

## **City of Wilmington**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE** Tuesday May 17, 2022

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## Mayor Dietz Announces Route 66 Historic Downtown Parking Lot Grant

The City of Wilmington is honored to receive a grant through the **Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau** for a new municipal parking lot on Water Street in the City's historic downtown. This grant provides much needed parking space in the downtown for shopping, dining, entertainment and community celebrations along Wilmington's Route 66.

"These projects honor the history of Route 66 while also building for the future with new attractions and upgrades that benefit communities across Illinois," said **Governor JB Pritzker**. "I can't think of a better way to prepare for Route 66's centennial celebration than revitalizing and creating attractions along the Mother Road."

(https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Media/PressReleases/Pages/PR20220516.aspx)

**Wilmington's Mayor Dietz** describes the project as a great win for our community. Coming out of the pandemic with very strong local sales tax revenues, this will be another great boost to our local economy and keep Wilmington as a must-stop destination along Route 66.

"From forward-looking projects like new electric vehicle charging stations, to projects that recognize Illinois' rich history, these Route 66 projects truly bridge the past and present of one of America's greatest road trips," **said DCEO Director, Sylvia I. Garcia.** (<u>https://www2.illinois.gov/dceo/Media/PressReleases/Pages/PR20220516.aspx</u>)</u>

Route 66 boasts more than 300 miles of roadway starting in Chicago and ending at the Santa Monica Pier in California. Travelers come from all over the world to drive the famous Mother Road. The historical impact on American culture as well as the communities along Route 66 will be preserved as a direct result of this type of investment. The construction of Route 66 provided a way for anyone owning a car to access the Western part of the United States and generated economic benefits for many communities along the Route.

So, for your next Mother Road trip, won't you please stop by and rest your bones in Historic Downtown Wilmington - while you gas up or plug in!

