

Title: **THC seeking Meridian Highway stories, photos, documents, mementos**

Author:

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Passing through 800 miles of central Texas and some of the state's most iconic cities and destinations, the Meridian Highway is one of the most important north-south highways in Texas and an invaluable part of state culture and history.

To preserve the history of this iconic roadway, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) is undertaking a two-year study to document Texans' stories and memories of the highway. Many still remember this important roadway and many more have memorabilia passed down from their relatives who lived, worked or traveled along the highway.

The project will work with Meridian Highway communities to produce a written history and survey of the Texas section of the Meridian Highway, including associated historic resources such as auto repair garages, gas stations, diners, motels, road markers, traffic signs, and more.

Individuals and organizations are encouraged to participate in February public meetings where they can share information and visual items for use in the project, including historical photos,

postcards, maps and other items of interest.

Dates of meetings:

- Noon February 3, Decatur Visitors Center, 106 South Trinity St., Decatur, 940-393-0340
- 5:30 p.m. February 4, Ball-Eddleman-McFarland House, 1110 Penn St., Fort Worth, 817- 565-4050
- 5:30 p.m. February 5, Texas Life Annex, 1000 Washington Ave, Waco, 254-745-6303
- 5:30 p.m. February 9, Parks & Recreation Department Community Room, 1101 North College St., Georgetown, 512- 930-3581
- 5:30 p.m. February 11, Bryan Public Library, 201 E. 26th St., second floor, Bryan, 979-209-5600
- 5:30 p.m. February 12, River House, 509 King William St., San Antonio, 210-224-7232
- 5:30 p.m. February 16, Alexander Convention Center, 290 N. Interstate 35, Cotulla, 830-879-4166
- 5:30 p.m. February 17, Villa Antigua Border Heritage

Museum, 810 Zaragoza St., Laredo, 956-727-0977

- 5:30 p.m. February 18, The Parador, 2021 Binz St., Houston, 713-529-3050
- 5:30 p.m. February 19, Ashton Villa, 2328 Broadway St., Galveston, 409-750-9108

The Meridian Highway stretched from Canada to Mexico, and in Texas passed through Burkburnett, Wichita Falls, Fort Worth, Cleburne, Waco, Taylor, Georgetown, Austin, New Braunfels, San Antonio, Cotulla, Laredo, Bryan, Hempstead, Houston and Galveston, and roughly followed Interstate 35 West with a major lateral from Waco to Galveston following State Highway 6/U.S. 290.

This effort is funded by the Texas Legislature and the Texas Department of Transportation through the Transportation Enhancement Program. The THC has awarded a contract to complete the study to Hardy-Heck-Moore Inc., an Austin-based historic preservation planning and management firm.