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Jefferson Highway Association

INTERNATIONAL
 From Pine to Palm

INTERNATIONAL
 HEADQUARTERS
 778 FLOORS CORRY BLDG.
 ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Mason City, Iowa.

April 13, 1925.

Office of
 HUGH H. SHEPARD
 INTERNATIONAL PRESIDENT
 502-522 N. W. 4. BLDG.
 MASON CITY, IOWA

Fred R. White, Highway Engineer,
 State Highway Commission,
 Ames, Iowa.

Dear Mr. White:

I wish to express my appreciation of the work that was finally accomplished by the last General Assembly in its closing hours, and to note that a vote of confidence has been given to the State Highway Commission to the extent of \$4,156,000 annually to be used as a revolving fund, one-half of this amount being Federal aid, the other half being paid out of the revenues from motor-vehicles, gasoline tax, etc.

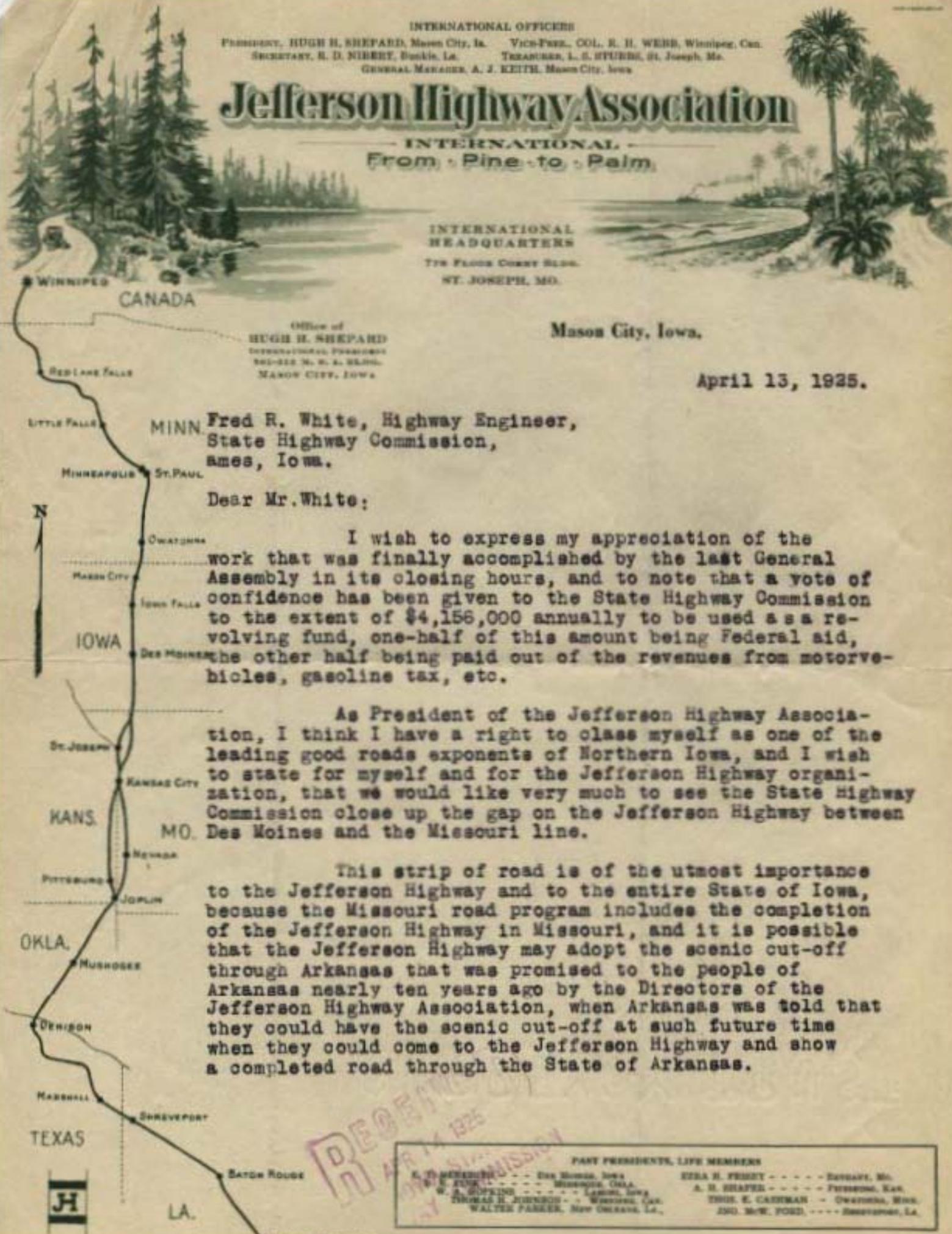
As President of the Jefferson Highway Association, I think I have a right to class myself as one of the leading good roads exponents of Northern Iowa, and I wish to state for myself and for the Jefferson Highway organization, that we would like very much to see the State Highway Commission close up the gap on the Jefferson Highway between Des Moines and the Missouri line.

This strip of road is of the utmost importance to the Jefferson Highway and to the entire State of Iowa, because the Missouri road program includes the completion of the Jefferson Highway in Missouri, and it is possible that the Jefferson Highway may adopt the scenic cut-off through Arkansas that was promised to the people of Arkansas nearly ten years ago by the Directors of the Jefferson Highway Association, when Arkansas was told that they could have the scenic cut-off at such future time when they could come to the Jefferson Highway and show a completed road through the State of Arkansas.

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- | | |
|---|--|
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The highway is already completed through Louisiana and by the end of this season the gravelling will be completed in Northern Minnesota and in Manitoba, so that it will be possible to drive 835 miles from Des Moines, Iowa, to Winnipeg, Manitoba, over a completely paved and graveled highway.

There is an immense amount of travel that comes from the South and Southwest into Kansas City and St. Joseph, This travel will come through Iowa and will leave hundreds of thousands of dollars in Iowa in additional gasoline taxes and miscellaneous items that are always purchased by people who travel away from home in their automobiles.

I trust that the State Highway Commission will arrange to complete the road from Des Moines, Iowa to the Missouri line among its earliest projects, because the road is already being paved from Kansas City to St. Louis in Missouri to connect with the paved system of Illinois, which diverts all of these people into Wisconsin and Michigan.

There is a military value to the Jefferson highway that should not be ignored, and it is my belief that this highway is destined to become the backbone of the Mississippi Valley, and to be its leading North and South highway. The Jefferson highway has already been designated as the North and South Gold Star Highway in Iowa.

Please let me know if arrangements can be made to get the Jefferson highway improved in Southern Iowa as one of the first projects. It is my belief that the amount of travel that this road will carry will justify its being paved for its entire distance, and that any money spent for graveling or temporary surfacing would be a waste of funds. Please let me have your thoughts in this matter and let me know what can be accomplished.

We have our road program well advanced in Northern Iowa. The time is coming when the amount of travel will make it necessary for the Jefferson Highway to be paved for its entire distance. We can get along for a year or two with our gravel roads if the gravel roads are kept in repair, and it is only by approaching this good roads question in an unselfish state of mind that we can ever hope to get a state-wide program completed.

Please put me down right now as favoring the completion of the Jefferson Highway in Southern Iowa as one of your first projects, and in making this request I call your attention to the fact that this is the only section of the Jefferson Highway for 3400 miles for which plans are not already arranged for hard-surfacing with some sort of material.

With best personal regards, I remain

Yours truly,

Walter H. Shepard
International President,
Jefferson Highway Association.

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