

Imagine the Possibilities

CORRIDOR PLAN FOR
IL ROUTE 53, WILL COUNTY, IL

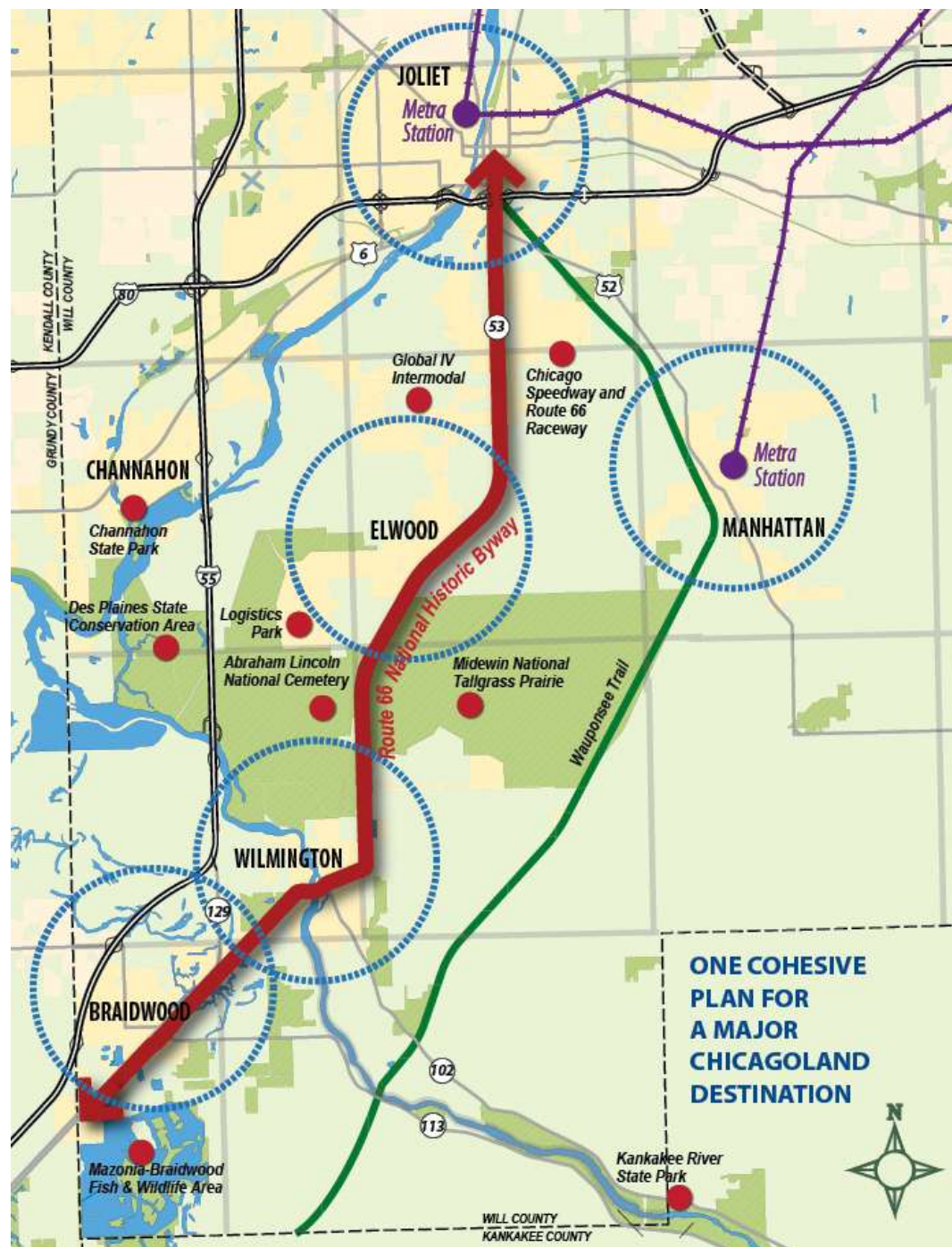
Prime Consultant and Lead Planner GINKGO Planning & Design
Tourism & Hospitality HVS
Transportation KLOA
Economic Strategy SB Friedman
Destination Architecture RTKL

A COHESIVE PLAN BENEFITING ALL

AN ECONOMIC ENGINE FOR THE
WHOLE CHICAGO REGION

A MAJOR DESTINATION SERVING
CHICAGOLAND

GOALS



ONE COHESIVE
PLAN FOR
A MAJOR
CHICAGOLAND
DESTINATION

PROMOTE THE GOALS OF THE GOTO 2040 PLAN

GO TO 2040 proposes a green infrastructure network that follows waterway corridors, expands existing preserves, and creates new preserves in the region.



GOALS

PROMOTE THE GOALS OF THE **GOTO 2040 PLAN**

While our economy has long been the envy of other metropolitan regions, **we cannot take it for granted.**

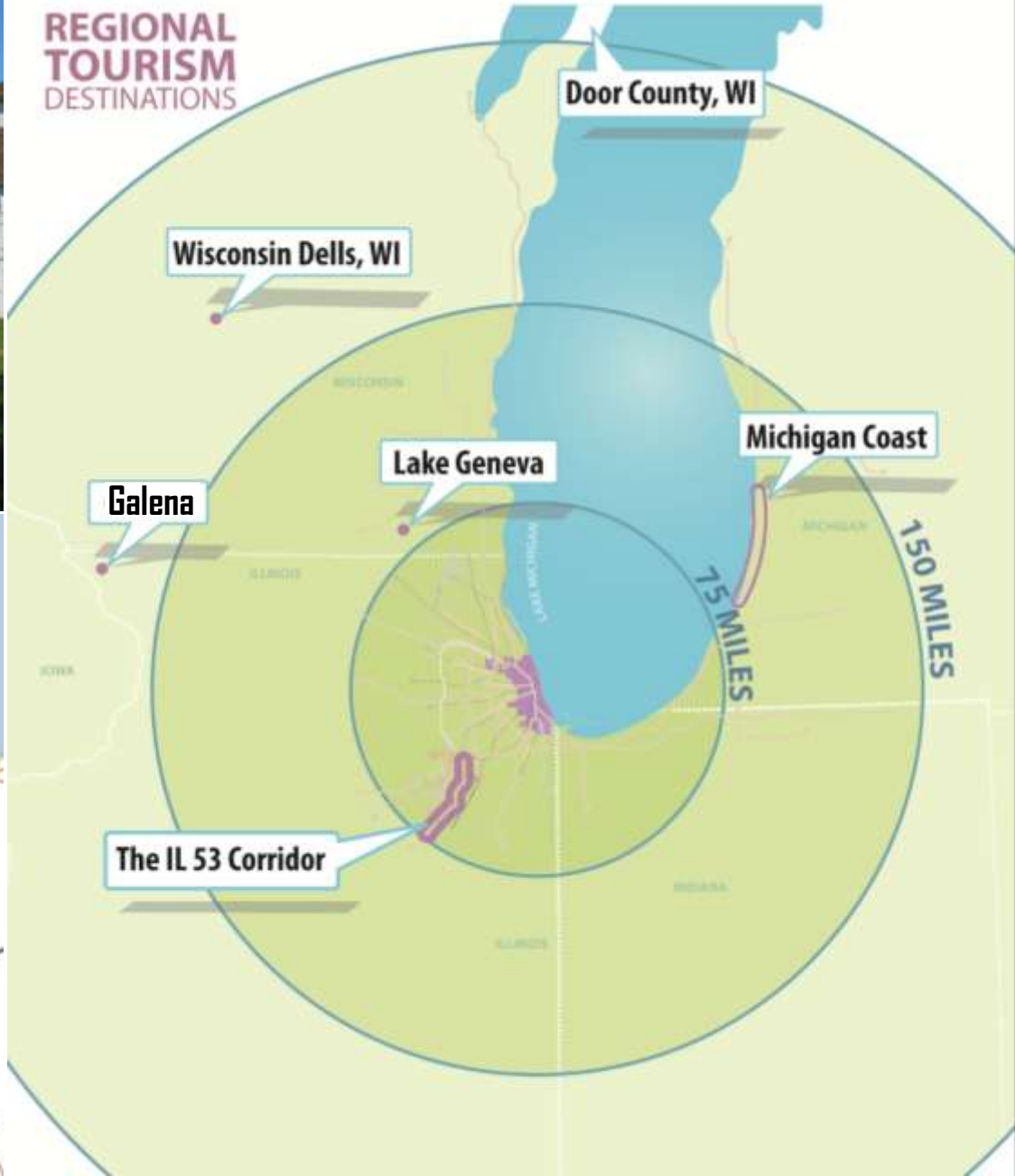
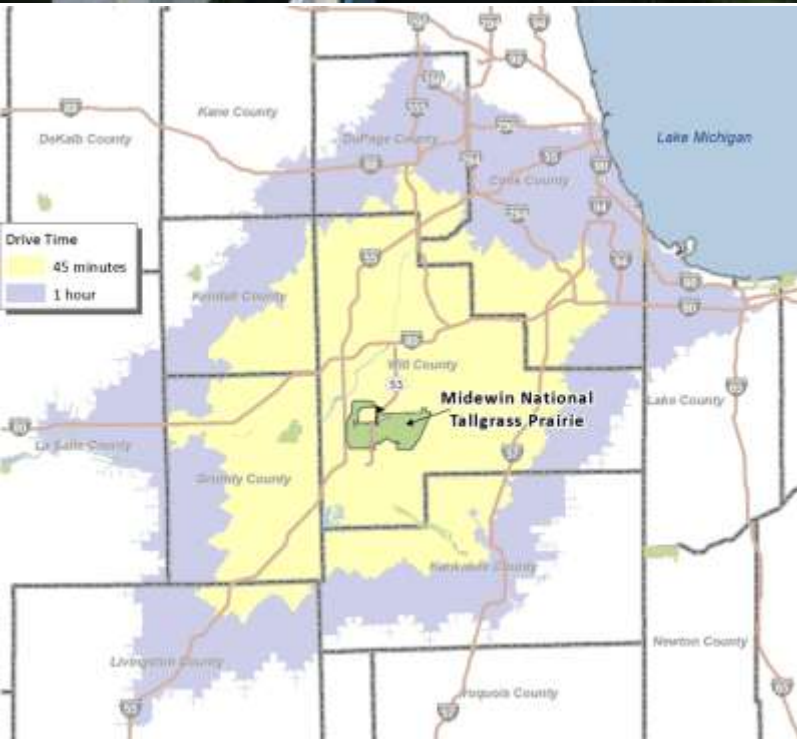
To achieve sustainable prosperity, our seven-county region needs to implement an aggressive but nuanced comprehensive plan that strategically aligns public policies and investments.

GOALS

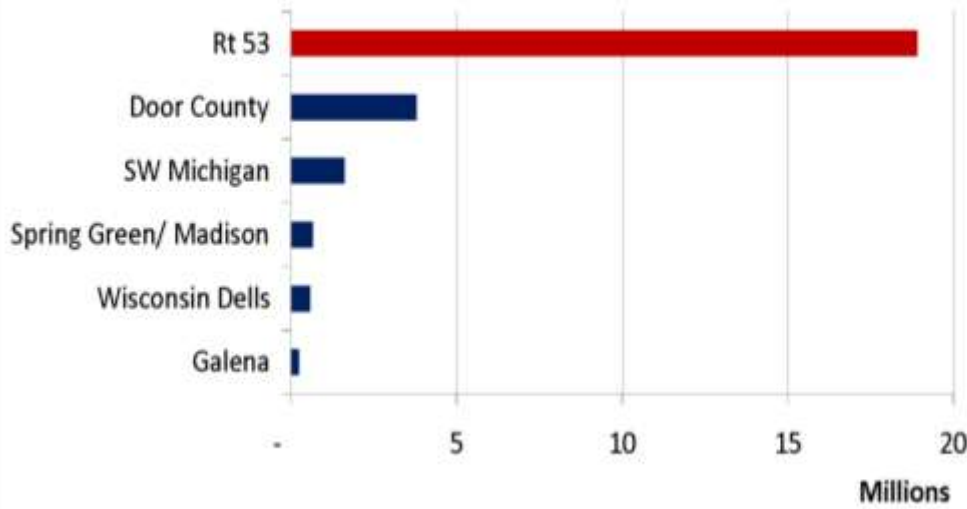
OVER **4 MILLION** RESIDENTS LIVE WITHIN ONE HOUR OF THE MIDWIN



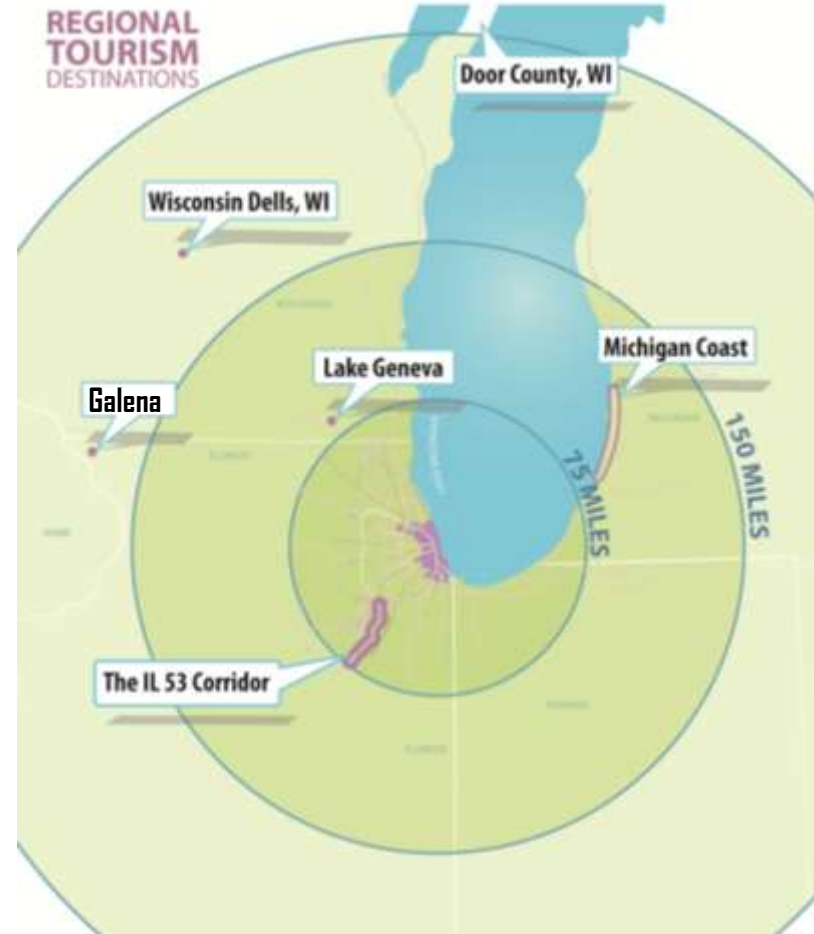
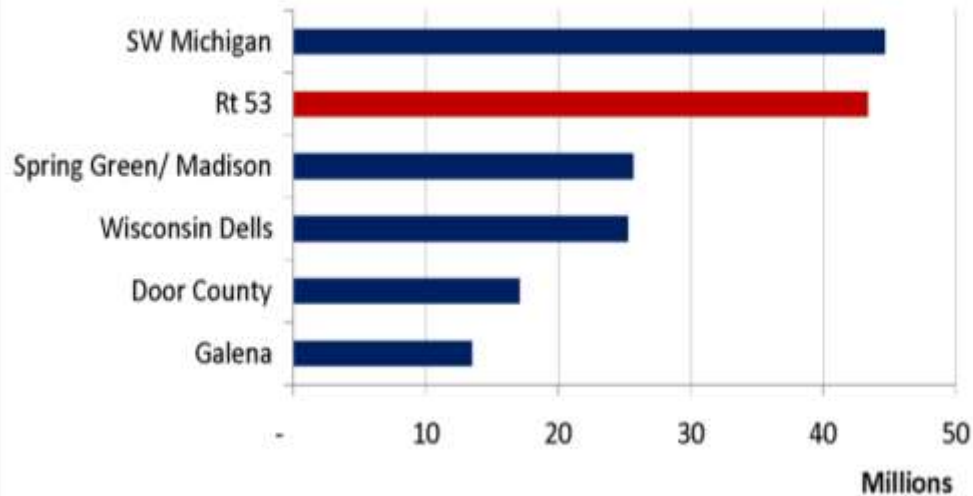
TOURISM



Population within Three Hour Drive



Population within Five Hour Drive



Door County, Wisconsin

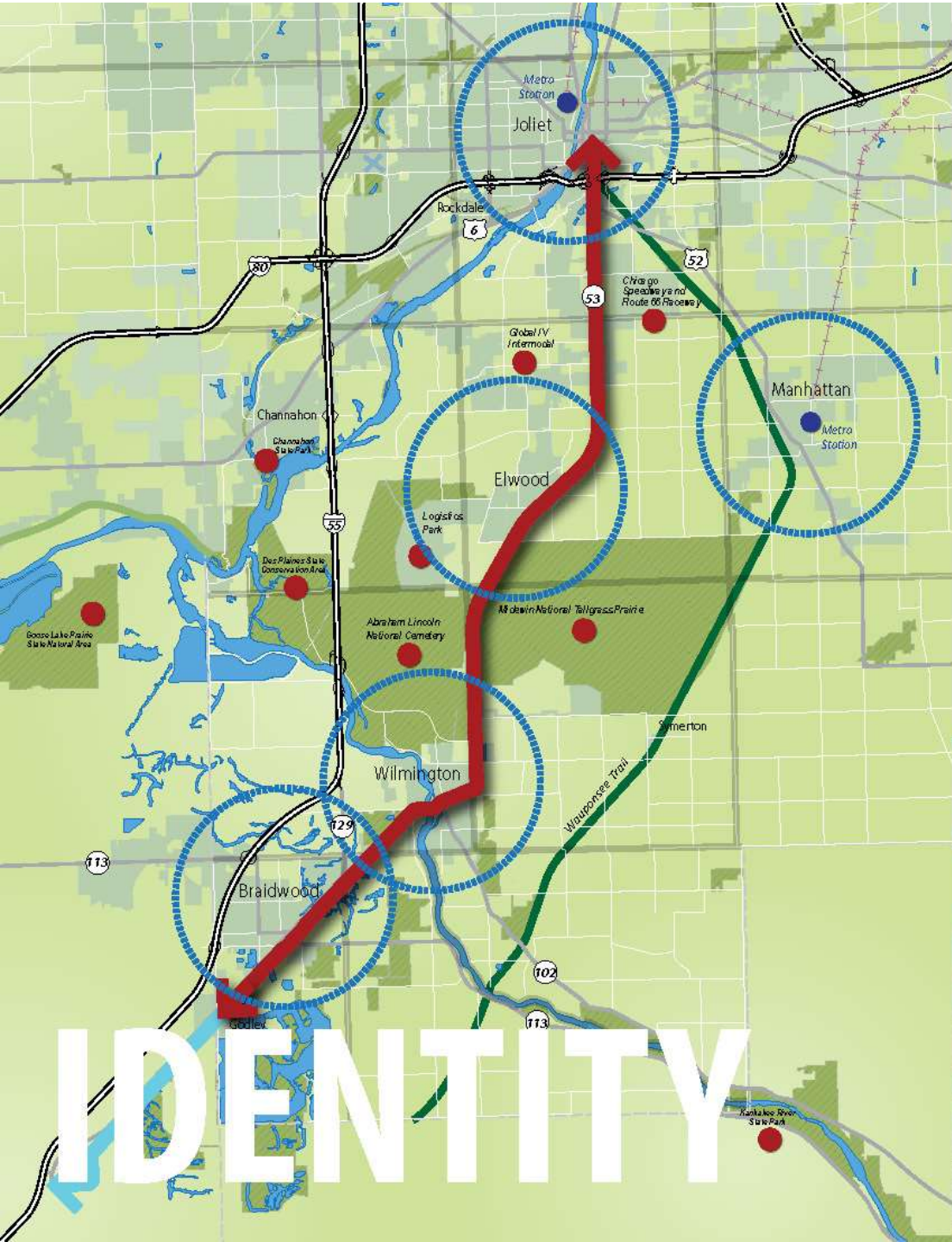
One Identity, Many Stops

Tourism Amenities

- 53 Public beaches
- 5 State Parks
- 11 Lighthouses
- 300 miles of shoreline
- Miller Art Museum
- Washington Island Ferry
- Washington Island Art and Nature Center
- Guenzel Gallery
- 3 Wineries
- Anderson Store
- Door County Maritime Museum
- Door County Historical Museum



EXAMPLES OF WEEKEND DESTINATIONS



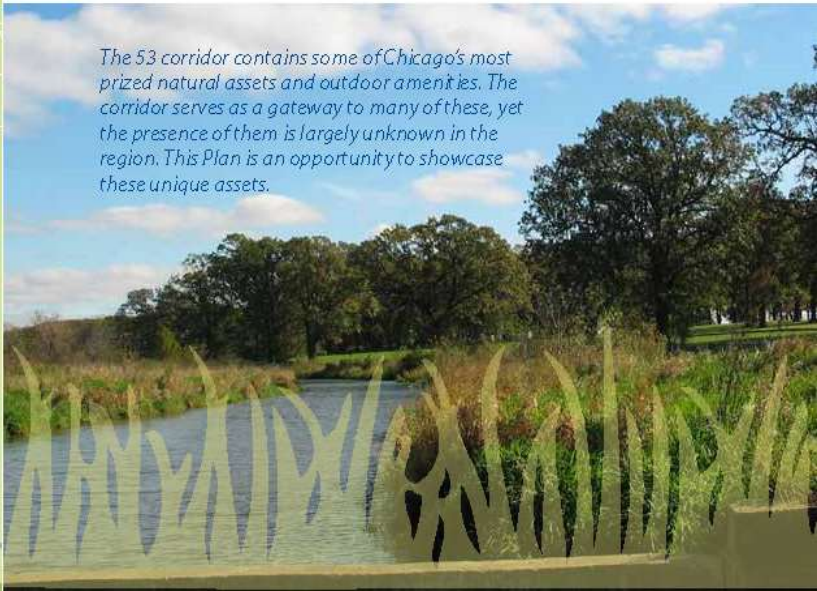
“A SINGLE IDENTITY”

UNIFYING A
COLLECTION OF

UNIQUE

DESTINATIONS

IDENTITY



The 53 corridor contains some of Chicago's most prized natural assets and outdoor amenities. The corridor serves as a gateway to many of these, yet the presence of them is largely unknown in the region. This Plan is an opportunity to showcase these unique assets.

OVER **30,000**
TOURISTS DRIVE THE
MOTHER ROAD
EVERY YEAR



HISTORIC ROUTE 66

A wide-angle photograph of a tallgrass prairie. The foreground and middle ground are filled with dense, green and yellowish grasses that appear to be blowing in the wind. The horizon is flat, with a line of dark trees visible on the left side. The sky is bright blue with scattered white cumulus clouds.

THE FIRST **NATIONAL** TALLGRASS PRAIRIE

THE MIDEWIN



AT **19,000** ACRES, THE LARGEST
CONTIGUOUS OPEN SPACE IN NE ILLINOIS



THE MIDEWIN

ABRAHAM LINCOLN NATIONAL CEMETERY

400,000 BURIAL SPACES WHEN COMPLETED



THE **KANKAKEE RIVER**

ONE OF THE MOST **PRISTINE** WATERWAYS IN THE REGION



THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST INLAND PORT



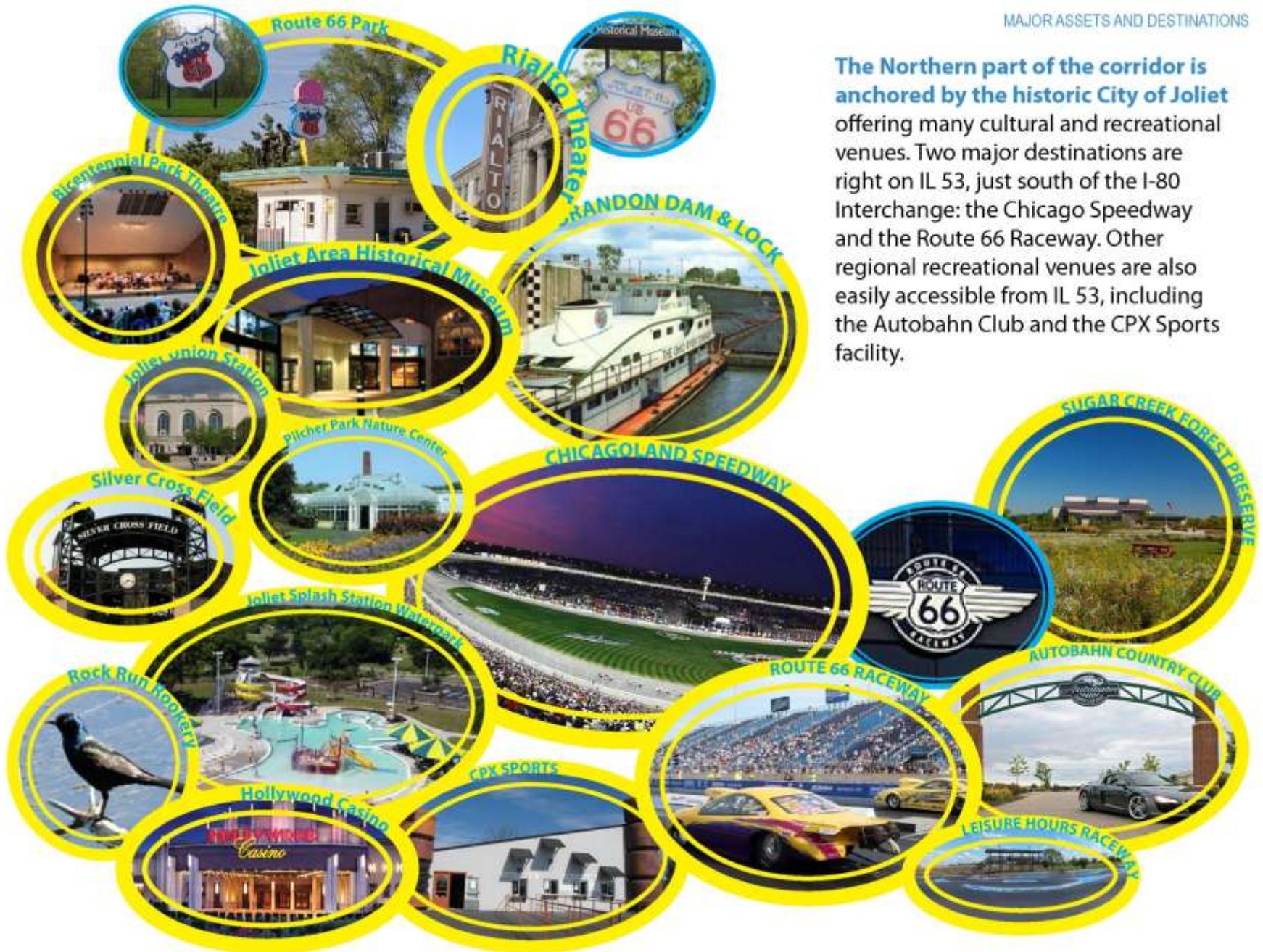


CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY ALONE BRINGS OVER **60,000** PEOPLE TO EACH RACING EVENT

CHICAGOLAND SPEEDWAY
ROUTE 66 RACEWAY
AUTOBAHN COUNTRY CLUB
LEISURE HOURS RACEWAY



RACING



The Northern part of the corridor is anchored by the historic City of Joliet offering many cultural and recreational venues. Two major destinations are right on IL 53, just south of the I-80 Interchange: the Chicago Speedway and the Route 66 Raceway. Other regional recreational venues are also easily accessible from IL 53, including the Autobahn Club and the CPX Sports facility.

Manhattan Round Barn



Five miles to the west of IL 53 lies the Village of Manhattan anchoring the northwest corner of the Midwin. The Wauponsee Glacial trail runs right through the Village, connecting the last Metra station on the Metra Southwest line to the rest of the corridor. The Historic Round Barn and other beautiful preserves stretching all the way down to the Kankakee River offer quaint and charming stops waiting to be discovered.

Downtown Manhattan



Manhattan Metra Station



Wauponsee Glacial Trail



MAJOR ASSETS AND DESTINATIONS

IL 53 CORRIDOR

HISTORIC, CIVIC & CULTURAL

HISTORIC ROUTE 66

Launching Pad Drive-In
 Gemini Giant statue
 Polk-a-Dot Restaurant
 Rialto Square Theatre
 Von Heindecke's Chicago Festival & Ballet
 Joliet Area Historical Museum
 Joliet Area Sports Hall of Fame
 P. Seth Magosky Museum of Victorian Life & Joliet History
 Slovenian Woman's Heritage Museum
 Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery
 Joliet Union Station
 Manhattan Metra Station
 Mar Theatre
 Briscoe Burial Mounds
 MANY LOCAL ANCHORS

MAJOR NATURAL ASSETS

Billie Limacher Bicentennial Park Birdhaven Greenhouse and Conservatory Braidwood Dunes & Savanna Preserve Channahon State Park Des Plaines Dolomite Prairies Reserve Des Plaines Fish & Wildlife Area Des Plaines River Dresden Cooling Lake Forsythe Woods County Forest Preserve Fossil Rock Recreation Area Goose Lake Prairie State Park Grant Creek Prairie Nature Preserve Heidecke Lake Hitts Siding Prairie Nature Preserve Illinois River	Kankakee River Kankakee River State Park Laughton County Forest Preserve Mazonia State Fish and Wildlife Area McKinley Woods County Forest Preserve Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie Pilcher Park Nature Center Rock Run Rookery Round Barn Park Route 66 Park Sand Ridge Savanna Nature Preserve Sugar Creek County Forest Preserve The Children's Garden Project of Elwood Wilmington Island and Dam Wilmington Shrub Prairie Nature Preserve
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SPORTS & RECREATION

Autobahn Country Club
 Bicentennial Park Theatre
 Chicagoland Speedway
 CPX Paintball Park Raceway
 Haunted Trails Family Entertainment and Amusement Park
 Hollywood Casino Joliet
 Inwood Ice Arena
 Joliet Motorsports
 Joliet Slammers Professional Baseball Team
 Joliet Splash Station Waterpark
 Leisure Hours Raceway
 Route 66 Raceway
 Town and Country Bowling Lanes

TRAILS

Wauponsee Glacial Trail
 I & M Canal Trail
 Old Plank Road Trail
 Kankakee River Trail
 Planned Route 66 Trail
 Midwin Trails
 Forest Preserve District of Will County Trails
 LOCAL TRAILS

OTHER ASSETS & ANCHORS

Intermodal Port
 Joliet Quarry
 Three Rivers Marine Service
 Harborside Marina
 Tammen Treeberry Farm
 Dollinger Family Farm
 Exotic Deer Farm
 Restored Train Depot
 Junk Yard Sculptures
 Petting Zoo
 Diamond Mine Monument
 Dresden Generating Station
 Braidwood Generating Station
 Glasscock Farm

THIS LAND HAS SO MANY STORIES THAT NEED TO BE SHARED

The story of how the mighty **Kankakee Torrents** formed this land after the great glacial meltdown.

How paleontologists have found many **fossils** in nearby Sand Prairies and coal mines, like the Tully Monster, the State Fossil of Illinois.

Stories of **exploration** - LaSalle's expedition of 1679 through Illinois country to the Kankakee River and then on to the Mississippi.

Stories of **Route 66**, one of the most legendary roads in the world, as highlighted by the Byway Enhancements underway.

Stories of how a prairie became an **arsenal**, and a prairie again

And much more.

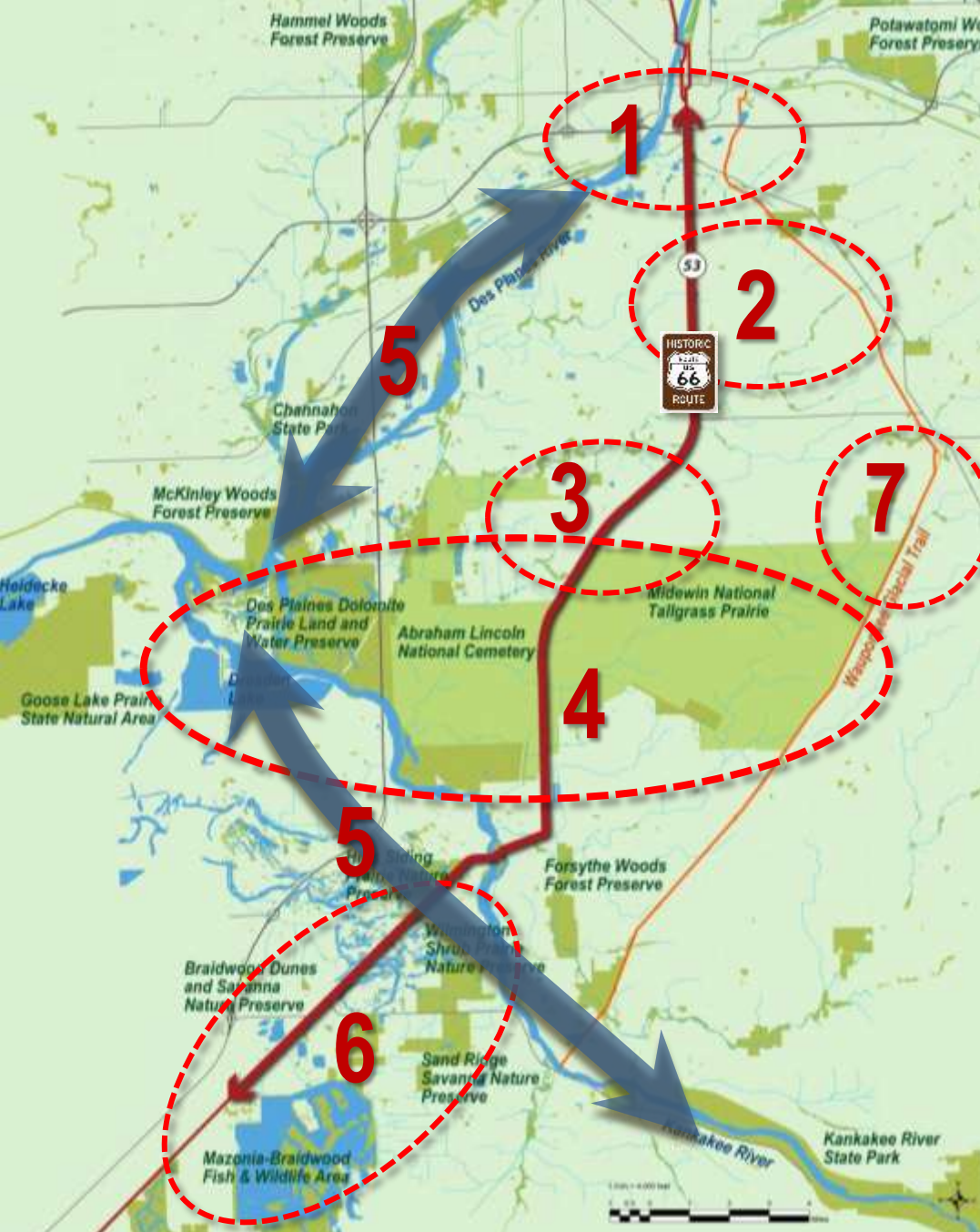


A PLAN THAT CELEBRATES THE HISTORY OF THE LAND AND THE SETTLEMENT



Opportunity Areas

1. North End
2. Sports Arenas
3. Elwood
4. Midwin and Natural Areas
5. The Riverfront
6. Wilmington & Braidwood
7. Manhattan



1. HICKORY CREEK BRIDGE
2. RAILROAD BRIDGE
3. FORMER QUARRY
4. NOWELL PARK
5. BRANDON DAM AND LOCK
6. WATERFRONT SITE
7. WAUPONSEE TRAIL
8. I & M CANAL TRAIL



AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE **QUARRY** A 66 STOP



AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THE **QUARRY** A 66 STOP



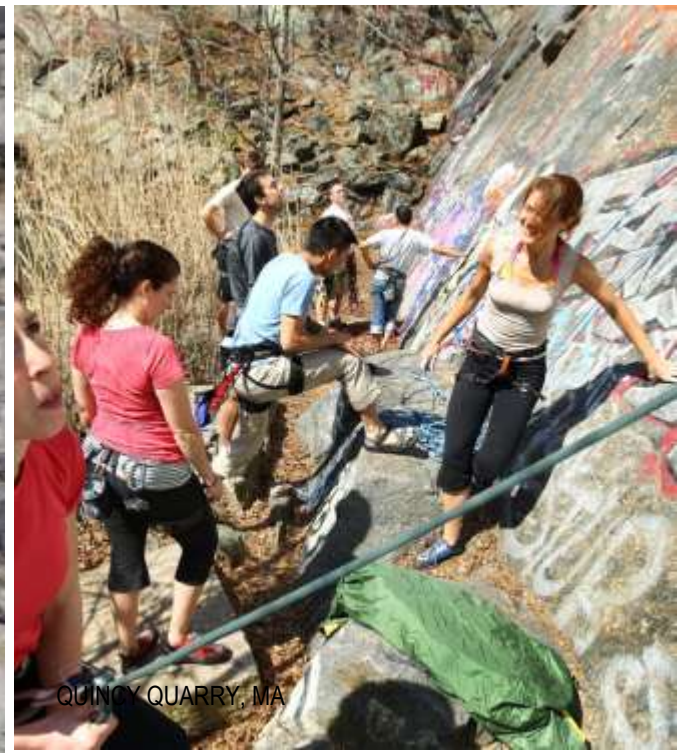
CLIFF JUMPING . . ZIP LINING . CLIMBING



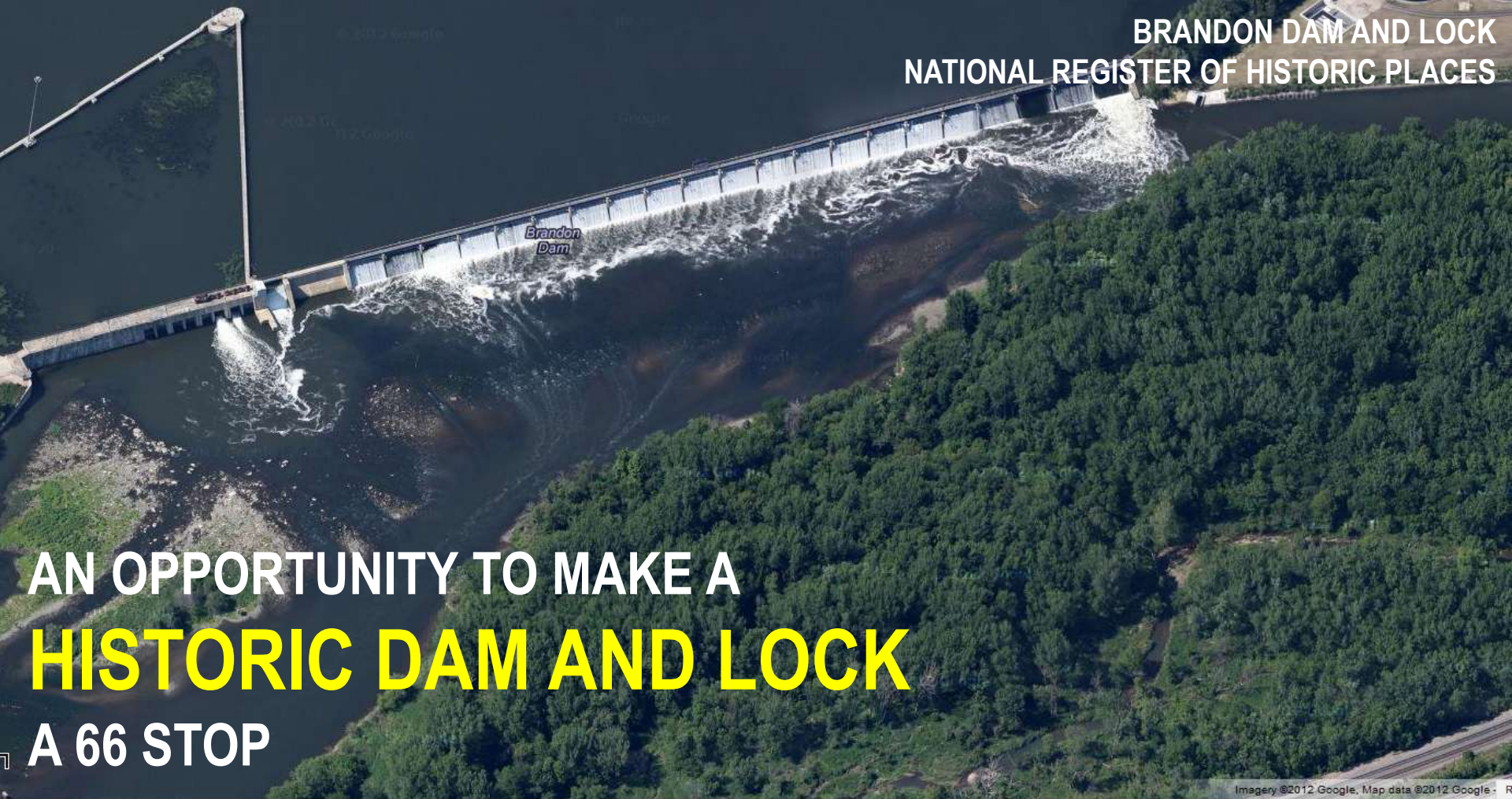
1953 Joliet Illinois Chicago Mountaineering Club
Climb Quarry Wall Wire Photo



Ziplining in Morrison's Quarry, Canada



QUINCY QUARRY, MA



AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A
HISTORIC DAM AND LOCK
A 66 STOP

Imagery ©2012 Google, Map data ©2012 Google - R



THE ISLAND CITY OF WILMINGTON



**MAIN STREET
KAYAKING
BOATING
FISHING
CANOEING
BEACHES
MARINAS
RIVERWALKS
LODGING
RESTAURANTS**

Getting To the Corridor

Car, Train, Bike, and Freight



The corridor can be reached by two major interstate highways and three Metra Rail lines

ROUTE 66 LACK OF IDENTITY ON INTERSTATE 80



OPPORTUNITIES STRONGER SIGNAGE AND WAYFINDING



OPPORTUNITIES UNIQUE LANDSCAPING THAT REFLECTS THE SURROUNDING ASSETS



Getting Around the Corridor

Car

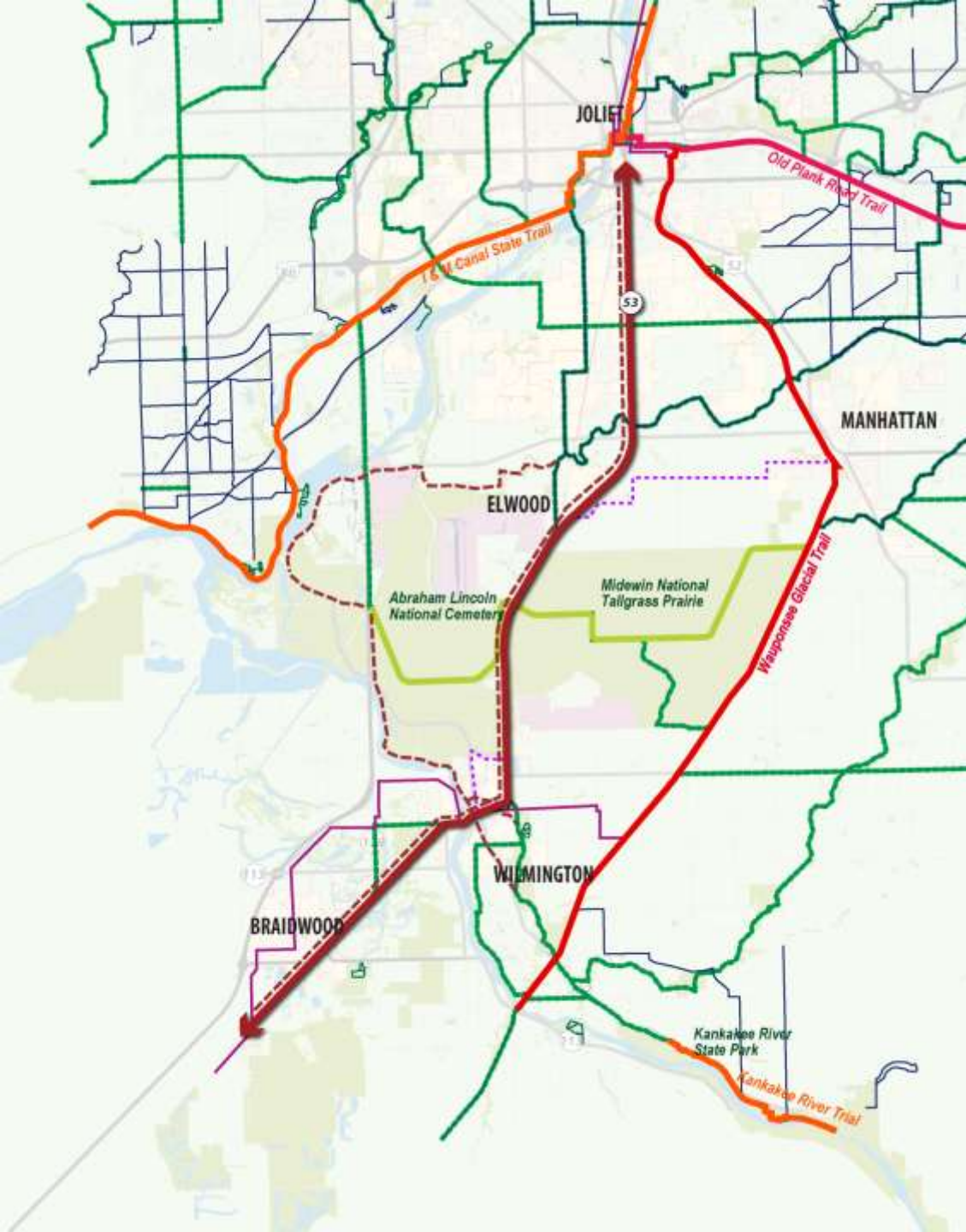
Many roadway expansions, extensions and intersection reconfigurations are planned

Historic Route 66 is currently the main auto experience, can other scenic drive loops through out the area be identified



LEGEND

-  INTERSTATE HIGHWAY/TOLLWAY
-  PRINCIPAL ARTERIAL
-  MINOR ARTERIAL
-  MAJOR COLLECTOR
-  LOCAL ROADS
-  TRAFFIC SIGNAL
-  RAIL ROAD GRADE CROSSING
-  PLANNED INTERCHANGE RECONSTRUCTION OR NEW CONSTRUCTION
-  PLANNED INTERSECTION REALIGNMENT
-  PLANNED ROAD WIDENING
-  PLANNED ROAD EXTENSION
-  PLANNED INTERSTATE
-  PLANNED RAIL ROAD GRADE SEPARATION



A COMPLETE AND CONNECTED REGIONAL TRAIL SYSTEM

OTHER WAYS OF GETTING
AROUND AND SEEING THE
CORRIDOR

HOT AIR BALLOON RIDES

DUCKS

ZIP CARS

BIKE SHARE

OVER **30,000**
TOURISTS DRIVE THE
MOTHER ROAD
EVERY YEAR



HISTORIC ROUTE 66

TODAY, MOST 66
TOURISTS PROBABLY
MAKE ONLY **THREE**
STOPS AND MOVE ON
TO PONTIAC.



WE NEED TO FIND WAYS TO
CAPTURE 66 TOURISTS
FOR LONGER PERIODS
OF TIME AND DIRECT THEM TO
OTHER ACTIVITIES IN THE AREA.

REENERGIZE HISTORIC ROUTE 66

NORTH END
SPORTS

CREATE 6

NEW MAJOR
STOPS ON

66!

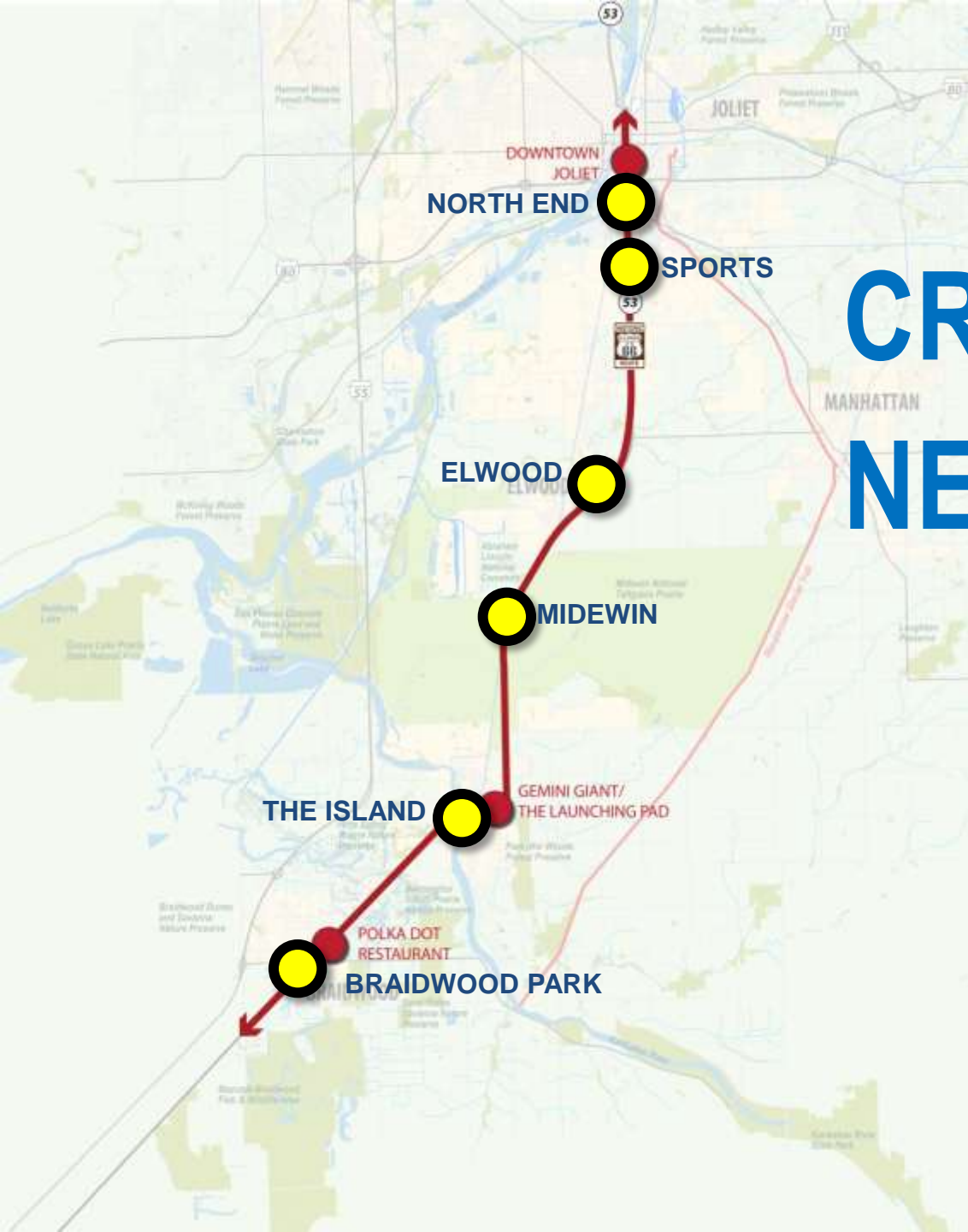
ELWOOD
MIDEWIN

THE ISLAND
POLKA DOT RESTAURANT
BRAIDWOOD PARK

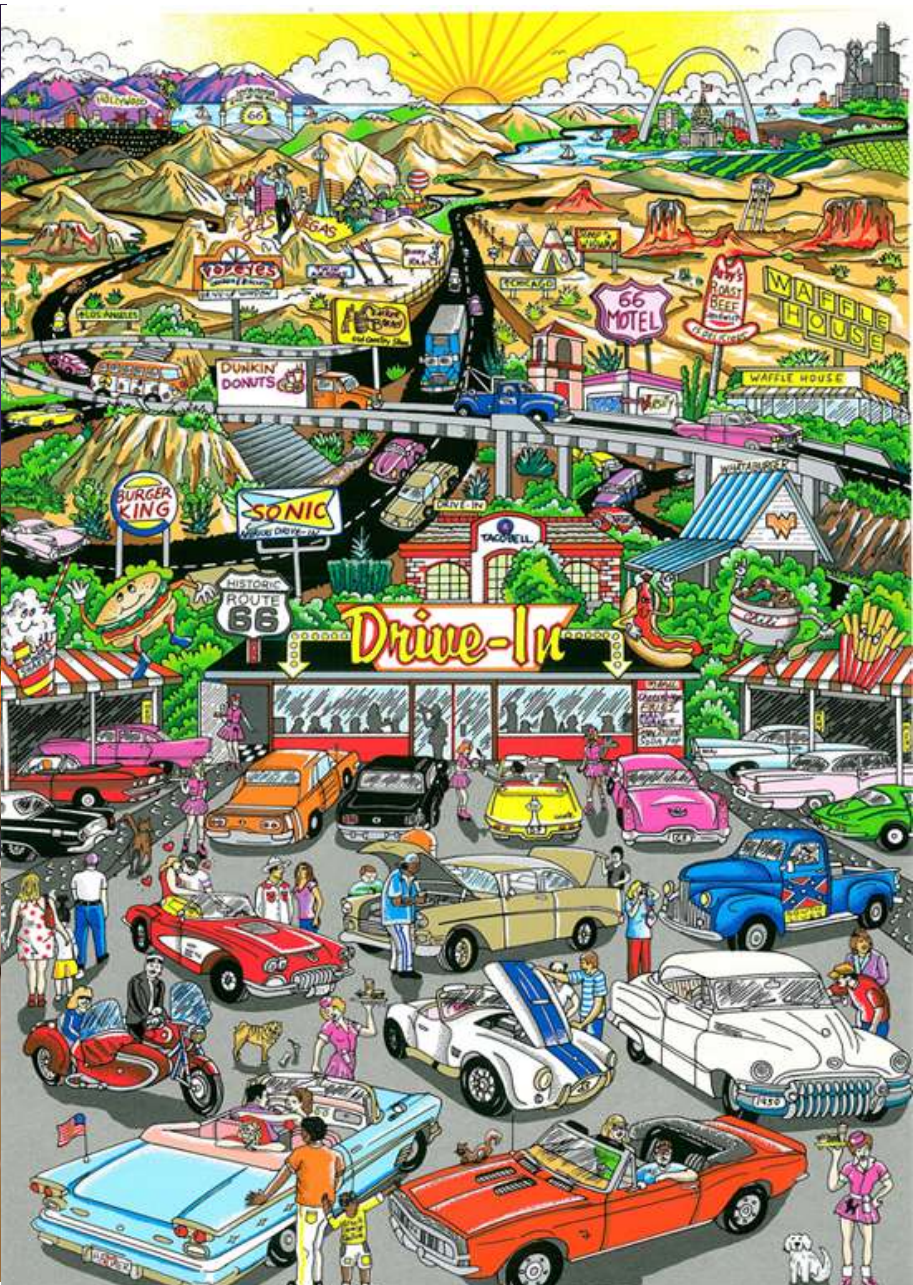
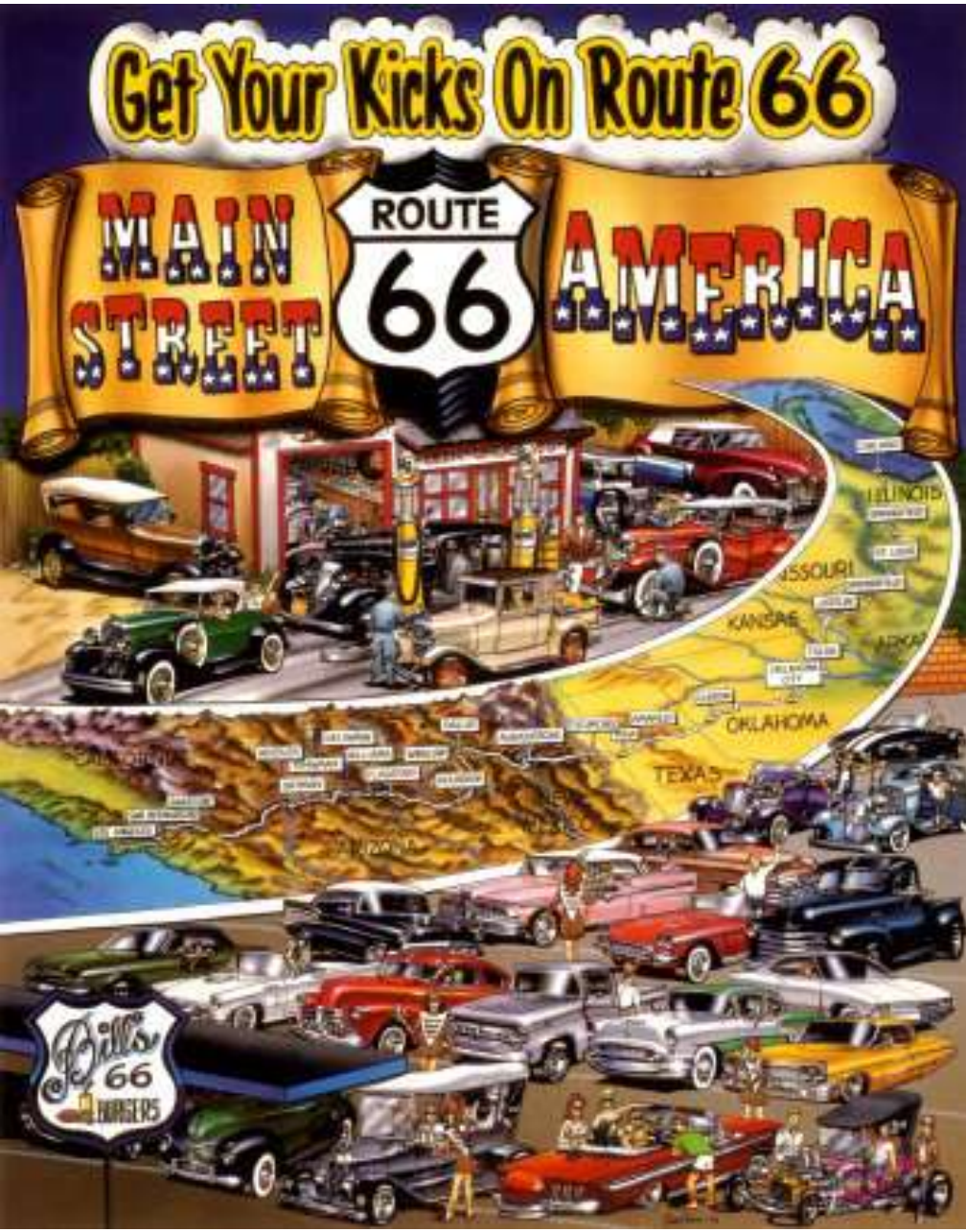
DOWNTOWN
JOLIET

JOLIET

MANHATTAN



FUN FAMILY FRIENDLY JOY OF EXPLORATION





ICONIC



UNIQUE

OVERSIZED



OBJECTS

THAT MAKE YOU STOP!

ICONIC

UNIQUE

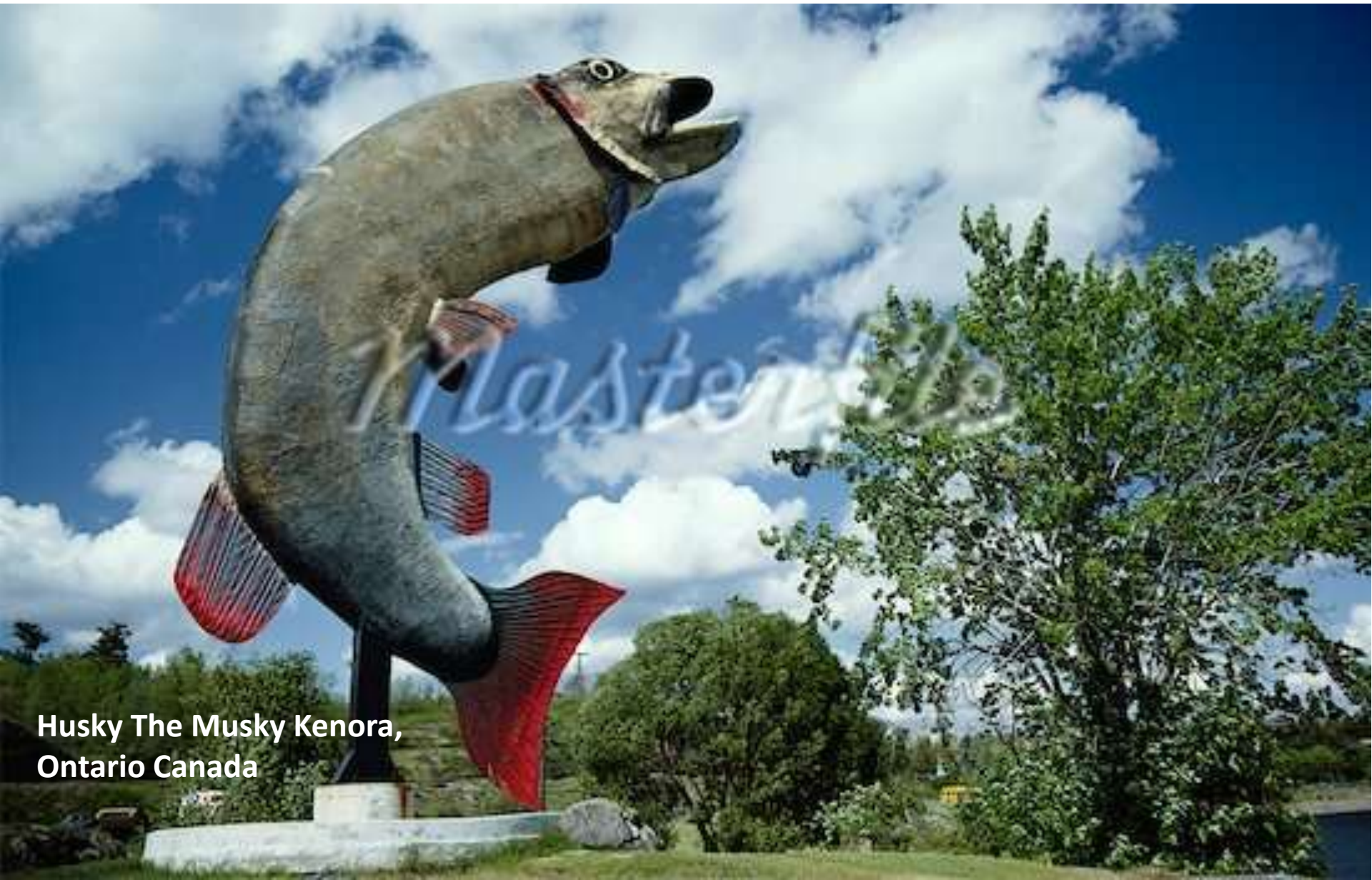
OVERSIZED

ART

THAT YOU DRIVE TO SEE

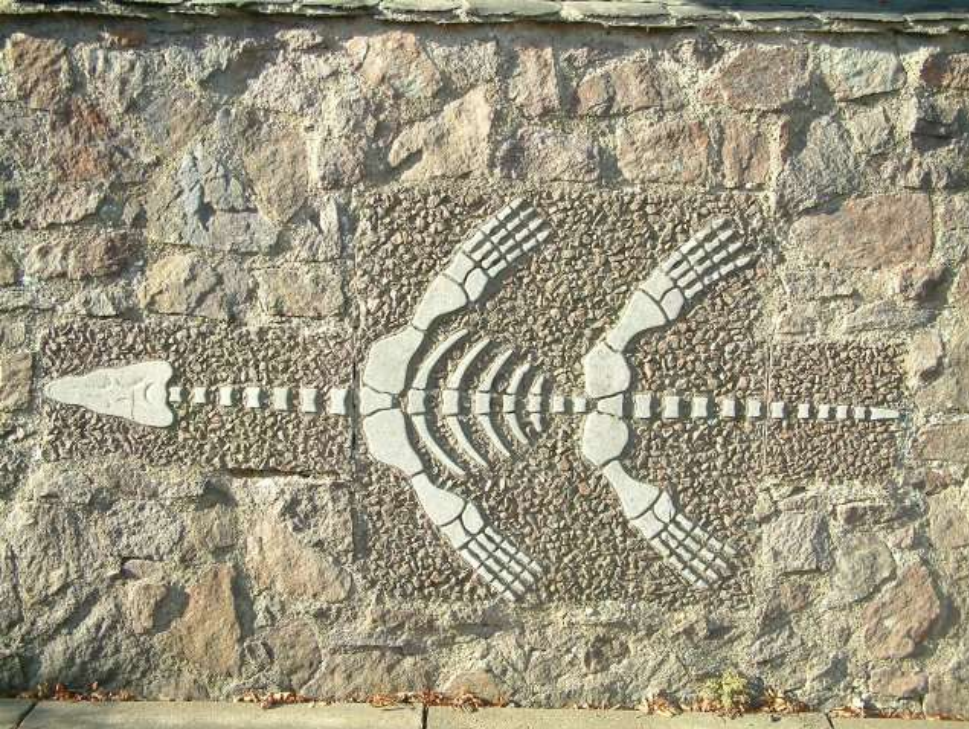


ROUTE 66 BRAIDWOOD STOP
IDEAS: LARGE FISH SCULPTURE



Husky The Musky Kenora,
Ontario Canada

ROUTE 66 BRAIDWOOD STOP
IDEAS: LARGE FOSSIL
SCULPTURE



LAGUNA HILLS, CALIFORNIA



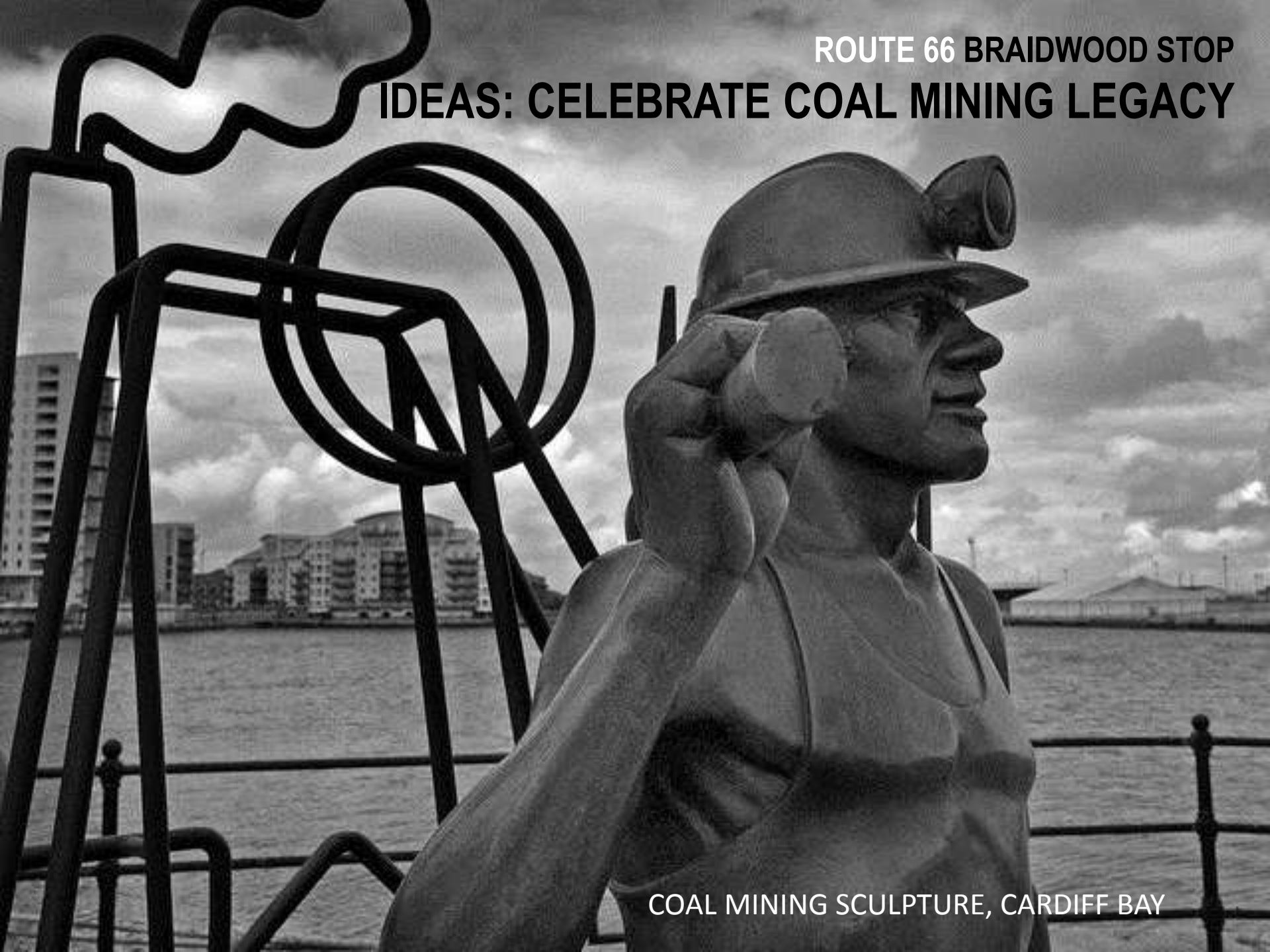
ROUTE 66 BRAIDWOOD STOP

IDEAS: MACARONI CAPITAL OF THE WORLD



NAVY PIER, CHICAGO

ROUTE 66 BRAIDWOOD STOP
IDEAS: CELEBRATE COAL MINING LEGACY



COAL MINING SCULPTURE, CARDIFF BAY

CELEBRATE FREIGHT



"BIG JIG RIG" SCULPTURE FROM TWO 18
WHEELERS



CELEBRATE RACING



GOODWOOD FESTIVAL OF SPEED, SUSSEX

ELWOOD

Abraham
Lincoln
National
Cemetery

Midewin National
Tallgrass Prairie

Wauponsee Glacial Trail

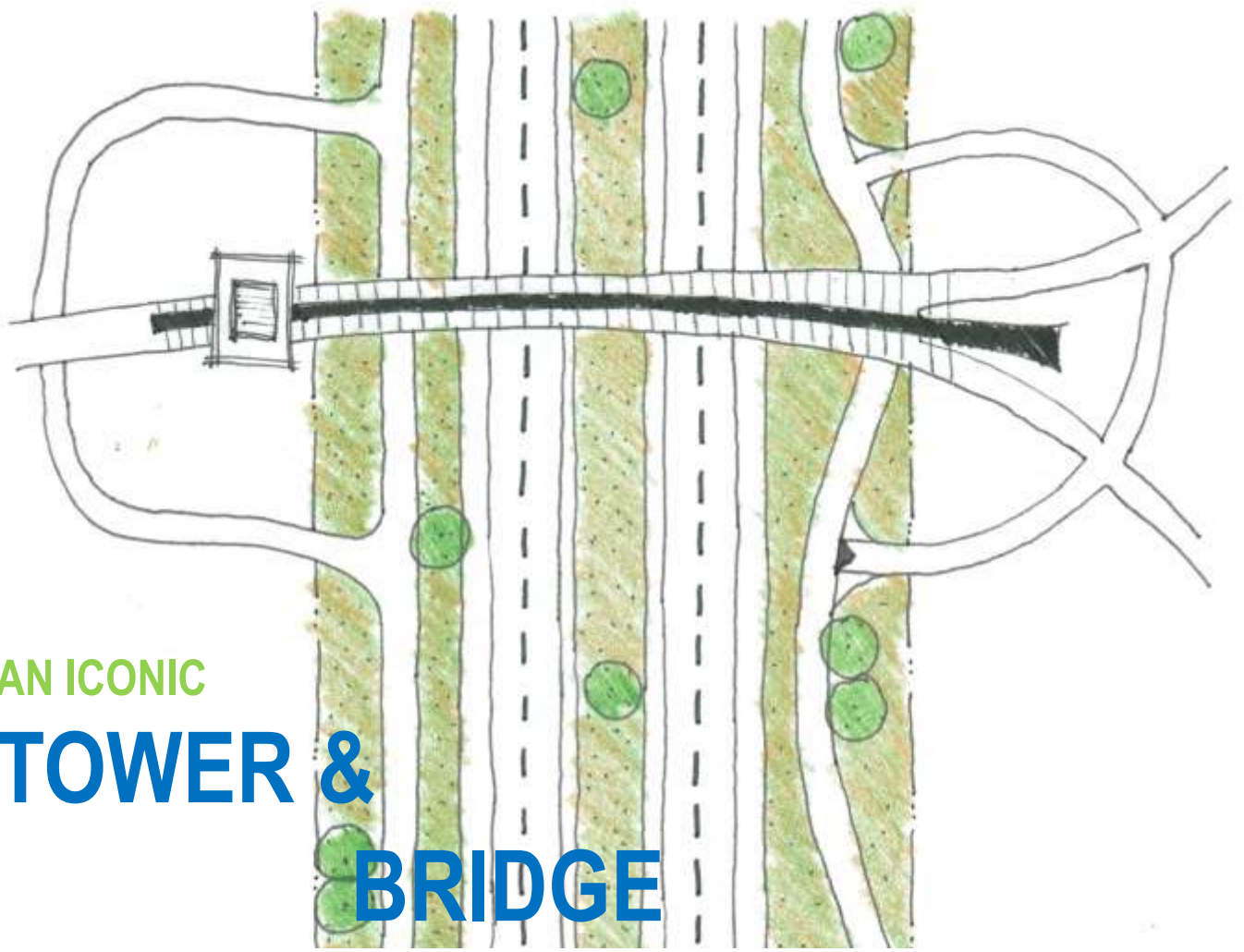


**AN ICONIC
TOWER &
BRIDGE**

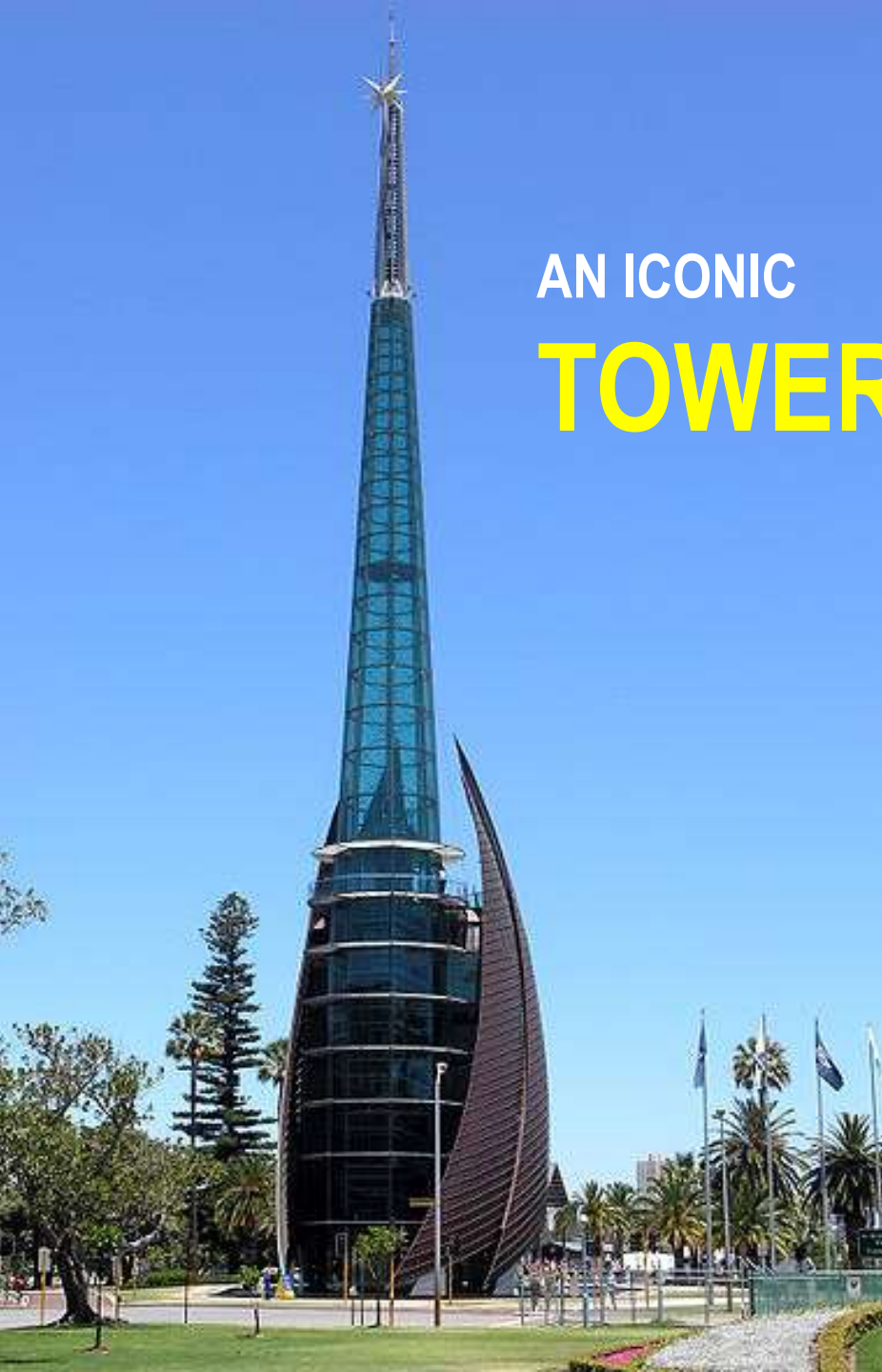




AN ICONIC
**TOWER &
BRIDGE**



EXISTING IL 53 R.O.W.



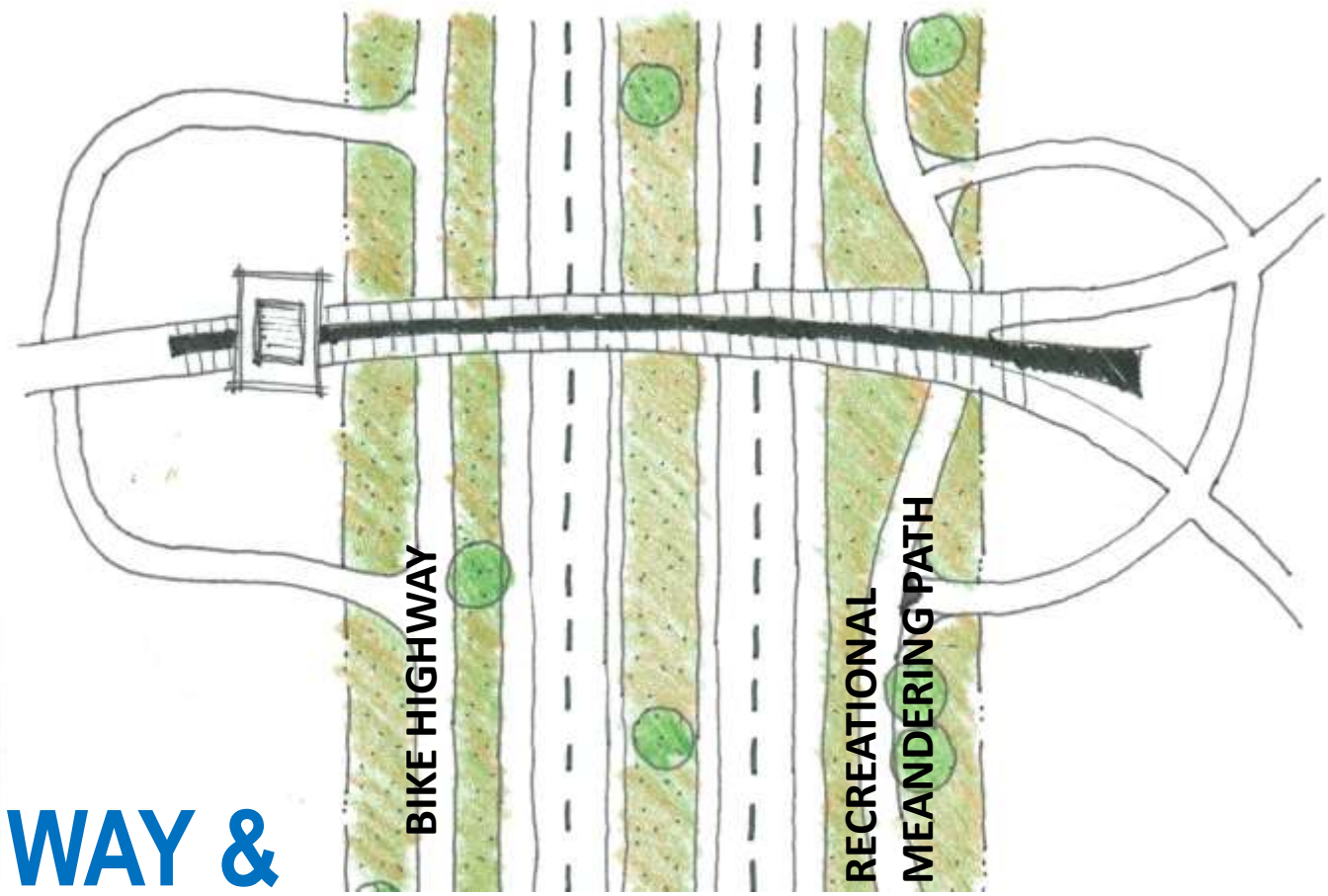
AN ICONIC

TOWER &

BRIDGE



A
BIKE HIGHWAY &



A DIFFERENT KIND OF **TRAIL**



AN INTENSE ENGAGEMENT OF STAKEHOLDERS



Imagine the Possibilities.

*A family wakes up early one Saturday and heads for the train station. This is no ordinary Saturday – today, the parents will unwind in a real **Midwestern Prairie**, and the kids will learn about food and history, while getting some exercise. As the Metra train reaches the last stop at **Manhattan**, the kids jump down and run for the bike share station, impatient to get on the **Wauponsee Trail** their friends have been praising. The trail is cool, with the summer sun poking through the thick leaves of the trees. The empty bike baskets fill everyone with anticipation.*

*The weekend is measured not in hours, but in accomplishments: farm-fresh egg omelets with fresh herbs at a local farm; a long hike through the **Midwestern Prairie**; a rewarding picnic of freshly-baked bread and locally-produced meats along the clear waters of **Prairie Creek**; fishing for the first time at the **Kankakee River**; a visit to the new **Museum of Agriculture**, and a good night's sleep at the local bed and breakfast.*

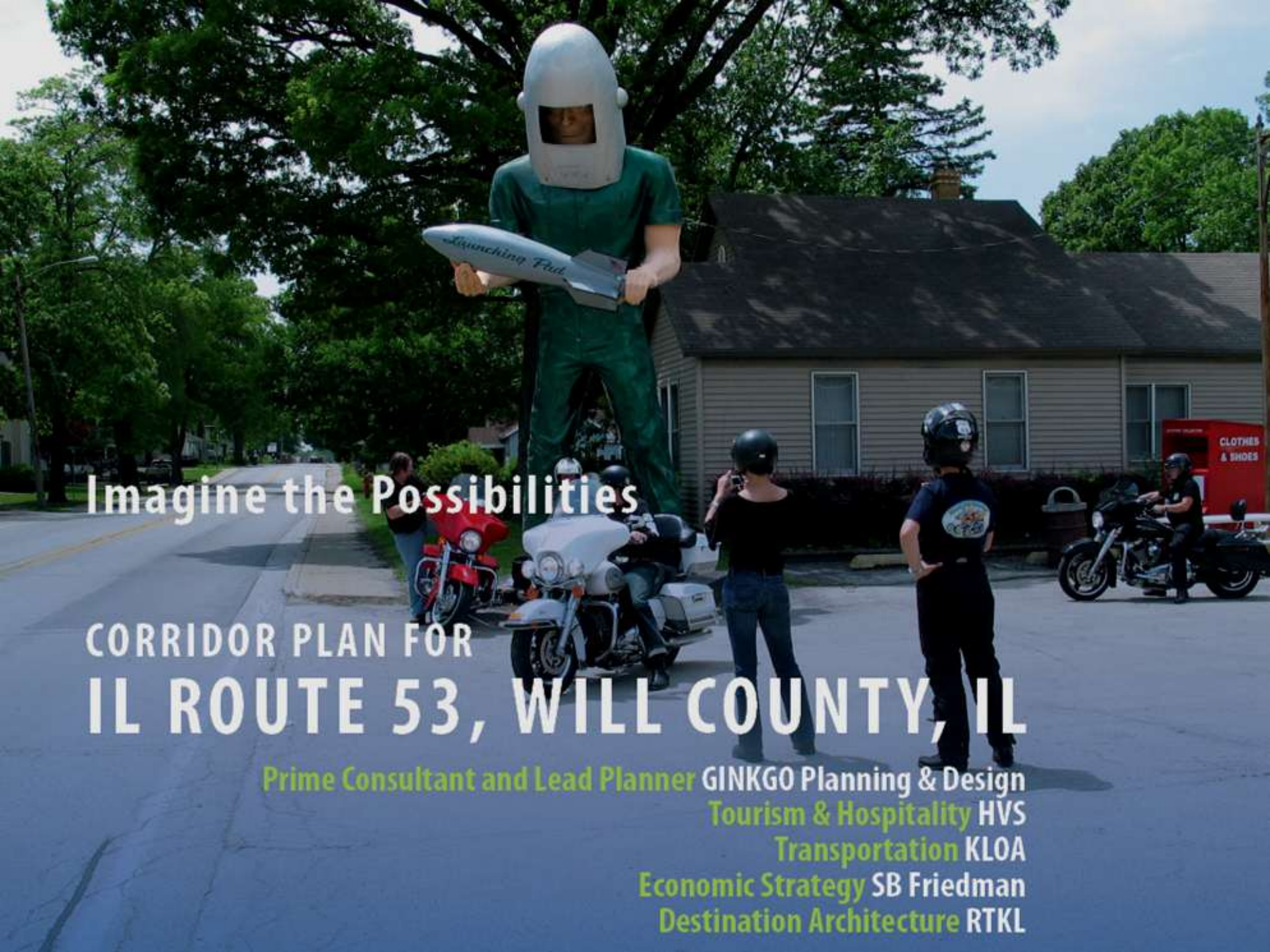
*To continue exploring this beautiful land, the family rents an electric car from the local car share and heads for the **Summerfest Parade** in **Historic Elmhurst**. By now, the kids are huge fans of the **Route 66** story, and want to see every **66** attraction nearby. **Wilmington's Gemini Giant** becomes their new, tall family friend. A stop at the country's largest inland port in charming **Elwood** amazes the kids – they have never seen so many enormous containers before! The evening ends with a family musical at the gritty **Rialto** in **Joliet**.*

*Satisfied with their amazing weekend, the family boards the last train at **Joliet's Union Station**, coming home for a late dinner of fresh, locally-produced food.*

The kids tell their parents:

every weekend should be like this one!

IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES



Imagine the Possibilities

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