This special Pre-Conference includes participation in the annual Drivin' the Dixie event organized by the Blue Island Historical Society and Chamber of Commerce. The Dixie Highway is Carl Fisher's other major road project, established in 1915. The Dixie Highway leads travelers from northern states such as Illinois and Michigan to Miami and points south, and vice versa. If you participate in the Drivin' the Dixie, meet in the Holiday Inn Hotel Lobby at 7:30 a.m. and then you will drive yourself to the corner of Olde Western Avenue and Canal Street in Blue Island, Illinois between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Central Time to pick up your driving directions. For more information on the Drivin' the Dixie, please see the Website at: https://drivinthedixie.com/.

Those participating in the Drivin' the Dixie will have lunch on their own Saturday afternoon followed by a visit to the Frankfort Historical Society's Museum, at 132 Kansas Street, Frankfort, IL 60423. After the museum visit, take a short drive on the Lincoln Highway and join us for dinner at Cooper's Hawk in New Lenox, right on the Lincoln Highway. The address is: 2307 E. Lincoln Highway, New Lenox, IL 60451. Cooper's Hawk Winery & Restaurant is an Illinois-based, new, up-and-coming restaurant phenomenon. They do not have a separate room available so we have dinner reservations for the Lincoln Highway Association for ten people at 5:15 p.m., and dinner reservations for another table for ten people at 5:45 p.m., or have dinner on your own. Everyone will be ordering off the menu and paying for dinner directly to Cooper's Hawk.

On Sunday, go to jail! Explore the Old Joliet Prison made famous on television and in movies such as The Blues Brothers. Those attending the regular LHA Conference are welcome to arrive a day early to take the prison tour. Because the Old Joliet Prison is, well, old, it is not 100% ADA accessible. Approximately 70% of the historical tour is accessible but everyone participating needs to wear closed-toed shoes (no sandals or flip flops!) and we will all be signing waivers. The walking tour of the prison will take place rain or shine--dress appropriately! Check out of the Holiday Inn and meet in the Matteson Holiday Inn Lobby at 9:45 a.m. sharp to drive to the prison. After prison tour, we will take a short drive south on Route 66 to visit the newly restored and reopened Launching Pad with its iconic Gemini Giant. Have a quick bite by ordering off the menu. In the afternoon, we will return to the Lincoln Highway and have a group dinner at Juliet's Restaurant and Tavern, once a theater dating to 1906. The address is: 205 N. Chicago St., Joliet, IL 60432

Pre-Conference Host Hotel: Holiday Inn & Conference Center, Matteson, Illinois

500 Holiday Plaza Drive, Matteson, Illinois, 60443, right off the Lincoln Highway
Discounted rate: $84 + tax, available beginning Friday night, June 19 through check out on Sunday morning, June 21.
Deadline for discounted rate: May 19, 2020.
For reservations:
Call 855-914-1394
Ask for Block Code: LHA
Or, go online to our Website at: lincolnhighwayassoc.org and follow the links to register with the hotel.
Regular Conference, June 22 - 25, 2020, Joliet, Illinois

Monday, June 22: The LHA Board of Directors will have its annual meeting at 3:00 p.m. in the Clarion Hotel in Joliet. For those who attended the Pre-Conference, there will be plenty of local attractions to choose from on your own. The Clarion Hotel is right off I-80 and in decent traffic, it is an hour’s drive to downtown Chicago, too. Or, take the Rock Island line train to the LaSalle Street Station, Chicago, ten blocks from the Art Institute Museum, where Chicago’s lakefront area starts. On Monday night, join everyone for our Conference Opening Banquet at the Clarion.

Tuesday, June 23: East Bus Tour: We will explore the crossroads of Carl Fisher's two highways, the Lincoln and the Dixie in Chicago Heights. Then we will return to Joliet for a special tour of the beautiful Rialto Theatre, hear a concert on the Barton Pipe Organ, and have lunch. Following lunch, we will head a little to the west to explore sights along and near the Lincoln Highway such as the Little White School Museum in Oswego.

Wednesday, June 24: West Bus Tour: Stops on this bus tour include places not seen recently such as the Batavia Depot Museum, Garfield Farms, and an Ice Cream Shop in Rochelle. We will stop for lunch at an incredible Italian-style winery with a hand-painted interior in the middle of corn country. There will be a tour of the Egyptian Theatre in DeKalb and a stop at the recently renovated LHA Headquarters in Franklin Grove.

Thursday, June 25: Speakers' Day and Annual Awards Banquet: There will be a group breakfast followed by four speakers who will give a chronological history of the Lincoln Highway, Joliet, and the region, including the era of named roads. The annual Postal Cancellation will be slated for right after lunch. At night, join the group for the Annual Awards Banquet and a preview of next year's annual Conference!

Conference Hotel, June 22 - 25, 2020, Joliet, Illinois

Conference Host Hotel: Clarion Hotel Joliet Banquet & Conference Center: 411 S. Larkin Ave., Joliet, Illinois, 60436
Discounted rate: $89.00 + 16% tax per night. Discounted room rates available beginning Sunday night, June 21 to June 25. Deadline for room reservations is May 31, 2020. Continental breakfast included in rooms for up to two people per room. Breakfast opens at 6:00 a.m. Monday - Friday. Call: 815-729-2000 for reservations.

Be aware that there will be the Chicagoland 400 NASCAR Race scheduled for 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 21. The Clarion will not be available for Saturday night stays for those arriving early but for anyone arriving early who wish to explore the area on your own, you can stay at the block of rooms at the Holiday Inn in Matteson--see the other side of this page.

Cancellation Policy: Cancellation requests received by the LHA prior to June 1st will be accepted without question. After June 1st, there will be no refunds except those granted by the LHA's Executive Committee for cases of extreme hardship. A $35 processing fee will be deducted from all refunds.

Detailed Conference Itinerary: Follow the links from: lincolnhighwayassoc.org