



# National Road Heritage Trail Development Guide



March 2006

produced in cooperation with  
the Indiana Office of Tourism Development through  
the Lt. Governor's Quality of Place Initiative and NRHT, Inc.



# NRHT Development Guide

## Credits and Contact Information

Produced in cooperation with the **Indiana Office of Tourism Development** through the **Lt. Governor's Quality of Place Initiative**.

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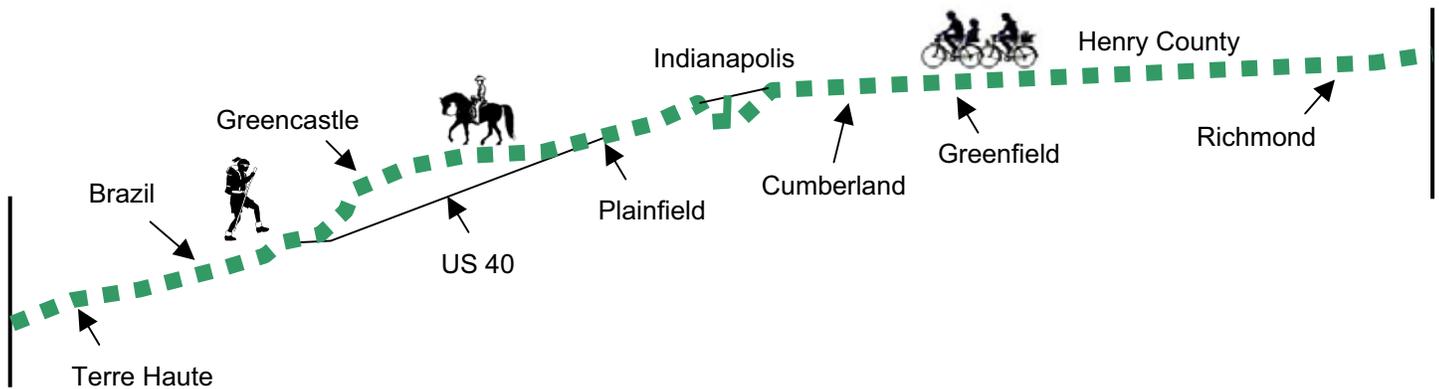
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# National Road Heritage Trail Concept Overview



150-mile continuous system of multi-use trails for non-motorized travel built along the former Pennsylvania, Vandalia, & electric interurban railroad corridors, where possible, from Terre Haute to Richmond closely following the historic National Road for most of its route. Designed for bicyclists and pedestrians and in many areas horseback riders.

## Why?

- Economic development, tourism, transportation alternatives
- Public health, quality of life, historical & cultural preservation

## Why this Route?

- Historic transportation corridor spanning several different epochs
- Nine communities are already developing trails on this route.
- Most of the former railroad beds are still physically intact.
- Passes through notable communities every 3-5 miles, except in the scenic Walnut Creek area of west central Indiana.
- High visibility route and name are valuable for marketing outside of the state.
- Possible expansion into Illinois and Ohio along National Road.

## Why Coordinate the Effort?

- Few of the existing trails have plans to connect.
- Continuous system of trails magnifies the value of the individual trails.
- The context of the larger project strengthens the case for developing each of the individual segments.
- Sections of the corridor are slowly being converted for other use, in many cases only because the potential for a trail is not obvious locally.
- Perfect match for Indiana National Road Association goals – strengthen preservation, awareness, tourism of corridor.

## How to Coordinate

### **Quality of Place Initiative and the NRHT Development Guide**

The Lt. Governor's Quality of Place Initiative provided the essential tool or blueprint needed to professionally document and plan coordination of this expansive project.

The 9-volume NRHT Development Guide is an important resource for the state, the 8 counties, the 30 communities and the 1.3 million residents along the proposed route of the 150-mile National Road Heritage Trail. It provides the background information and context with which to launch or modify multi-use trail and greenways development plans in order to create a continuous, interconnected network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities across the width of the state, also including equestrian facilities for much of the route.

Volume 1 provides an overview of the entire project along with a description of its potential benefits and a general theme and design guidelines that can be applied throughout. It also highlights the potential multi-use trail connectivity with Illinois and Ohio. Volumes 2-9 provide detailed information and conditions along the proposed route in each of the 8 counties. Each volume also includes a conceptual design treatment of a particular section of trail or a trailhead in the subject county. The detailed information consists of verbal descriptions, US Geological Survey maps, property parcel information, and drawings.

## Implementation Plans and Goals

NRHT, Inc plans to use the Development Guide to expand adoption of the National Road Heritage Trail in local and state economic development, transportation and land-use plans.

To encourage local adoption, it will be presented to metropolitan planning organizations, boards of county commissioners, parks departments, municipal governments and citizens' groups. Already, in February 2006, a draft of the Hendricks County volume was provided to the Hendricks County Planning Department as input to the county's updated Comprehensive Plan.

To encourage a coordinated statewide approach to the development and management of this cross-state facility, the Development Guide will be presented to Governor Daniels and Lt. Governor Skillman, to the Indiana Office of Tourism Development, to the Indiana Department of Transportation, and to the Department of Natural Resources.

The potential for future adoption is greatly enhanced by the strong local initiatives already underway in most of the 8 counties. The map on the following page shows the status of projects along the proposed route. This momentum has lead NRHT, Inc. to propose the goal of completion of the 150 miles in time for Indiana's bicentennial in the year 2016.

# Status of Projects along the National Road Heritage Trail Route

April 16, 2006

