

MINUTES OF THE

BI-STATE REGIONAL TRAIL COMMITTEE

Thursday, January 27, 2006, 10:00 a.m.

Scott County Administrative Center

428 Western Avenue

Davenport, Iowa

1. Welcome/Introductions. – Those in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliation (see attached sign in sheet).
2. Review of Meeting Minutes. – Vice Chair Albansoder requested review and consideration of the meeting minutes. Mr. Fellows motioned for their approval, Mr. Welling seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.
3. Trail Progress Reports. – Trail reports were given by those in attendance as noted below:

City of Bettendorf–

No new report. **Mississippi River Trail (MRT):** Meetings with property owners are occurring for the Leach Park to Riverdale section and the City is working out issues related to ownership of the levee. The City is evaluating routing options for the MRT upriver from Leach Park to Riverdale and on the east side of Riverdale. **Crow Creek Recreational Trail:** The City submitted a REAP grant for Phase I construction of a multi-use trail along Crow Creek. **Deer Ridge Trail:** The City is in discussion with Pleasant Valley School to extend a trail from the school to the Deer Ridge subdivision.

City of Blue Grass–

City Trail: The City is in the first phase of planning for a trail which would travel through the City from east to west and is working on procuring engineering cost estimates for the trail. Grant dollars will then be sought.

City of Buffalo–

No new report. **MRT:** Through discussion with legislative staffers the local area will need to determine how to go about utilizing funds earmarked in the federal transportation bill. A meeting with Muscatine County, City of Muscatine, Scott County and the City of Buffalo to discuss options will be arranged by Bi-State. Preliminary interpretation from FHWA is the dollars can be used for project engineering.

Village of Carbon Cliff–

American Discovery Trail (ADT): The Village is working to purchase required mitigation lands and is planning a \$3.4 million reconstruction and improvement of North First Avenue which could include opportunities to better accommodate the ADT/GIT route. The Village had a verbal commitment from a property owner to use a portion of the land for creating a wetland but due a death in the family the legal property owner has changed and is not willing to partition the land. Wetland mitigation will be required due to the area to be impacted by the alignment of GIT/ADT connection so a new strategy will be required. Work is continuing to acquire additional dollars, approximately \$450,000, to complete the trail connection from the MRT in East Moline to the Hennepin in Colona.

Village of Coal Valley–

No new report. **Greenways/Trails:** A comprehensive plan has been developed for the Village, which identifies greenways/trails within the community. There is a need for more nature and hiking trails in the Village. Bike/ped trails will be considered in conjunction with the U.S. 150 improvements along with a 1st Street connection and a U.S. 6 trail.

City of Davenport–

Goose Creek Trail: The CIP budget is being developed and should include construction of the Goose Creek Trail from 46th Street to 53rd Street. A need for better maps and trail information, especially for people from out of town, has been identified. There is an interest in developing loop trails throughout the area. **ADT/MRT:** The Credit Island Bridge to Concord Street was awarded an earmark and the City is working on using a portion of the dollars for final design. **Elmore Avenue Creek Trail:** Alignment being determined for this trail. **Duck Creek Connection to the MRT:** Alignment is being determined for this trail. The City is working on a computerized trail and sidewalk inventory.

City of East Moline–

ADT: The City is continuing work with the Downtown Business Association to prepare a draft plan for rerouting the ADT/GIT alignment from the Quarter at 7th Street south and east to Silvis. The City is awaiting announcement on an ITEP grant for the additional dollars needed to complete the ADT/GIT connection from The Quarter in East Moline to the Hennepin Canal State Parkway in Colona. **Quarter Trail:** This trail is completed from 7th Street to the levee. An extension to the central business district and Silvis is the next step. Rear entrances to downtown buildings are being beautified to improve trail views.

City of LeClaire–

No new report. **MRT:** In the downtown area, the MRT would run along the levee along railroad easements according to the plan developed by the Lakota Group.

City of Long Grove–

No new report. **Long Grove Trail:** The City has completed a trail joining the business district with a new subdivision development and hopes to link with Eldridge in the future.

Village of Milan–

No new report. **Hennepin Canal Trail:** DNR funds were received for a trail connection to the West Rock River Bridge along the levee and Mill Creek, the project may be phased. **Case Creek Trail:** A foundation for developing areas south of Indian Bluff Road may be formed in the future for trail and other amenities.

City of Moline–

No new report. **Sylvan Slough Trailhead:** A trailhead park is being developed. **MRT/ADT:** The City, partnering with Trinity, recently dedicated a new 10,000 step program along the Ralph B. Birks Trail through the Ben Butterworth Parkway. **Fitness Trail:** Moline is developing 2-miles of new fitness trails in Prospect Park along with Trinity; Shive Hattery; and the National Disc Golf Association. **Kiwanis Trail:** Restrooms were added to the trail near Harold's Landing. The City collaborated with Rock Island to submit an ITEP application to construct the northern connection to the West Rock River Bridge trail. **Dan-O Watkins Bike Route:** The City is working to reestablish the Dan O Watkins Trail; an intercity shared-access, signed bike route system. **Signage Master Plan:** A signage master plan for the Moline Park System has been adopted and will be used on the trail systems.

City of Muscatine–

No new report. **ADT/MRT:** A ¾-mile gap in the Riverfront Trail between Musser and Weed Park was completed in 2005. The ADT/MRT from the Muscatine Bridge to IA 22 was funded and designed; an earmark was received for a trail from Musser Park to Weggins Road. Lighting of the Muscatine Bridge is being considered. **Mad Creek Trail:** A one-half mile trail segment of the Mad Creek Trail, intersecting with the Riverfront Trail, is being developed. **Kent Stein Trail:** This trail is under construction and a trail connector to Mississippi River has an approved alignment and funds are being sought. **Hoover Nature Trail:** Funding is being sought for the trail from Hershey Avenue along G28. **US 61 By-Pass Trail:** Funding is for a concept study of a being sought trail from Hershey Avenue north along US 61 By-Pass.

Village of Port Byron–

No new report. **MRT/GRT:** The MRT/GRT is completed through Port Byron along the riverfront.

City of Riverdale–

No new report. **MRT:** Meetings with Alcoa have occurred to discuss trail locations and design along US 67. An earmark was received for the MRT from Leach Park in Bettendorf to Riverdale.

City of Rock Island–

Southwest Rock Island Trail: Funding continues to be sought for this project. **17th/24th Street Trail:** On-street painted lane has been included in road reconstruction and is considered a connector between the MRT and Rock River Trails. **Rock River Trail:** The City submitted a joint ITEP application with the City of Moline to connect the North end of the West Rock River Bridge Trail to Ben Williamson Park. The City also submitted a separate ITEP application for a trail connection from Sunset Park to Ben Williamson Park. Word on funding is being awaited. The third phase would connect Sunset Park to the Hennepin Canal State Parkway in Milan. **MRT:** An extension of the MRT from Sunset Park over the Rock River is being planned in the long term. (See third phase above.) Riverfront enhancements are being planned through the RiverVision process and include reuse of the Armory, parking plazas and Channel Cat boat docking facilities adjacent to the MRT. Land acquisition near Sylvan Slough is also proceeding. **ADT:** The ADT bridge crossing along the Rock Island Viaduct is completed.

City of Silvis–

No new report. **American Discovery Trail (ADT):** Work is continuing to acquire additional dollars to complete the trail connection from the MRT to the Hennepin Canal and was part of a joint ITEP application.

City of Walcott–

Walcott Recreation Trail: The City used a Community Visioning Program to formalize a site plan for the park and trail along Mud Creek. The City has finished the topography and water table studies for their Environmental Park and Trail project area and is continuing local community involvement meetings and project outreach including assistance from Iowa State University and the Trees Forever Program to develop a recreational trail, install signage and park landscape and beautification. To date, 94% of preliminary engineering is completed. Phase II engineering for the multi-use trail along Mud Creek and the wetlands area will be bid and a grant request to SCRA will be submitted. The City continues to work on wetland issues and met with the NRCS regarding the Wetland Reserve Program. Meetings with property owners are occurring and a Power Point presentation, to be used for fundraising, has been developed. Some donations of cash and land have been received. Long term goals are to connect Walcott to Blue Grass, Buffalo and West Lake Park.

Henry County–

No new report. Each separate community is planning their respective trails, connections along Hennepin to Geneseo have been planned by the state, and signage along roadways is being considered, but there are

Muscatine County–

No new report. **Hoover Nature Trail:** Efforts ongoing to implement and maintain Hoover Trail. **Muscatine County Area-wide Trails Plan:** A greenway/trail plan for the county is being developed. This is the first trails plan for the county. The County will participate in meetings regarding the earmark receive in the transportation act for trail development in Scott and Muscatine Counties.

Rock Island County–

No new report. **MRT/ADT:** The MRT/ADT is complete in upper Rock Island County.

Scott County–

Cody Trail: This existing signed trail, Cody Trail, through the northern portion of Scott County is complete.
Trail Connector: A trail connection from Davenport to West Lake Park is being planned for the future. In the future the potential for trails along county roads will be discussed.

Corps of Engineers–

No new report. **ADT/MRT** The ADT/MRT bridge crossing is complete. Funding for the trail along Fort Armstrong Avenue is needed.

Quad City Bicycle Club (QCBC)/League of Illinois Bicyclists (LIB)–

A \$20,000 grant has been received by the LIB to produce a video for driver education classes on traffic safety related to sharing the road with bicyclists. This may be shown at the trail symposium. A consultant for elementary education has also been hired.

Quad City Convention and Visitors Bureau (QCCVB)–

National Trail Symposium: The Symposium will be held on October 19-22, 2006. All types of trails will be explored within a 60-mile radius of the Quad Cities and assistance in planning is welcomed. Nominations for trail awards are also being accepted. Ms. Gluck the Executive Director of American Trails has toured the River Center, the central site for the conference. She will be back in March and will be able to attend the next Trail meeting. **Iowa Bike Summit:** An Iowa Bike Summit will be held February 2nd and 3rd. **Ride the River:** A week long bike event is being planned from June 10th -19th culminating in Ride the River. **Branding:** The QCCVB is working on marketing and branding issues related to the Quad Cities. **Trail Guide:** The Bureau is working with the Dispatch on a trail guide and website for the Great River Trail.

River Action–

Trail Wayfinding/signage system: River Action has assembled a committee to develop a plan for a trail signage system along the MRT in the Quad Cities. The group will discuss and address issues of trail identification and wayfinding. River Action is also working to update the Riverway kiosks with navigational signage. Sylvan Island will have continuing environmental enhancements along trail including a picnic area. Scenic By-way dollars have been sought for wayfinding along the MRT on both side of the River.

MRT/ADT: Preliminary engineering dollars have been requested through the federal recreation trail program for the MRT from the Bettendorf border to Princeton.

Other Trail Reports:

Mississippi River Trail (MRT)–

Mississippi River Trail (MRT): Iowa DOT is signing portions of the MRT along State roadways. Communities may view the Clinton County Trail study as a template or pilot plan to follow. The overall objective is for the entire MRT to be a separated corridor bikeways. Sara Landee, with the Muscatine Trails group, will be the Muscatine County champion and a representative from River Action will be the Scott County champion. The MRT, Inc Planning Committee is working to encourage local jurisdictions with a defined route to install MRT signs on the route. Committee representatives are stressing the importance of constructing key segments. Maintenance and liability issues are obstacles to overcome in some of the Counties along the MRT. Conceptual trail alignments, MRT projects underway, identification of segments where MRT signage could be installed and the 2006 National Trails Symposium are items discussed. One hundred MRT signs have been made available in Iowa, and Davenport had installed some of these signs. There are 280 miles of the MRT in Iowa under various jurisdictions – state, county and municipal. In Illinois, there are 585 miles of MRT. The Illinois Supreme Court ruled that bicyclists are permitted but not intended users of roads. This means if jurisdictions do not designate bike routes on roadways, they will not be liable. An Illinois MRT user guide has been developed and is available.

American Discovery Trail–

About \$200,000 is needed to complete Phase II of the ADT Crossing. This includes the widening of the sidewalk from 4 to 10 feet along Fort Armstrong Avenue and the relocation of some utilities. An Illinois FFY '05 Scenic By-way application has been submitted. The Arsenal will assume maintenance responsibilities for the ADT crossing; this includes the new bike/ped bridge and 10-foot path. Phase I of the **American Discovery Trail**, a Bicycle/pedestrian bridge over Sylvan Slough, is now complete. A walking guide for the ADT from the east to the west coast is being developed.

I-74 Trail–

I-74 Bridge Bike/Ped Trail: The preferred alternative for the I-74 Bridge had been adopted by the Bi-State Transportation Policy Committee on January 25, 2005. A trail crossing on the new bridge would be carried forwarded into the next phase of the project, the final environmental impact statement. A separate earmark will likely be sought for the trail construction at the appropriate time and local officials will be asked to participate in some of the maintenance costs.

4. Discussion on Proposed Uniform Trail Use Policies for Motorized Devices. Draft language for a motorized trail use ordinance was distributed and will be discussed at a future Committee meeting. Committee members were encouraged to share the policy with appropriate officials and recommend revisions.
5. Discussion on Safe Routes to Schools Provisions of SAFETEA-LU. Information on the proposed Safe Routes to Schools program in Illinois was distributed. A similar program will be developed in Iowa and both will involve competitive grants. When the programs have been fully developed with applications, Bi-State staff will inform the Committee.
6. Report on Planning Activities for the National Trails Symposium. Information for the October 19-22, 2006 Symposium can be found on the American Trails website www.americantrails.org. The Symposium is a forum to on various types of trails and will be held at the River Center in Davenport and utilize the Davenport Radisson, the Blackhawk Hotel and the Four Points Sheraton in Rock Island as the host hotels. Pam Gluck, the Executive Director and Bob Searns of American Trails will be in the Quad Cities in March for a site visit and will be able to attend the next Trail Committee meeting. She will be in the area on the 21st – 23rd. Public input will be scheduled for 1:30 on the 22nd. There are many opportunities to be involved in the Symposium (i.e. mobile workshops, programs, exhibit hall, marketing, sponsorships, fundraising, etc.). Committee members were encouraged to consider nominations for the National Trails Awards Program, which was distributed, this is considered a great opportunity to showcase the trails in the Bi-State area.
7. Other Business. An upcoming grant is the Illinois Trails Grant Program in Illinois due March 1, 2006 and the National Scenic By-way discretionary grant due February 10th in Illinois. (They were due December 30, 2005 in Iowa). The Quad City Delegation will be traveling to Washington on March 8, 9 and 10.
8. The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.