

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:**

(October 19, 2009)

**Rochelle Tourism & Visitor's Association and Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition announce the completion of the Lincoln Highway Interpretive Gazebo at the Rochelle Railroad Park.**

The public is invited to attend the ribbon cutting for the newly constructed Lincoln Highway Interpretive Gazebo located at the Rochelle Railroad Park at 124 N. 9<sup>th</sup> Street in Rochelle, IL. The ribbon cutting will take place at 10am on Friday, October 23, 2009.

Sixteen gazebos are being placed along the Lincoln Highway across the State of Illinois, with one being placed in Rochelle at the Rochelle Railroad Park, which is just off the Lincoln Highway. The fourteen foot wide gazebo will provide visitors an opportunity to learn more about the history of the Lincoln Highway and the connection that Rochelle has to the Lincoln Highway through interpretive panels. The Lincoln Highway was created in 1913 and stretched 3400 miles from New York to San Francisco, becoming the first transcontinental highway in the United States.

As the designated byway agency overseeing the 179 mile Byway, the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition (ILHC) continues to seek ways to recognize the significance of the highway and ways to make the stories come alive. After receiving a National Scenic Byway Grant from the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), ILHC worked with the City of Dixon with support from the Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Bureau of Tourism to complete this project. Eighty percent of this project was covered by the FHWA grant and the remaining twenty percent was paid for by each community receiving a gazebo. Vendors for this project are: Wendler Engineering of Dixon, Sebastian Construction of Brookfield, and Horizon Displays of DeKalb.

This exhibit is one of the efforts of the Illinois Lincoln Highway Coalition to interpret the stories of the highway. "ILHC continues to come up with excellent ways to enhance the highway as a destination. The sixteen gazebos, peppered along the Lincoln Highway, give visitors another reason to stop in interesting places and garner more great information about the story of this historic road in Illinois", said Sue Vos, Chair ILHC Board and President of the Aurora Area Convention & Visitors Bureau. For more information on the Illinois Lincoln Highway, places to see and things to do, as well as stories of the highway's significance and history, visit [www.drivelincolnhighway.com](http://www.drivelincolnhighway.com).