



SAVE THIS DATE
WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 2011
11:30 AM – 12:30 PM

1023-1059 E. Main Street, Columbus, OH 43205
Main Street, between 22nd and Ohio

CELEBRATION OF THE 200TH ANNIVERSARY
OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NATIONAL ROAD

AND

RIBBON-CUTTING FOR OLD NATIONAL ROAD CONDOMINIUMS

(Columbus, OH) The Ohio National Road Association, in partnership with Columbus Compact Corporation, will host the City of Columbus' celebration of the Bicentennial of the start of construction of the Historic National Road on May 4, 2011 during which we will be dedicating our community's 200th year anniversary gift to this All-American Road: a ribbon-cutting for the newly renovated historic homes and a memorial park in Olde Towne East.

This six-state National Road Bicentennial celebration will begin on May 2nd in Vandalia, Illinois, the western terminus of the National Road, America's first Federally-funded interstate highway. A procession of vintage vehicles will be traveling east from Illinois through Indiana, Ohio, West Virginia, and Pennsylvania, before arriving at the Road's eastern terminus at Cumberland, Maryland for a May 7th celebration finale. As the procession approaches state lines, the next state will "pick up the bells" – a symbolic representation of the bells that adorned the Conestoga wagons and stage coaches that brought settlers and commerce to the newly-opened west, starting in 1811.

The Ohio National Road Association (ONRA) will "pick up the bells" in Richmond, Indiana on May 3rd. A caravan of Model A, Model T, and other vintage cars, will carry the bells to Englewood, Ohio for an overnight stay. They will be leaving for Columbus at 7:30AM on May 4th, with plans to arrive in Franklinton, central Ohio's oldest settled community, at National Road Mile Marker #260 near Tommy's Diner (914 W. Broad Street) at 9:00AM. Here a horse-drawn wagon will join the caravan through eastern Franklinton, downtown Columbus, and into Olde Towne East, following the historic alignment of the Road from West Broad Street, to South High Street, to East Main Street. Local historians will narrate this tour for invited special guests.

Once through downtown, the procession will travel to the Old National Road Condominiums, located at 1023 -1059 E. Main Street in the historic Olde Towne East neighborhood between 22nd and Ohio avenues. There, the Compact and ONRA will unveil Columbus' 200th year gift to the National Road: newly renovated condominium units in 1890's era houses and a National Road commemorative park in the development. These homes are the first historic rehabs in the City of Columbus developed under the U.S. Green Building Council's LEED standards for sustainable design and energy

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The Columbus

Compact Corporation

*is a catalyst for positive change
and an agent for the growth and
development of central city
Columbus neighborhoods and
business districts.*

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Chair

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Vice Chair

Darlene M. Davis
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Andre' Dowdy
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Jonathan C. Beard
President / CEO



efficiency. These two and three bedroom condominium units feature 1,211 to 1,496 square feet of finished space, with historic pocket doors and wood trim and contemporary finishes. Included in the May 4, 2011 celebration will be the dedication of a plaque honoring the history of the National Road, and ribbon cuttings for the newly renovated houses.

Continuing westward on the National Road after the ribbon cutting, a classic El Camino will “pick up the bells” from the carriage before zooming on to the National Trail Raceway near Hebron in Licking County, where they will be joined by larger vintage trucks. The procession will carry the bells to Zanesville later in the day.

The National Road was originally conceived by President George Washington as an all-weather road that would bridge the Allegheny Mountains. A bill authorizing the Road was signed into law by President Thomas Jefferson in 1806, and the National Road became the new nation’s first Federally-funded interstate highway. From Cumberland, Maryland where construction began on May 7, 1811, the Road stretches over 700 miles to Vandalia, Illinois near East St. Louis. The National Road entered eastern Ohio in 1825, and was built through Columbus in 1833. The historic route of the National Road entered Columbus from the east on Friend Street (now Main Street), ran west down Main Street until turning north on High Street at the Great Southern Hotel and Theater, then turned west onto Broad Street and crossed the newly-built, toll-free Broad Street bridge before departing Columbus through Franklinton to the west.

The Road immediately attracted travelers and commerce, opening the state and much of the Old Northwest Territory to settlement, provided access for Ohio products to the burgeoning eastern markets, and enabled Ohio citizens to play an important role in the affairs of the new nation. At its time, an interstate highway was politically controversial, and resolution of the constitutional issues over Federal funding of the Road was critical in defining the powers of the young nation’s Federal government for the future. It has been called “The Road that Built the Nation,” and is designated as both a National Scenic Byway and an All-American Road by the Federal Highway Administration. The All-American Road designation means the National Road is one of 31 roads that have features that do not exist elsewhere in the United States and that are scenic enough to be tourist destinations unto themselves. The National Road, known as “Main Street, U.S.A.”, has played a major role in shaping American history, culture, and lore.

Columbus Compact Corporation and the Ohio National Road Association cordially invite you to attend this event: Columbus’ recognition of the 200th year of the start of construction of the National Road, and our dedication and gift in honor of that occasion – newly renovated 1890’s era housing signaling the Road’s rebirth for the coming two centuries.

For more information, call ONRA’s Marian Vance at (614) 570-7504 or visit ONRA’s web site at www.ohionationalroad.org. Jonathan Beard of Columbus Compact Corporation can be reached at (614) 251-0926 ext. 201, or at www.OldNationalRoadCondos.com or www.colscompact.com.

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