trip planned for Aug. 23-25.

Rusty Clayton, who worked with the signs for Brooklyn, said other opportunities could include Corvette, motorcycle, Model A, etc. rides.

Whether it will be a planned event or a last-minute decision to leave the interstate and really see Iowa, all signs now point to Victor and the historic U.S. Route 6.

## ***Don't Miss the River to River Classic Car Road Trip on Route 6***

**Traveling through Victor on Friday, Aug. 23 at approx. 3-5 p.m.**

Bring your lawn chair - wave your flag - blow your whistles - and welcome the drivers through Victor.

Full service gas will be offered at Victor's Market!

Other local activities include Happy Hour at the Ladora Bank Bistro. Cars will also stop for an evening meal and short car show in Brooklyn.

### **Have a classic car and want to participate?**

Registrations still accepted. No cost to participate.

Join the ride for 3 days or just 3 hours!

For more information visit [route6tour.com](http://route6tour.com) or "US Route 6 Iowa" on Facebook