

MINUTES OF THE

BI-STATE REGIONAL TRAIL COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 17, 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 (see attached sign in sheet).
2. Review of Meeting Minutes. – Chair Marsh requested review and approval of the meeting minutes. No corrections were made to the meeting notes; Mr. Morrison motioned for their approval; Mr. Welling 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–

No new report. **Mississippi River Trail (MRT)**: The MRT from the Davenport border to 10th Street is completed and open for use, the dedication ceremony can be viewed on the City's website. The City is addressing a trail routing issue from the western end of the levee through Leach Park and to the new trail section. **MRT – Leach Park to Riverdale**: Meetings with property owners are occurring and working out issues related to ownership of the levee. The City is still 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 will be submitting 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–

No new report. **City Trail**: The City is in the first phase of planning for a trail that would travel through the City from east to west.

City of Buffalo–

MRT: Met with Senator Harkin's assistant to determine how to go about utilizing funds earmarked in the new federal Transportation Bill. Will need to arrange a meeting with Muscatine County, City of Muscatine, Scott County and the City of Buffalo to discuss options. The City is ready to proceed but is waiting word on how and where the high priority funds included in the new transportation Bill are to be used. (Mr. Dean – IADOT comments: It is being left up to the local jurisdictions as to how best to spend the dollars. However, they must be used on MRT projects. Preliminary interpretation from FHWA is the dollars can be used for project engineering. There may be some concerns along the proposed route, for example, right-of-way and air quality issues, which would need to be determined and addressed prior to construction. He referred the group to the recently completed Clinton County Trails Plan/Alignment Study and recommended committee members referenced the Iowa DOT Funding Guide on the Iowa State Dot website.) The City has requested an earmark through the Reauthorization Act for construction funding. Other sources could include CAT, Vision Iowa grants, or local corporations.

Village of Carbon Cliff–

American Discovery Trail (ADT): Village will purchase required mitigation lands outright and the Village 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 has a verbal commitment from a property owner to use a portion of the land for creating a wetland. The wetland development is a required mitigation of an area to be impacted by the alignment of GIT/ADT connection. Work is continuing to acquire additional dollars, approximately \$1.2 million, to complete trail connection from the MRT in East Moline to the Hennepin in Colona. Wetland issues/mitigation has been resolved.

Village of Coal Valley–

Nothing new to report. **Greenways/Trails:** A comprehensive plan is being developed for the Village, which will identify greenways/trails within the community. Need more nature and hiking trails. Bike/ped trails should be considered in conjunction with the Hwy 150 improvements. Pushing for 10-foot sidewalks/paths on Hwy 150 through Coal Valley. Looking at a 1st Street connection and Route 6 Trails. **Comprehensive Plan** – a comprehensive plan will be developed for the Village, which will identify greenways/trails within the community.

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. Need better maps and trail information, especially for people from out of town. Develop loop trails throughout the area. **ADT/MRT:** Credit Island Bridge to Concord Street is included in appropriation requests and costs are being updated. **Elmore Avenue Creek Trail:** Alignment being determined. **Duck Creek Connection to the MRT:** Alignment being determined. The City is working on a computerized trail and sidewalk inventory.

City of East Moline–

ADT: The City is working 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. City is awaiting announcement on an ITEP grant for the additional dollars needed to complete ADT/GIT connection from The Quarter in East Moline to the Hennepin Canal State Parkway in Colona. **Quarter Trail,** completed from 7th Street to the levee: An extension to central business district and Silvis is 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 would be 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 is working on 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 received for trail connection to the West Rock River Bridge (which is under construction) along the levee and Mill Creek, 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. Detour on riverfront trail near Bass Street Landing area. **Fitness Trail:** Moline will open bids on June 7th for construction of 2-miles of new fitness trails in Prospect Park, Trinity; Shive Hattery; City of Moline and the National Disc Golf Association are sponsoring the two-miles of trail. **Kiwanis Trail:** Restrooms were added to trail near Harold's Landing. Collaborating with Rock Island to submit an ITEP application to construct the northern connection to the West Rock River Bridge trail. Moline is continuing to coordinate with Rock Island on the northern trail connection to the West Rock River Bridge. **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:** Completed soon, a ¾-mile gap in the Riverfront Trail between Musser and Weed Park is planned for bid letting in January 2005 with construction completed by the end of the year. The ADT/MRT from Muscatine Bridge to IA 22, funded and under design; MRT from levee south funding requested. **Mad Creek Trail:** One-half mile of the Mad Creek Trail, intersecting with the Riverfront Trail working on concept study, budgeting and construction. **Kent Stein Trail:** Trail under construction; trail connector to Mississippi River, alignment approved and funds being sought. **Hoover Nature Trail:** Funding being sought for trail from Hershey Avenue along G28. **US 61 By-Pass Trail:** Funding being sought 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.

City of Riverdale–

No new report. **MRT:** Meetings with Alcoa have occurred to discuss trail locations and design along US 67.

City of Rock Island–

No new report. **Southwest Rock Island Trail:** A Grant was submitted in March to the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. **17th/24th Street Trail:** On-street painted lane will be included in road reconstruction and is considered a connector between the MRT and Rock River Trails. **Rock River Trail:** The City is submitting 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 is also submitting a separate ITEP application for a trail connection from Sunset Park to Ben Williamson Park. 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 and 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 and the opening dedication was a success.

City of Silvis–

No new report. **American Discovery Trail (ADT):** Work is continuing to acquire additional dollars to complete trail connection from the MRT to the Hennepin.

City of Walcott–

Walcott Recreation Trail: Beginning the first of year through March or April, the City will use 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. Continuing local community involvement meetings and project outreach including assistance from Iowa State University and the Trees Forever Program to develop recreational trail, install signage and park landscape and beautification. The City submitted an application through the National Recreation Trails Program to assist with engineering and development of the trail and park along Mad Creek. The Walcott Trails Committee has made some changes from the original plans based on feedback received from two public input forums. To date 75% of preliminary engineering is completed and Verbeck-Meyer has finished the topography study. 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. 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. A semi-circular trail around Walcott along south side of community and connecting with the school, two subcommittees have been formed, one for funding and one for education. The funding sub-committee is seeking information on maintenance costs.

Henry County–

Nothing new to 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:** First trails plan for the county will be developed.

Rock Island County–

No new report. **MRT/ADT:** MRT/ADT is complete in the upper County.

Scott County–

No new report. **Cody Trail:** Existing signed trail through northern portion of County and Scott County Park. **Trail Connector:** A trail connection from Davenport to West Lake Park is being planned for the future.

Corps of Engineers–

No new report.

Iowa DOT–

Request for handling SAFETEA-LU earmarks was sent through the Office of Systems Planning. The earmarked projects can be put into the MPO or RPA TIP for the year of expected appropriation. Obligated spending authority amounts will likely be 75%-85% of total earmarked dollars, however put the full amount in the TIP.

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

The Grand Illinois Trail And Parks (GITAP) ride is coming to the Quad Cities for two days in 2006. Need to work on trail accommodations along Davenport's Main Street connecting Duck Creek to the MRT and forming a trail loop.

Quad City Convention and Visitors Bureau (QCCVB)–

March 8-10, 2006 the Quad City delegation will make its annual trip to Washington D.C. **National Trail Symposium:** A draft of the newsletter announcing the Trails Symposium Conference. She announced the planning team is currently working to secure sponsors. Request packets are available for anyone interested. Nomination 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. The Quad Cities has also hosted American Trails Board of Directors. Symposium to 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. **Branding:** The QCCVB is working on marketing and branding issues related to the Quad Cities.

River Action–

Trail Wayfinding/signage system: River Action reported they would fund the majority of the wayfinding project. River Action is assembling 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. **MRT/ADT:** Scenic By-way dollars funded an overlook/pavilion in Rock Island at 20th Street for eagle viewing. The Grand Excursion Bike Ride helped identify alignment along the MRT.

Other Trail Reports:

Mississippi River Trail (MRT)–

Mississippi River Trail (MRT): The MRT Iowa Executive Committee will be meeting in Muscatine at the new Environmental Learning Center on December 8th. On December 9th the Upper States MRT Committee will meet at the Kahl Building in Davenport. Iowa DOT is signing portions of the MRT along State roadways. It was suggested communities view the Clinton County Trail study as a template or pilot plan to follow. The overall objective is eventually for the entire MRT to be separated corridor bikeways. The MRT Iowa Executive Committee is looking for trail champions from Scott and Muscatine County. 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. 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. 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-feet 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. The Committee reviewed Article II. Section 1, 2 and 3 of its Committee Structure and discussed its role and purpose. It was determine there was a need for the Committee and perhaps it could assume some more active endeavors. Suggested doing letters of support for projects, but not pick one project over another. Add usage and maintenance to Section 3 of Article II. Take a more proactive role reporting back to each ones respective community or organization. Discuss ordinances, codes and/or policies (i.e. Segways and other motorized uses), which could be implemented on a regional scale. Encourage forming Adopt-a-Trail groups to help with routine maintenance.
5. Discussion continued regarding more consistent and uniform trail use policies. Draft language for a motorized trail use ordinance will be provided and discussed at the next committee meeting.
6. An update on the planning and preparations for the National Trails Symposium was reported to the committee. Information for the October 19-22, 2006 Symposium can be found on the American Trails website www.americantrails.org. The Symposium to be held here in the Quad Cities is a forum to see and learn about the various types of trails. It 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. Additional hotels may need to be added depending upon attendance. The seven Board Members along with the Executive Director of American Trails were in the Quad Cities at the end of October for a site visit. Contributors thus far are John Deere, RDA, City of Moline, and both the Iowa and Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Other contributions are pending but many more are needed. More interaction, networking, funding and partnering is welcomed and encouraged. Some of the things which can be done to help make the Symposium a success include, budget and plan to attend, become a member of American Trails and the Symposium attendance fee is reduced, work together and become involved in the planning efforts for the Symposium. There are many opportunities to assist one of the various steering committees (i.e. mobile workshops, programs, exhibit hall, marketing, fundraising, etc.). Consider nominations for the National Trails Awards Program (handout) this is a great opportunity to

showcase the trails in the bi-state area. The next meeting of the QC National Trails Symposium Planning Team is 9:00 a.m. Monday, January 9, 2006 in the Wisconsin and Wabash Rooms of River Center South in Davenport.

7. Some upcoming grants to be aware of include in Iowa the State Recreational Trails Program. Applications are due to the IADOT by January 2, 2006. In Illinois, March 1, 2006 is the deadline for the Illinois Trails Grant Programs. The next round of National Scenic By-way discretionary grant applications are due December 30, 2005 in Iowa and January 2, 2006 in Illinois.

The Illinois and Iowa Urban Area Greenway Plan is on track to be completed by the end of 2005. The Multipurpose Trails and Pedestrian Network chapter of the 2035 Quad City Metropolitan Area Long Range Transportation Plan is in draft form and some minor addition and edits need to be made.

Mr. Dean encouraged the committee to communicate with the local and state engineers to include or at a minimum at least consider trail accommodations with road projects.

8. The meeting adjourned at 11:40 a.m.