

# ***RIBBONS ACROSS THE LAND***

## **THE STORY OF THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM**

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# TRANSPORTATION IN 19<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY AMERICA





# ***RIBBONS OF WATER***

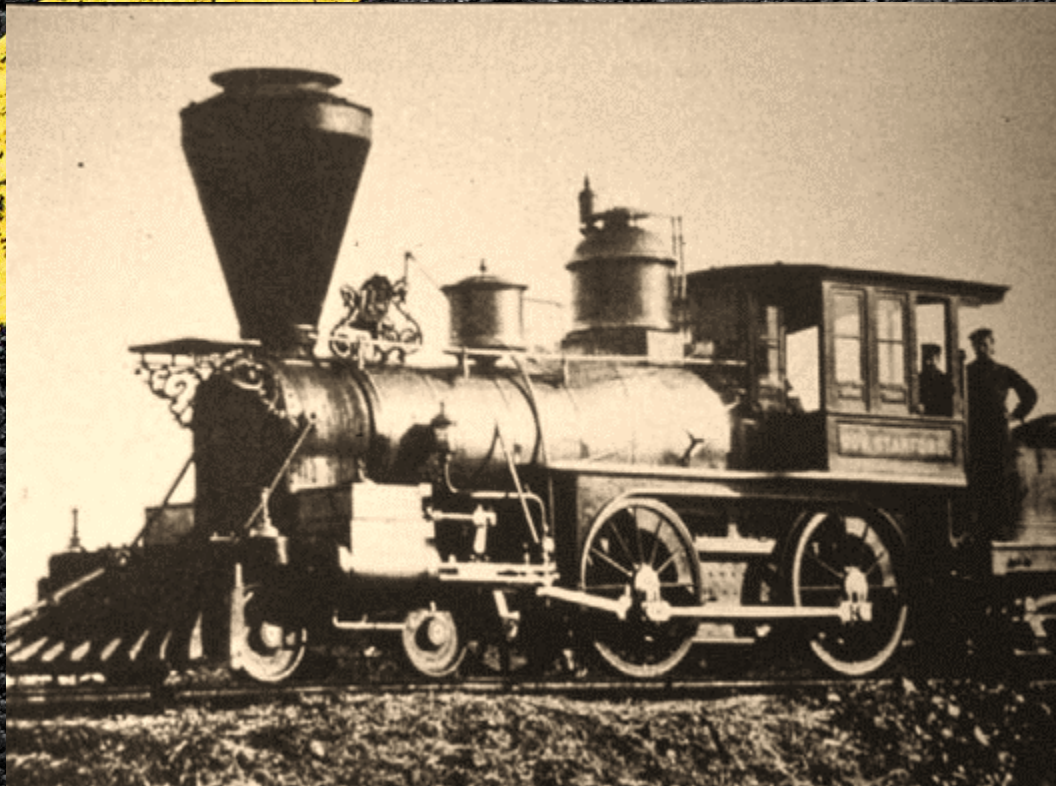
## RIVERS AS RELIABLE TRANSPORTATION



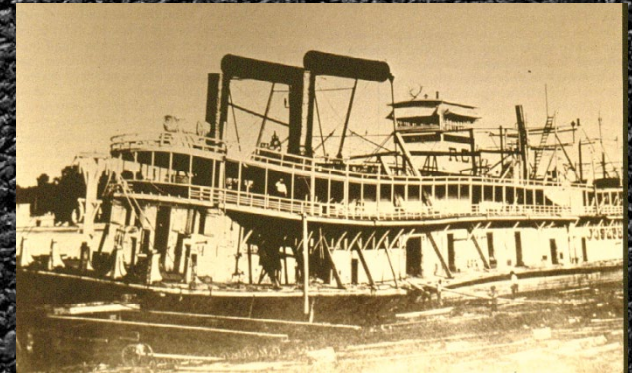
# STEAMBOAT INVENTED IN 1787



# TRANSPORTATION NETWORK EXPANDS: TOWBOATS, TRAINS, & TURNPIKES



# FROM FREIGHT TO EXCURSIONS: THE DECLINE OF THE PACKET BOATS



# BELLE OF LOUISVILLE

## 1914



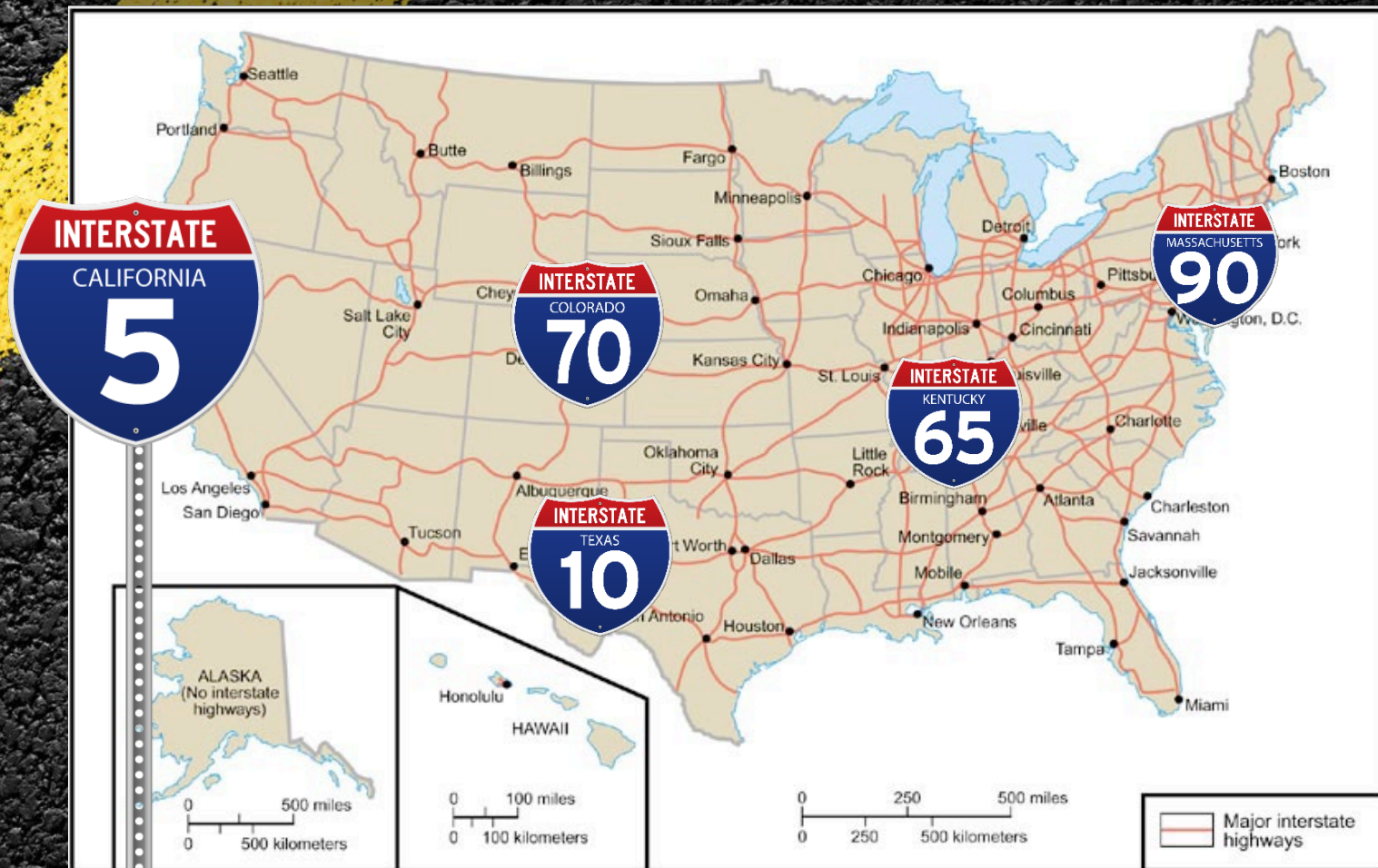
# BELLE OF LOUISVILLE

## Today



# RIBBONS OF CONCRETE

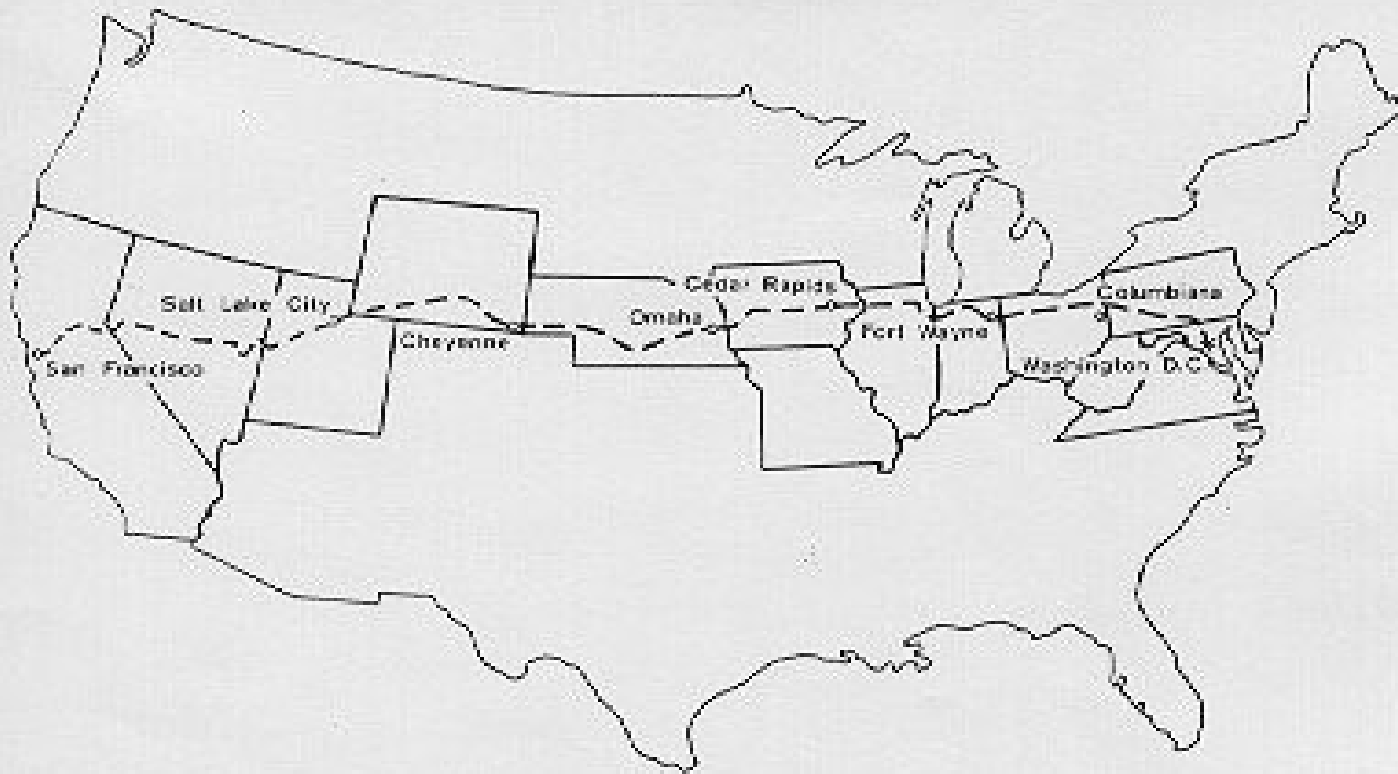
## INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM



THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM

# 1919: A NEW ADVENTURE

Dwight D. Eisenhower volunteered to travel with the first Transcontinental Motor Convoy from Washington, D. C. to San Francisco, California.



Transcontinental Motor Convoy  
July 7 - September 6, 1919

# 1919: A NEW ADVENTURE

*At the Firestone Homestead, Columbiana, Ohio*

*Sunday, July 13, 1919. A Rest Halt*

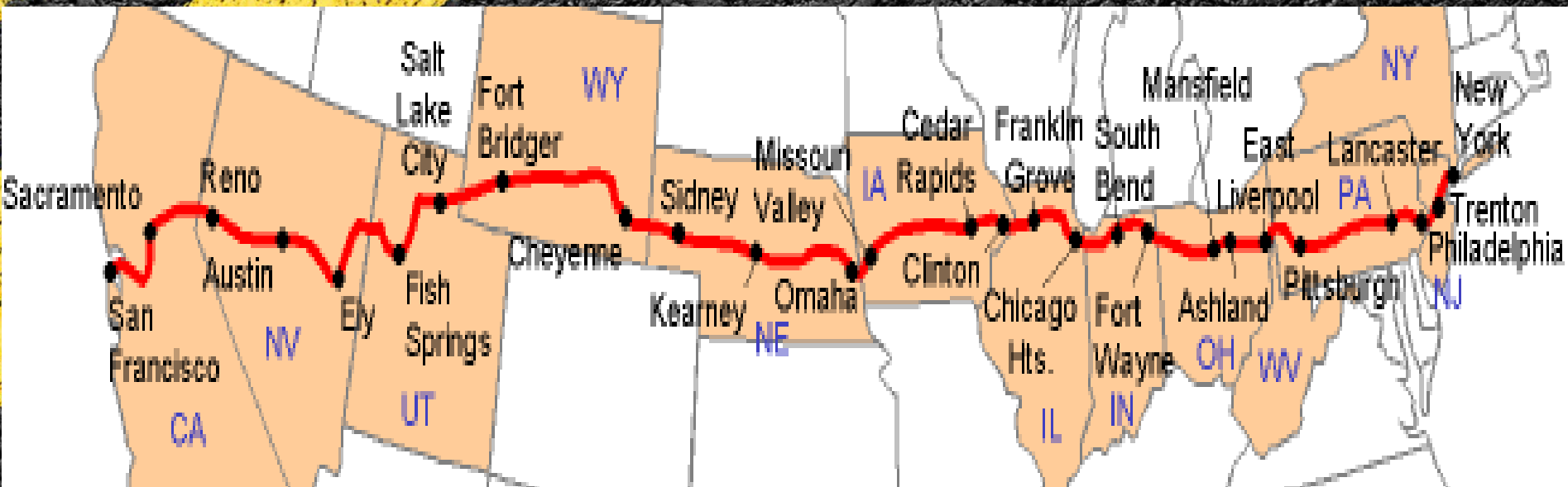


*Major Brett                      Colonel Eisenhower  
Harvey Firestone, Jr.*





Created in 1913, the Lincoln Highway Association promoted the road using private and corporate donations.



"The Lincoln Highway is something more than a road, it will be a road with personality, a distinctive work of which the America of future generations can point to with pride—an economic, but also artistic triumph."

- *Carl Fisher*

*"Nothing of the sort had ever been attempted"*  
Eisenhower excitedly proclaimed as the  
convoy headed west.

**The convoy would travel 3251 miles.**



*Lucky to get on road like this.*

For 62 days, the convoy experienced heat, mud, breakdowns and accidents, and bridgeless river crossings.



# The convoy passed through 350 communities in 11 states



Excerpt from a speech marking the arrival of the Transcontinental Motor Convoy:  
*Much like those early explorers in this journey of yours across plain, desert, and mountain trail, you have blazed new trails—the trails of commerce, highways, mechanical achievement, and the protection of the flag. Surely no achievement could be more worthy of recognition and well earned praise.*

# NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR UNVEILED “FUTURAMA” 1939





# NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR "FUTURAMA"

*"We are too much inclined to believe, because things have long been done a certain way that is the best way to do them. Following old grooves of thought is one method of playing safe. But it deprives one of initiative and takes too long. It sacrifices the value of the element of surprise. At times, the only thing to do is to cut loose and do the unexpected! It takes more even than imagination to be progressive. It takes vision and courage. "*

**- Norman Bel Geddes**

**"FUTURAMA"**

THE CROSSING POINT OF TWO FUTURE MOTORWAYS

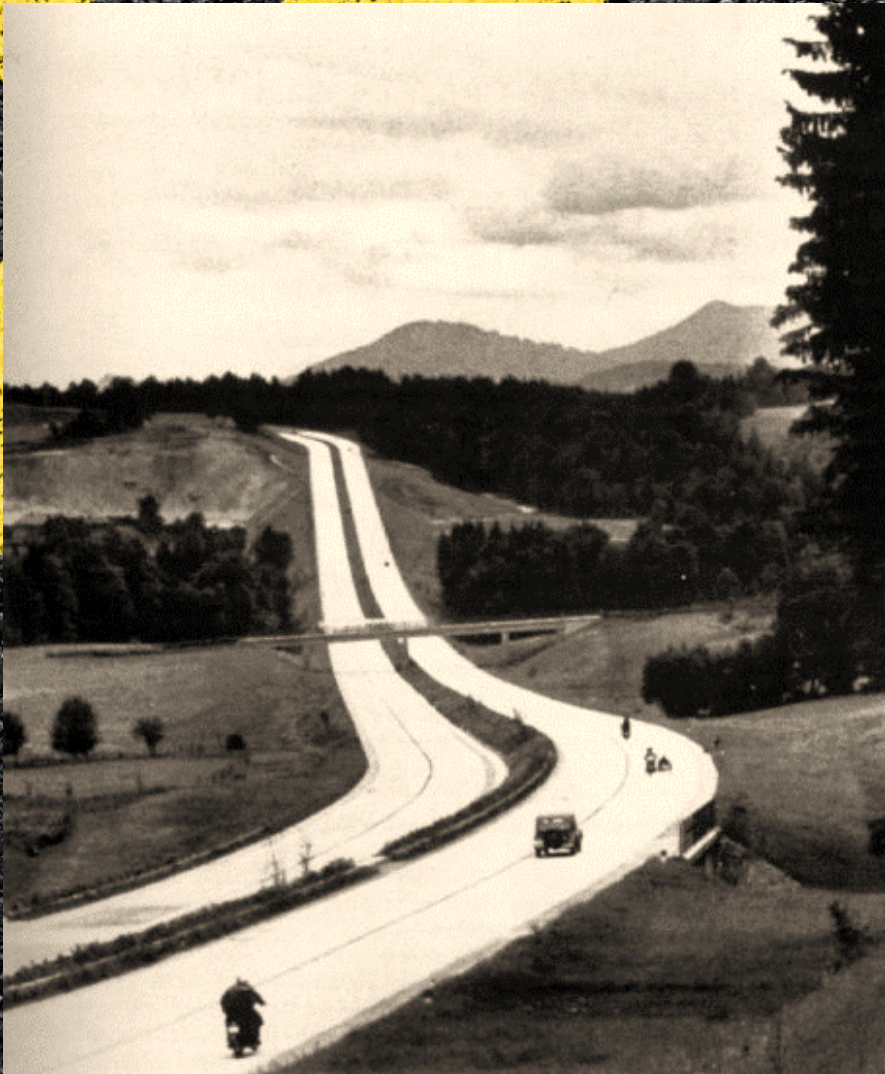
Futurama Photo by Richard Garrison

In the 1940's, United States found itself  
involved in World War II.  
Eisenhower had become a general.



**German POW's  
Marching on the Autobahn-1945**

Built in the 1930's,  
the Autobahn's highway system of four lanes.



*"That old convoy had started me thinking about good, two-lane highways, but Germany had made me see the wisdom of broader ribbons across the land."*

- General Dwight D. Eisenhower

On June 29, 1956, President Eisenhower signed the Federal Aid Highway Act that created the National System of Interstate and Defense Highways.

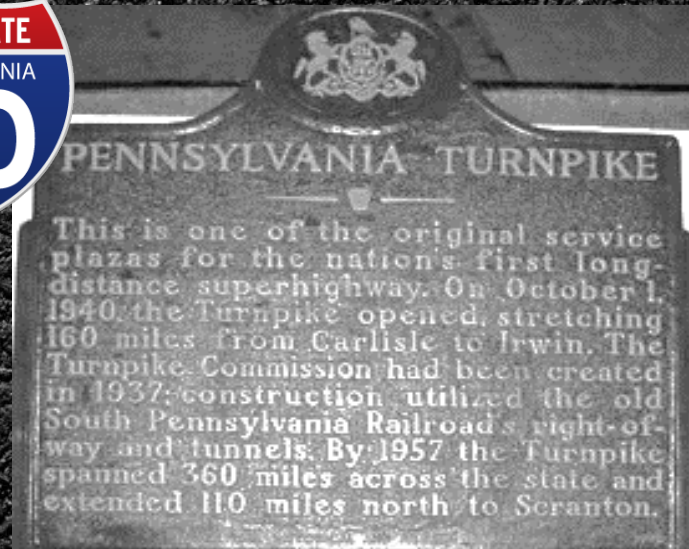


# WHO IS FIRST?

The Pennsylvania Turnpike, sections of Interstates 44 & 70 in Missouri, and a section of Interstate 70 in Kansas all lay claim to being the first.



An interstate is born: The first was I-70 in Missouri and Kansas.



# Over 46,000 miles of interstate highways across the United States



THE INTERSTATE HIGHWAY SYSTEM



**EAST-WEST INTERSTATE ROUTE NUMBERS  
END IN AN EVEN NUMBER.**

**The longest Interstate is I-90, which runs from  
Boston to Seattle, a distance of 3,081 miles.**



**NORTH-SOUTH INTERSTATE  
ROUTE NUMBERS END IN AN  
ODD NUMBER.**

**I-95, which runs from Miami, Florida,  
to Houlton, Maine, a distance of  
1,919.74 miles, is the longest north-  
south route and passes through 16  
states including Washington, D.C.**

STATE WITH MOST  
INTERSTATE MILES:

**TEXAS**

17 ROUTES  
TOTALING 3,233.45 MILES



STATE WITH MOST INTERSTATE  
ROUTES:

**NEW YORK**

1,674.73 MILES  
29 ROUTES



**SHORTEST INTERSTATE  
ROUTE:**

***NEW YORK CITY I-878***

**SEVEN-TENTHS OF A MILE LONG  
TOTALING 3,696 FEET**

If the first digit of a three-digit interstate route number is

**EVEN**

the route goes around a city.

If the first digit of a three-digit interstate route number is

**ODD**

it is a spur into a city.





**LONGEST TUNNEL AND  
HIGHEST ELEVATION:**  
***Eisenhower Memorial Tunnel  
in Colorado on I-70***

**11,012 feet (east) & 11,158 feet (west)  
above sea level.**





LOWEST ELEVATION OF  
INTERSTATE:

***Interstate 8***

in El Centro California  
*52 feet below sea level*



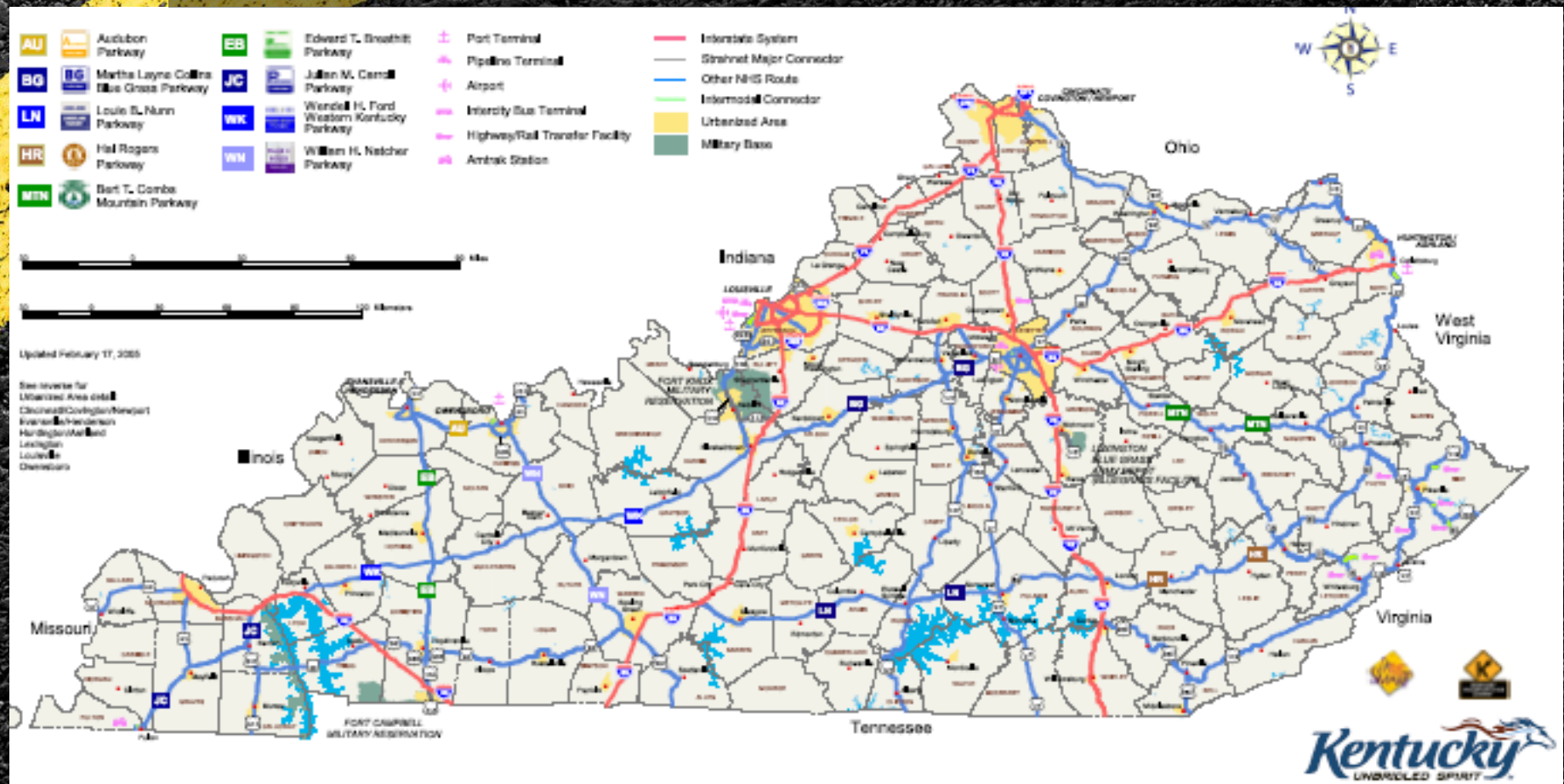


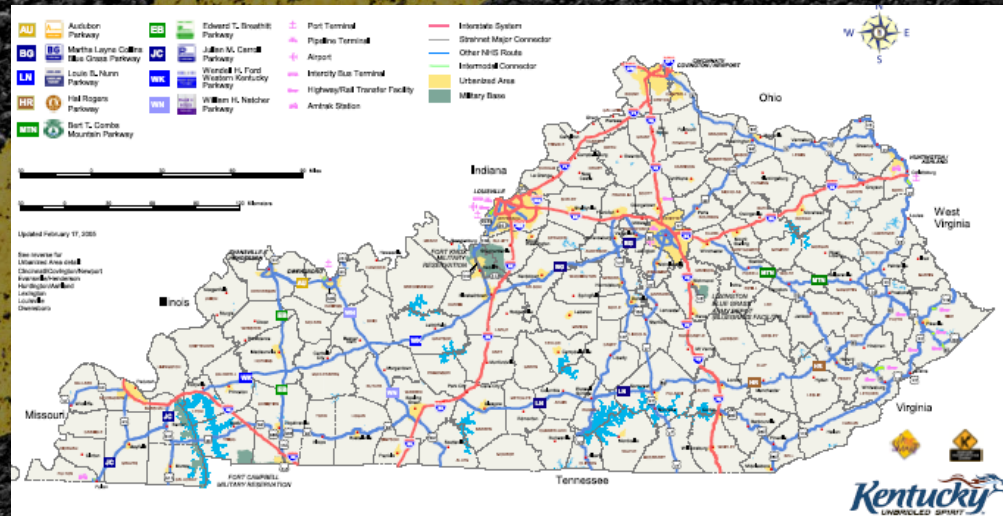
# LONGEST SUSPENSION BRIDGE: *Verrazano-Narrows Bridge*

- I-278 in New York City
- Spans 4260 feet
- Built in 1964



**Total Interstate System Mileage: 772 miles**





# Interstate Routes:

I-24, I-64, I-65, I-71, I-75, I-264, I-265, I-275, I-471



# KENTUCKY HIGHWAY FACTS



## **Longest Route:**

I-75 at 191.77 miles long



## **Longest East/West Route:**

I-64 at 191.50 miles long



## **Shortest Route:**

I-471 at 5.01 miles long



## **Longest Bridge:**

I-24 over the Ohio River at 5,634 feet long

# KENTUCKY HIGHWAY FACTS



**Oldest sections of Interstate:**  
I-264 (Watterson Expwy) & I-65 (KY Turnpike) from Elizabethtown to Louisville, built in 1948.

?????KY Turnpike started construction in 1955. Conflicts with above fact.



**First completed Route:**  
I-71 was completed in 1969. I-65 & I-75 were completed in 1970, then I-64 in the early 70's. I-24 was completed in 1980.



**Highest Traffic Volume:**  
I-65 near the Louisville Airport—over 200,000 vehicles per day

**“Together, the united forces of our communication and transportation systems are dynamic elements in the very name we bear - United States. Without them, we would be a mere alliance of many separate parts.”**

**– President Dwight D. Eisenhower**

