

## **OST 100 Funding**

The purpose of the newly formed Old Spanish Trail Centennial Celebration Association is to locate, revitalize and preserve the roadway, businesses and historic sites of the original Old Spanish Trail auto highway. We see the OST100 task as linking business and civic groups with funding sources already in existence to help with the types of projects proposed; not adding to overextended public and private entities. OST 100 will be following the lead of the founders of the OST who involved greatly diverse interests in building and beautifying the original roadway.

Initially we have had to introduce OST100 purposes into road, park and business projects already in design or even construction phases. We assure all that this is not to set any precedent of requesting change in the late stages of projects. OST Centennial celebrations for the San Antonio corridor are scheduled for 2024 and 2029. This gives OST100 time to be involved in early stages of renovations or new development. Our growing list of supporters from civic groups and private organizations will allow us to bring new funding sources to projects.

OST100 has the advantage of being able to use the rise and fall of the economic cycle to our advantage. Learning from the history of the original OST Association who saw delays in plans during the Great World War, delays in engineering while funding was sought and then a halt to development and beautification upon completing of paving at the onset of the great depression, we from OST100 will use slow economic times to prepare to be ready to obtain funding as the economic cycle upturns.

We have identified three existing original OST sites. All were creatively funded from private and civic organizations. Balcones Creek Park stone enhancements and the adjoining Kendal/Bexar County line stone work on the Boerne Stage Road built with donations to the OST Beautification Department, City Hall 0-Mile Stone donated by the San Antonio Federation of Women's Clubs, and the Fredericksburg Road/Vance Jackson OST bench put in place and later refurbished by the Alamo Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas. Many more private property gateways were installed and still exist in underdeveloped OST corridors throughout the county. Future beautification, trail markings, landscaping and enhancements can again be funded from similar sources.

Descendants of the original founders will be used in ceremonial capacities unless they happen to own property or a business on the OST. In that case we will be providing access to various renovation funding sources. Fortunately the San Antonio corridor of the OST passes through many economic empowerment and neighborhood commercial revitalization zones. OST100 will be an asset to these areas by giving added purpose for economic generation.

Our last three monthly meeting minutes are posted in the NEWS section of [www.OLDSPANISHTRAILCENTENNIAL.com](http://www.OLDSPANISHTRAILCENTENNIAL.com) included economic development funding sources, historic funding generators and park development funding.

**Our request to each of you is to let us know of your plans for any changes within the Bexar County OST corridor. We would like to be involved from the outset,** bringing with us success stories from others with similar projects and our growing list of possible funding sources. Thank you for your present involvement with OST100. We look forward to working with you throughout this decade of preparations for the OST Centennial as Bexar County takes the lead in bringing together the many cities and counties across the eight gulf and border states to celebrate the tremendous achievement of those early road building pioneers.

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