

Hess, Raymond

Subject: FW: To go along with Ann Arbor's Bicentennial - Transportation

From: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Sent: Tuesday, November 23, 2021 10:36 AM

To: 'Ken Clark' <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Cc: Hess, Raymond

Subject: RE: To go along with Ann Arbor's Bicentennial - Transportation

Ken,

Thank you for contacting the City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission. Your comment regarding the role of transportation and the upcoming bicentennial will be provided as a communication item on the December 15 Transportation Commission Agenda.

Transportation staff are also copied here so that they are also aware of your comment.

Have a Happy Thanksgiving.

Respectfully,

Eli Cooper, A.I.C.P.

Transportation Program Manager

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Thank you.

From: Ken Clark <XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX>

Sent: Monday, November 22, 2021 6:45 PM

To: City of Ann Arbor Transportation Commission <TransportationCommission@a2gov.org>

Subject: To go along with Ann Arbor's Bicentennial - Transportation

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Transportation Commissioners,

There's a plaque and boulder at the Broadway Bridges commemorating the original Native American crossing of the Huron at Pontiac and Broadway. The plaque is inscribed:

"This boulder marks the site where trails of the Potawatomi and other Indian tribes crossed the Huron River. About thirty rods N.E. stood the Washtenaw Hotel, a famous tavern on the stage coach routes from Detroit and Pontiac to Chicago

following in general the old Indian trails. Erected in 1924 by the Sons of the American Revolution and Citizens of Ann Arbor."

I think many of us forget that the story of Ann Arbor is partly a story of transportation. Ann Arbor was where the Pontiac and one of the many Detroit trails met. It was also on the Huron, which was most likely a navigable river by canoe. While we think of it as being founded by Allen and Rumsey, it was most likely founded by various Native American tribes far back in the mists of time, and settled by other Native Americans, because of its excellent transportation options and our hills (raised above the swamps of SE Michigan). Later, Detroit was a French settlement of Nouvelle-France, and it's pretty likely that French settlers also visited here, though that history was (with the Native American) largely erased by the English.

I don't know the history of the plaque beyond the inscription. But I'd guess it was put there on our centennial, in commemoration of the role transportation played in the history of the city. I'm sure there are people in the Administration starting to work on our bicentennial. In the celebrations of the City's bicentennial, we should also celebrate transportation in Ann Arbor - it was key to our city's founding.

Ken Clark