

MINUTES OF THE

BI-STATE REGIONAL TRAIL COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 23, 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. Huey motioned for their approval, Mr. Neff seconded the motion and the minutes were approved as written.
3. Discussion on 2006 National Trails Symposium in the Quad Cities. Mr. Taylor introduced Mr. Searns and Ms. Gluck from American Trails Inc., the sponsor of the National Trails Symposium. Mr. Searns mentioned to the Committee he had walked about 2-miles of the MRT, along both sides of the river and was impressed by some of the challenges the Quad Cities had overcome to construct portions of the trails. He encouraged the area to submit an article to American Trails magazine regarding some of the lessons learned and challenges overcome in developing trails in the Quad Cities. Ms. Gluck reported planning is underway for the October 19-22, 2006 National Trails Symposium in the Quad Cities and she is pleased with the results thus far. Approximately 600-800 participants, both national and international are anticipated for the Symposium, with nearly all-50 states represented. The Symposium will offer concurrent educational sessions on a myriad of provocative and timely issues and topics related to trail planning and development. In addition, attendees will have opportunities to participate in outside workshops/field trips and construction or how-to workshops. There will also be a large hall for sponsors and exhibitors. Ms. Gluck encouraged everyone to spread the word about the Symposium and invited sponsorships from twenty-five dollars on up. She thanked the City of Moline for already being a sponsor. Committee members were given postcard announcement for the Symposium and handouts with sponsorship and exhibitor information. The Committee was also provided and encouraged to submit nomination forms for the American Trails 2006 National Trails Awards Program; the deadline for submitting nominations is May 31, 2006. The nomination form is also available online at www.americantrails.org. American Trails will go all out to promote the Quad Cities, including full color brochures and photos and of area. American Trails is also looking for lots of good photos of people using the Quad Cities' trails. The photos would be used for the promotional items and on the website. She mentioned there would be a need for volunteers to help with the Symposium. The Mississippi River Trail (MRT) will be a big focus of the Symposium. The opportunity exists for the Quad Cities to highlight their two designated National Recreation Trails, the Great River Trail and the Smith's Island Nature Trail.

4. Trail Progress Reports. – Trail reports were given by those in attendance as noted below:

City of Aledo–

Community Trail: A trail oval around the community is being proposed. The Community Trail loop would link to new assisted living and elderly quads providing approximately .9-miles for walking. The City is planning a 700-800 foot streetscape project connecting the City to new development areas. A new bandshell in the community park is estimated to cost \$250,000.

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 received from Shive Hattery, Inc a report outlining design alternatives and an opinion of probable costs for the proposed trail around the community. The City is now looking at grants and other funding opportunities to help with funding the development of the 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–

MRT: The City will be meeting with representatives from Scott and Muscatine Counties next week to discuss the best use for the earmarked funds. 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 to 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.

Village of Cordova–

GRT/GIT/MRT: The City has acquired 32 acres of land along the riverfront.

City of Davenport–

Goose Creek Trail: Preparing to go out for bids for ½-mile, north-south, section of trail between 46th and 53rd Street. 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 City is looking to hire a consultant to prepare final engineering documents for the Credit Island Bridge. Davenport received a \$2 million earmark to construct the 900-foot bike/ped bridge. Looking to bid this winter with construction in the spring of 2007. 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: Moving forward on plans to integrate pedestrian and bicycling uses/accommodations into the downtown as a part of the ADT/GIT alignment. 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–

Sylvan Slough Trailhead: Submitted a scenic byways grant for development of an interpretive trailhead park. A trailhead park is being developed. **MRT/ADT:** Conducting an inspection of the MRT from 55th Street to the Rock Island border. 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:** Awaiting an announcement on the ITEP application submitted for the north side trail connection to the West Rock River Bridge. This connection will link Moline to the existing Kiwanis Trail and Rock Island to Ben Williamson Park. 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 Wiggins 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:** The combination of striping for parking and bike lanes along 17th Street has lead to some confusion among users of the roadway. It is felt this confusion will dissipate over time as people become more accustomed and educated to the shared-uses. Other striped bike lanes are being planned throughout the City. 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:** Development of Sylvan Slough Park is anticipated to begin in September; it will include short and long grass and other restorative prairie plantings. The relocation of the Casino will lead to additional opportunities for riverfront public spaces and trail amenities. 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–

American Discovery Trail (ADT): The City has been informed Iowa Interstate Railroad may be looking to add another track in the proposed alignment of the ADT/GIT connection. This would require a new route to be determined from the Hennepin Canal in Colona to “The Quarter” in East Moline. One possible alternative may be using Crosstown Avenue heading east into Carbon Cliff at the Miller property. 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 community park and trail site is eligible for the Wetland Reserve Program, which provides project cost share opportunities through 75%-25% matching grants. A representative from the City’s trail committee attended the REAP Assembly in Muscatine. Casey’s General Store donated land to the City for use in developing the community park and trail. On April 22, 2006 there will be a Civic update on the project along with a trivia night to raise awareness and funds for the development. 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 concerns due to court action and liability.

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: The County is working with the Cities of Eldridge and Long Grove to develop a separated corridor segment of trail connecting the two communities. The Lost Grove Lake project is underway and once complete could serve as a destination for trail users. 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)–

No New Report. 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)–

Quad Cities Bike Week: The QCCVB is promoting Quad Cities Bike Week from June 10th through June 18th of 2006. Existing rides occurring during this week are being used to promote the event. The rides include, Tour of the Mississippi River Valley (TOMRV), Grand Illinois Trail and Parks Ride (GITAP) and Ride-the-River. The QCCVB is also planning Bicycle Rodeos/Roadeos, Biking Iowa and possibly Biking Illinois along with other possible local or regional events. Information can be found at www.qcbikeweek.com. **National Trails 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:** A new Great River Trail guide is being published and should be available in June. The Bureau is working with the Dispatch on a trail guide and website for the Great River Trail.

River Action–

Trail Wayfinding/signage system: Progressing in the planning for a uniform system of RiverWay signage along the MRT in both Iowa and Illinois. 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 the 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:** Applied for a grant through State Recreational Trails program to complete an alignment/routing study for the MRT from Leach Park upriver through Princeton. Submitted a scenic byway application for trail wayfinding and signage along the same segment of trail. 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–

American Discovery Trail (ADT) Continue to work on securing funds to complete the final phase of construction on the ADT Crossing. The City of Rock Island agreed to be the sponsor of an Illinois Bicycle Path Grant application submitted at the beginning of March for this project. If successful, the grant would cover 50% of the remaining costs for widening the sidewalk on the island. 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

forward 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.

5. Grant Status Report and Upcoming Grant and Funding Opportunities. Upcoming grants in Iowa include Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grants due August 15, 2006. The requirement for the County REAP Committee to approve and recommend the applications has been reinstated for 2006. October 1, 2006 the State Transportation Enhancement Program and the Federal Recreational Trails Program Application are due. Also in October both Riverboat Development Authority (RDA) and the Scott County Regional Authority (SCRA) grants are due. There also may be a second State Recreational Trails grant round this year with application possibly due the beginning the July.

The Illinois DNR will be accepting applications between May 1st and July 1st for Open Space Land Acquisition and Development (OSLAD) grants. Depending on when the recipients of the August 2005 round of ITEP grants is announced there may be another round of enhancement grant applications due yet this year. Both Iowa and Illinois are anticipating a grant round by the end of the year for the new SAFE Routes to Schools Program. Bi-State will keep you updated on the status as information becomes available.

6. Other Business. Ms. Gluck noted communities hosting the National Trails Symposium have seen city and community leaders, who attend the conference, become more receptive to funding trail projects. These communities are also more successful in obtaining grant dollars when representatives of the granting agencies attend the conference and can see your area and your projects first hand. The American Trails website www.americantrails.org is the largest resource for trail information in the world.
7. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.