

Between Avilla (east) and the Kansas State Line (west)

Alignments on this Map

Green/Red: Original and first paved route. It is possible that US 66 briefly followed the orange route in 1927 before the final pathway was selected and signed by Missouri officials.

Orange: Revision to the green/red route. Newspaper articles confirm the existence of Rangeline south of Zora as early as 1927, when Rangeline was tentatively selected to carry US 66 traffic. This soon changed, and it ended up following the green/red alignment. A 1929 article intones that Rangeline and 7th will "probably" be US 66 at a future date. The orange route is first labeled as US 66 on the 1945 state inset map. Such labeling is not featured on earlier maps, which include no city insets, but do feature a bold line where the orange route would be. The first such depiction shows in 1938, which would be a plausible time to bypass the convoluted green/red route. Verification remains.

Blue: A unique alignment. In 1976, as US 66 was removed from the Missouri highway system, I-44 motorists approaching Joplin needed a way to access the route in Kansas and Oklahoma, where it was still active. This involved leaving 7th St. west of Rangeline designated (orange and green/red), as well as designating a new section eastward between Rangeline and I-44 (blue). The blue route was previously US 166. This Missouri anomaly remained US 66 until 1985, when the remainder of the route elsewhere was decommissioned. It then became Missouri State Highway 66.

Turquoise: Alternate US 66, possibly designated as early as 1935 (bridges there were built in 1934), and labeled as such on maps in the mid and late 1940s.

