

## MINUTES OF THE

### BI-STATE REGIONAL TRAIL COMMITTEE

Thursday, May 26, 2005, 10:00 a.m.  
Scott County Administrative Center  
428 Western Avenue  
Davenport, Iowa

1. Welcome/Introductions. – Those in attendance introduced themselves and their affiliation.
2. Review of Meeting Minutes. – Chair Marsh requested review and approval of the meeting minutes. No corrections were made to the meeting notes, Mr. Welling motioned for approval; Mr. Grimes seconded the motion; hearing no further discussion the minutes were approved as written.
3. Trail Progress Reports. – Trail reports were given by those in attendance as noted below:

*City of Bettendorf* – Mr. Grimes invited the committee to the newest section of trail, extending from Leach Park to the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) in Davenport. The City currently is addressing a transition and trail routing issue from the western end of the levee through Leach Park and to the new trail section. The route of the trail across the parking lot is not clearly defined. Considering options to alleviate the issue through improved directional signage or striping bike lanes in the parking lot. One concern with striping the parking lot is it may lead to conflicts with users of the boat launch.

*City of Blue Grass* – Nothing new to report.

*City of Buffalo* – Nothing new to report.

*Village of Carbon Cliff* – Mr. Gast stated the parties involved were working through a stalemate regarding impacted wetlands along the proposed American Discovery Trail/Grand Illinois Trail (ADT/GIT) alignment.

*Village of Coal Valley* – Nothing new to report.

*City of Davenport* – Mr. Neff mentioned the City is working on a computerized trail and sidewalk inventory. The City is also planning to resubmit a Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) grant this year for construction of a trail along Goose Creek from 34<sup>th</sup> Street to 53<sup>rd</sup> Street.

*City of East Moline* – Nothing new to report.

*City of LeClaire* – Nothing new to report.

*Village of Milan* – Nothing new to report.

*City of Moline* – Mr. House noted the City recently dedicated a new 10,000 step program along the Ralph B. Birks Trail through the Ben Butterworth Parkway. Moline will open bids on June 7<sup>th</sup> for construction of 2-miles of new fitness trails in Prospect Park. On June 16<sup>th</sup> a dedication ceremony will be held to commemorate Phase II completion of the Prospect Park revitalization, which includes

the restoration of the historic pavilion. The City is working to reestablish the Dan O Watkins Trail; an intercity shared-access, signed bike route system. Collaborating with Rock Island to submit an ITEP application to construct the northern connection to the West Rock River Bridge trail.

*City of Muscatine* – On June 4<sup>th</sup>, National Trails Day, the “Howl at the Moon” celebration will be held in the Muscatine Area.

*City of Riverdale* – Nothing new to report.

*City of Rock Island* – Mr. Nelson reported the City is working with Moline to construct a trail connection to the north side of the West Rock River Bridge. The ADT Bridge across Sylvan Slough is under development and nearing completion.

*City of Silvis* – Nothing new to report.

*City of Walcott* – Nothing new to report.

*Henry County* – Nothing new to report.

*Muscatine County* – Nothing new to report.

*Rock Island County* – Nothing new to report.

*Scott County* – Nothing new to report.

*Corps of Engineers* – Nothing new to report.

*River Action* – Mr. Fellows referred the committee to the handout announcing the "Bike to the Ballpark" event on Memorial Day.

*Quad City Convention and Visitors Bureau* – Nothing new to report.

*Other Trail Reports:*

**Mississippi River Trail** – The MRT, Inc Planning Committee is working to encourage local jurisdictions with a defined route to install MRT signs on the route. Along the route, Committee representatives are stressing the importance of constructing key segments. Clinton County is in the process of working with the Iowa DOT on a basic alignment study. Muscatine is completing its connection from the riverfront to Weed Park. The levee is being looked at for possible trail placement heading down river from Muscatine. The Region 16 Council of Governments in Iowa is planning to hire a full time trails planner. Maintenance and liability issues are obstacles to overcome in some of the Counties along the MRT.

**American Discovery Trail Crossing** – The American Discovery Trail bridge from the Rock Island levee over Sylvan Slough and connecting to Arsenal Island is near completion. Funding is being pursued for Phase II of the American Discovery Trail Crossing at Arsenal Island. Phase II is widening of the existing 4-foot sidewalk to a 10-foot multi-use trail.

**Great River Trail (GRT)/Grand Illinois Trail (GIT)** – It is anticipated the Village of Carbon Cliff along with the Cities of East Moline and Silvis will submit an Illinois Transportation Enhancement

Program (ITEP) application for additional funds needed to complete the connection from the Hennepin Canal to the Mississippi River.

4. Upcoming Grant Opportunities. Mr. DeLille informed the committee the State of Iowa Department of Transportation conducted an expedited round for the federal Surface Transportation Program/National Recreation Trails (STP/NRT) grants. The State is encouraging applications for motorized and alternative-use trail projects. The application deadline was May 13, 2005. Iowa DOT has not determined if applications will be requested for the usual fall grant deadline. The 2005 Iowa REAP grant deadline is August 15 and Iowa Transportation Enhancement project grants need to be received by the Iowa DOT no later than October 1<sup>st</sup>. The Illinois DNR is accepting applications for the OSLAD/LWCF grant program May 1, 2005 through July 1, 2005. The Illinois DOT recently announced it will be accepting applications for Transportation Enhancement projects from June 1, 2005 through August 1, 2005. The application will be a streamlined version of the TEA-21 application form. The Illinois DOT will evaluate projects based on readiness and the ability to be completed in 12-months. There isn't a specified maximum amount but applicants need to consider the overall length and scope of the project which can reasonably be completed within the 12-month timeframe; the Illinois DOT recommends phasing projects at the \$2 million threshold. There will be a sunset clause for approved projects. Changes in project scope are discouraged and in most instances will not be allowed. There will not be an allowance for project cost overruns. The grantee will be responsible for 100% of any additional costs incurred after the grant award and any costs ineligible under the grant guidelines. Contingency costs are not allowed and a 30% maximum of the total project costs can be added for Preliminary Engineering I and II and Construction Engineering.
5. Status of Transportation Bill Reauthorization. Ms. Bulat reported the House had passed a 30-day extension of the current TEA-21 bill but the Senate still needed to act. A \$284 billion bill is being supported by the House. The Senate would like a bill with an amount greater than the \$284 billion. The House is ready to name members to the joint Conference Committee, but this won't occur in the Senate until after Memorial Day.
6. Continued Discussion on Trail Maintenance and Upkeep. Ms. Bulat reported she had discussed the potential of developing a regional foundation for trail maintenance with the Bi-State Finance and Personnel Committee. The Committee did not feel this was an appropriate fiscal role for Bi-State but staff could assist a foundation (if developed) in preparing an application and ranking process. The trails committee continued their discussion on maintenance issues; including items such as, general maintenance and periodic sweeping; revenue sources for maintenance (i.e. licensing/private advertising along trail); and which local government department would perform maintenance.
7. Other Business. There was no other business.
8. Adjournment. The meeting was adjourned by consensus at 11:40 a.m.