

THE LINCOLN HIGHWAY

The first American transcontinental road, the Lincoln Highway was championed by Indianapolis automobile industrialist Carl G. Fisher who built the Indianapolis Motor Speedway and paved it with bricks. Conceived in 1913, it stretched 3,389 paved miles across fourteen states by 1928. Though Fisher used the name Coast-to-Coast Rock Highway, one of his partners – Henry Joy – suggested calling it the Lincoln Highway because he saw such a practical venture as a tribute to a man he considered America's greatest President.

The concept of the Lincoln Highway in part inspired the National Interstate and Defense Highways Act of 1956, signed into law by President Dwight D. Eisenhower, who remembered his experiences as a young army soldier crossing the country in 1919 on the Lincoln Highway.

Its current path includes portions of many American highways:

- ❖ Most of US 30
- ❖ Portions of Interstate 80
- ❖ Stretches on US 1
- ❖ Old US 40 where it passes over the Donner Pass
- ❖ Some of US 50
- ❖ Part of US 93

The Lincoln Highway crosses Indiana at Fort Wayne, South Bend, and Valparaiso. The Lincoln Highway Association (<http://www.lincolnhighwayassoc.org/>), which seeks to promote and preserve the road, maintains a national office in South Bend.

To learn more about the Lincoln Highway, read

The Lincoln Highway: Coast to Coast from Times Square to the Golden Gate by Michael Wallis with pictures by Michael S. Williamson, published by W. W. Norton (2007)

Greetings from the Lincoln Highway: America's First Coast-to-Coast Road by Brian Butko, published by Stackpole Books (2005)

You may also learn more by clicking on this link maintained by Caltech.

<http://www.ugcs.caltech.edu/~jlin/lincoln/>