

Copy to Mr. H. B. Ayres, Managing Director, O. S. P.,
San Antonio.

August 5, 1921.

Honorable James O'Connor,
103 City Park Row,
New Orleans, Louisiana.

Dear Sir: Old Spanish Trail

I have just had a conference with Mr. H. B. Ayres, Manager and Director of the Old Spanish Trail Highway Association, whose office is in San Antonio.

I am deeply impressed with the enormous possibilities of this project. The big difficulty lies in getting a practical road from New Orleans to the high land of Mississippi.

The United States War Department has declared this road essential to the national defense. The State Highway Department of Mississippi has declared it a primary project. The same is true of the Louisiana Highway Commission. The aid of New Orleans, of the State of Louisiana, the State of Mississippi and of the people along the Gulf Coast, plus federal highway aid, plus the aid of the War Department is essential to the completion of this road across the marshes and lakes east of New Orleans.

I wish you could see your way clear to make the completion of this highway link your particular hobby. It would be a mighty good issue and a most popular one. In the recent past the War Department has dismantled the forts on the lower Mississippi River which were the only defense New Orleans had. In their place they expect a mobile artillery force, using a coastal highway along the route of the Old Spanish Trail to supply the defense New Orleans and the Gulf Coast require. Hence the military necessity for the Old Spanish Trail.

If you can see your way clear to become interested in this movement, I would suggest that you write to Mr. Ayres, and that you drop in to the Association of Commerce some day before you return to Washington and have a chat with me on the subject. Mr. Ayres has spoken very nicely of your cooperation with him while he was in Washington.

With every personal esteem,

Very truly,

Walter Parker,
General Manager.

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Copy to Mr. O'Connor at Washington.