

**MINUTES OF THE  
BI-STATE REGIONAL TRAIL COMMITTEE**

Thursday, March 28, 2019 – 10:00 a.m.  
Scott County Administration Center  
6th Floor Conference Room  
600 West 4th Street  
Davenport, Iowa

1. Welcome/Introductions – Mr. Martin opened the meeting by welcoming those in attendance and asked for introductions. (See attached attendance sheet.)
2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from November 15, 2018 – Ms. McDonough submitted changes prior to the meeting to the Scott County Health Department report in the draft minutes. The minutes from the November 15, 2018 Bi-State Regional Trail Committee were approved with the changes.
3. Strategic Planning Process – Ms. McDonough introduced the reasoning behind the strategic planning process. Attendance of Trails Committee meetings has decreased over the past couple years, and that has led the group to rethink its functioning and its goals for the future. Prior to the meeting, committee members were asked to submit input on the three stated purposes of committee and respond to a SWOT (Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats) analysis. Ms. McDonough led the group discussion of the responses to the SWOT analysis and the focused discussion that followed. Summaries of the SWOT results, focused discussion, and brainstorming goals are attached to these minutes.
4. Committee Member Reports

*Davenport –*

Davenport Go, the city's bicycle transportation plan, will have a public hearing on April 3 at the Committee-of-the-Whole meeting.

*Eldridge –*

The city will break ground soon on the First Street Trail on the former railroad right-of-way. Residents have attended city council meetings to express their support for building more trail facilities.

*Henry County –*

Maintenance issues remain on the Hennepin Canal Parkway Trail. The county would like the state to address the backlog of issues. Another status meeting will be convened to keep momentum going to address the problems.

*Nahant Marsh –*

The preserve is looking at potential future acquisitions near the marsh. The opportunity exists to build an extensive and diverse trail system of up to seven miles in length. The trails could include ADA-accessible routes and natural hiking trails. One goal of the initiative is to connect the preserve's natural areas, as well as connect to the other nature preserves in the Quad Cities region.

*Princeton –*

The proposed MRT route has been shifted from U.S. 67 to River Drive. The new route will be cheaper than the original, and hopefully riders will patronize businesses on the river. The city council recently transferred \$30,000 from the sidewalk and trail fund to make up for a shortfall due to the effects the extreme winter had on city roads. The Sidewalks and Trail Committee is looking into forming a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

*Quad Cities Bicycle Club –*

The Spring into Bicycling event will be held at the New Ground Theater in the Village of East Davenport on April 6. The club also has numerous events planned for Bike Month in May.

*River Action –*

River Action will not pursue the open streets event for Ride the River.

*Scott County –*

The county hosted the Scott County Economic Development Summit on February 28. The Health Department will conduct a sidewalk assessment in the City of Donahue.

*Visit Quad Cities –*

The Quad Cities was not selected to host the National Trails Symposium, but another bid will be submitted for upcoming years.

5. Other Business – Mr. Schmid noted that numerous statewide grants are coming up in both Iowa and Illinois, namely the State Recreational Trails Program (due 7/1/19), REAP (local due date 7/31), and Federal Recreational Trails Program (due 10/1) in Iowa, and the Illinois Transportation Enhancements Program (ITEP, anticipated due date 9/30) and the Boat Access and Development program (anticipated due date 9/30). In addition, a round for local Transportation Alternatives Set-Aside (TASA) funds is due April 5, 2019.
6. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

**MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD  
MEMBERS, GUESTS & STAFF**

Meeting of: Bi-State Regional Trail Committee

Date: March 28, 2019 Time: 10:00 a.m. To 11:45 a.m. Minutes: Yes X No \_\_

Place of Meeting: Scott County Administrative Center

<b>Name:</b>	<b>Title/Representing:</b>	<b>Contact # or Email:</b>
1. Taylor Beswick	Scott County	
2. Roger Gradert	Henry County Board	
3. Brent Herman	City of Princeton	
4. Lynn Hunt	Visit Quad Cities	
5. James Martin	City of Eldridge	
6. Dean Mathias	Quad Cities Bicycle Club	
7. Jim Matthys	City of Buffalo	
8. Christina McDonough	Scott County Health Department	
9. Olin Meador	City of Buffalo	
10. Zach Peterson	City of Davenport	
11. Brian Ritter	Nahant Marsh	
12. Bryan Schmid	Bi-State Regional Commission	
13. Noah Truesdell	River Action	
14.		
15.		
16.		
17.		
18.		
19.		
20.		

**Focused Conversation Notes**  
Bi-State Regional Trails Committee  
Thursday, March 28, 2019

**Facilitator:** Christina McDonough, Vice-President/Scott County Health Department

**Participants:** Taylor Beswick, Scott County Planning and Development; Bryan Schmid, Bi-State Regional Commission; Olin Meador, City of Buffalo; Jim Matthys, City of Buffalo; Dean Mathias, Quad Cities Bicycle Club; James Martin, President/City of Eldridge; Roger Gradert, Henry County Board; Noah Truesdell, River Action; Zach Peterson, City of Davenport; Brent Herman, Princeton Sidewalk & Trails Committee; Lynn Hunt, Visit Quad Cities; Brian Ritter, Nahant Marsh

**OBJECTIVE**

---

- **What stood out to you in the Strategic Plan & SWOT Analysis results?**
  - *Goals are being met, collaborative and regional group, need funding*
  - *Expand region and funding, Hennepin Canal is hub of trails*
  - *Lacking Moline representative*
  - *Need consistent representation and game plan*
  - *A lot of potential of group*
  - *Need focus*
  - *Better understanding of Bi-State Regional Commission*
  - *Lack of funding*
  - *Inspiring group*

**REFLECTIVE**

---

- **What is relatively easy for us to accomplish?**
  - *Communication, more emails with updates and recaps, newsletter*
  - *Combine efforts to help communities*
  - *Combine maps into one good map*
  - *I74 bridge as trail hub*
- **What will be difficult?**
  - *Increasing collaboration*
  - *Building a case to convince elected officials, we need metrics, health data, statements, toolbox for everyone to use*
  - *Le Claire and Rock Island Arsenal representatives are missing*

## **INTERPRETIVE**

---

- **What values are emerging as we talk?**
  - *Collaboration*
  - *Raising value of trail system (economic and cultural)*
  - *Find missing people to join committee*
  - *American Discovery Trail (ADT) and Mississippi River Trail (MRT) are valuable to rural communities*
  - *Statement of trails value, resolution of trail recognition, establish a standard*
  - *Public comment to identify bicycle barriers from public (Davenport Go had a map study)*

## **DECISIONAL**

---

- **What are you willing to commit to?**
  - *Attend meetings*
  - *Finish Metro Map*
  - *Be a contact person to share knowledge and experiences of trail development*
  - *Attend City Council meetings (to share knowledge and experiences)*
  - *Sharing updates from Bi-State Regional Trails Committee at other committee meetings*
  - *Establishing a newsletter*
  - *Efforts to connect Nahant Marsh to trails*
  - *Contact missing government representatives*
  - *Implementing Davenport Go transportation plan*
  - *Promote trails via River Action events and assisting with trail development*
  - *Collaborating with Henry County*
  - *Promoting trails for tourism and keeping trails in the media, reporting trends*

# **BRAINSTORMING GOALS**

Bi-State Regional Trails Committee

Thursday, March 28, 2019

## **GROUP 1**

---

**Participants:** Taylor Beswick, Scott County Planning and Development; Bryan Schmid, Bi-State Regional Commission; Olin Meador, City of Buffalo; Jim Matthys, City of Buffalo; Dean Mathias, Quad Cities Bicycle Club

### **Goals:**

1. Increased/better signage on American Discovery Trail (ADT) and Mississippi River Front Trail (MRT) in Region
2. Increased participation
3. Bi-State Trails resolution (statement)
4. Barrier study or public input
5. Private-Public partnerships and funding opportunities (John Deere trail?)

## **GROUP 2**

---

**Participants:** James Martin, President/City of Eldridge; Roger Gradert, Henry County Board; Noah Truesdell, River Action; Zach Peterson, City of Davenport

### **Goals:**

1. Toolkit
2. Serve as advisor to Bi-State Technical Committee
3. Continue to further the missions of the ADT, MRT, and National Rail Trail
4. Set regional trail project priority list

## **GROUP 3**

---

**Participants:** Christina McDonough, Vice-President/Scott County Health Department; Brent Herman, Princeton Sidewalk & Trails Committee; Lynn Hunt, Visit Quad Cities; Brian Ritter, Nahant Marsh

### **Goals:**

1. Toolbox (metrics (economic, tourism, health, environmental), alternative transportation, map, statement of support, resolution supporting trails, grant opportunities, success stories, how to implement and maintain trail systems)
2. Statement of support
3. Public survey
4. Resolution supporting trails (sample for communities to adopt)
5. One comprehensive map (real-time app)

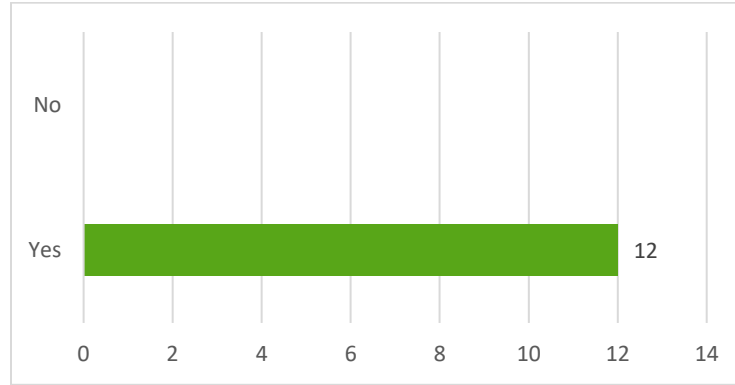
# STRATEGIC PLAN & SWOT ANALYSIS Results

## BI-STATE REGIONAL TRAILS COMMITTEE

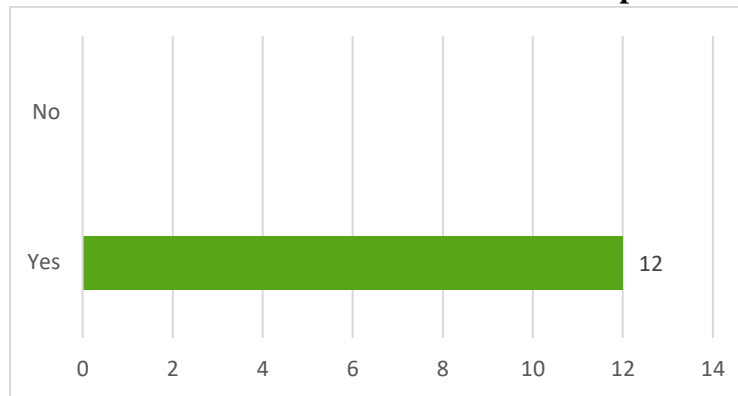
---

12 Responses

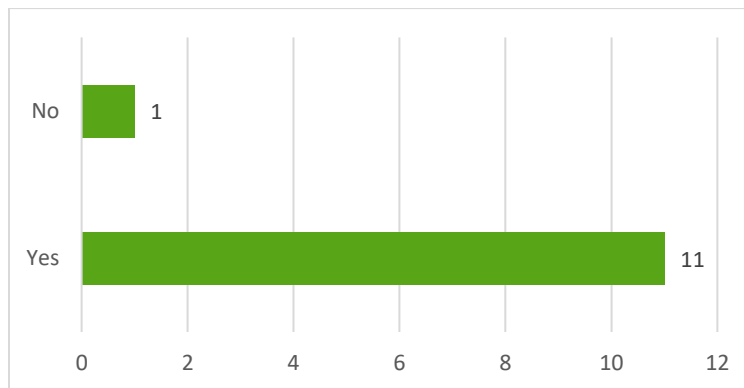
1. **The Bi-State Regional Trails Committee provides coordination between participating jurisdictions, trail representatives, community leaders, and other interested parties.**



2. **The Bi-State Regional Trails Committee encourages communication between participating jurisdictions in order to achieve maximum benefits from trail development.**



3. **The Bi-State Regional Trails Committee facilitates and reviews and coordinates projects which impact trail development.**



**4. What are specific strengths of the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee?**

- a. Dynamic group of members that represent Cities and cyclists; networking and information sharing opportunities; increased awareness of grant funding opportunities; presentations from partnering and/or outside organizations.
- b. Coordination and communication on a consistent basis.
- c. Regional cooperation
- d. Its ability to coordinate between different municipalities and groups to achieve larger trails-related goals. The ability to work across the river and plan for the future.
- e. Regional collaboration = better funding opportunities.
- f. Shared information.
- g. Regional knowledge of all communities' trails, plans for improvements; access to better practices for trail use and management. Ability to foster inter-community discussion.
- h. Bringing funding opportunities to the committee.
- i. See question 1 and 2.
- j. Exchange of knowledge and project experience...grant possibilities. Unflagging support of Bi-State to make the QC a safer ped/bike community at the same time promoting continuous trail/street accommodations in line with the 2045 plans and Complete Streets.
- k. A great facilitator with City, State, and Federal governments

**5. What are specific weaknesses of the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee?**

- a. Advisory body having to be responsive to all host communities.
- b. It's damn difficult keeping good people. We have a lot of municipalities and groups whose attendance is irregular or lacking.
- c. Concise vision or strategy communicated. To get full commitment from participating agencies need some sort of buy-in.
- d. Participation among member communities could be stronger. Discussions tend to ramble.
- e. Lack of general direction or focus of the Committee outside of information sharing.
- f. Public interest
- g. I am too new to the organization to be relevant.
- h. None
- i. Lack of attendance from all communities.
- j. Consistent representation from all cities
- k. Lack of resources to complete their job.

**6. What opportunities of growth exist within the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee?**

- a. To spearhead the Trails Long Range planning and set priorities for funding and expansion.
- b. Further collaboration to apply available resources and make regional trail development happen.
- c. Establishing goals and measurable action steps.
- d. Expansion of trails into rural settings, national notoriety with national trail involvement like the Hennepin Canal.
- e. Meet monthly, especially during the spring, summer, and fall, and safer street plans for bicycles and pedestrians in each city.
- f. More communication with communities, not just their representatives.
- g. Tapping into synergy/energy for accommodations connected to the new I-74 bridge.

- h. The use of social media to get young people engaged.
- i. Ongoing revenue stream for projects, maybe?
- j. Not sure.

**7. What challenges and/or obstacles affect the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee?**

- a. Lack of funding and resources to make a direct impact on trail development.
- b. Lack of funds, city interest, and a car-centric culture.
- c. No authority.
- d. Signage for visitors, trail users...illuminating the way for those residents/communities that question the need for ped/bike accommodations.
- e. Finding the time outside of regular job to spend on committee issues.
- f. It appears that at any given time, there are any projects to prioritize
- g. Expansion of trails and public awareness. Also the lack of progress on the canal trail problems. Need more interaction with the IDNR.
- h. Keeping people on the committee. Encouraging attendance.
- i. Lack of interest/apathy. Lack of a mission.
- j. no opinion

**8. List any major strategies or areas the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee should consider for the overall strategic plan.**

- a. Good that one is being developed.
- b. Help to develop the Illinois Loop, with a bridge accommodation over the Rock from Sunset to the Hennepin...could be cantilevered.
- c. Teleconferencing. Remote meeting capabilities.
- d. Advocate for complete streets and/or comprehensive sidewalk ordinances throughout the Bi-State region; provide technical assistance (ex: walk audits); develop a training and/or presentation schedule into meetings.
- e. Work to connect trails where gaps exist; work to bring complete streets to QC's.
- f. Hennepin Canal washout in Colona, promotion of the Muscatine trails, promotions to inform the public of the opportunities to create the Quad Cities as a hub to adventure out on various trails with a variety of scenery. National recognition of the Quad Cities as a recreational center of opportunities.
- g. Define audiences and identify trends
- h. no opinion
- i. None at this time

**9. How should the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee measure its success?**

- a. Public perception of the overall trails system.
- b. Hours of free education offered to members; miles of trail development.
- c. By growth of public awareness and growth of accessible trails
- d. In new trails built. In trails maintained. In trails related tourism and use increases.
- e. Getting trails funded and built!
- f. Increase in trails and users.
- g. Public use of trails.
- h. Completed projects, collaborative planning.

- i. Celebrate each new/renovated ped/bike accommodation no matter what the size. Momentum in one community can help move others forward.
- j. By communicating with all Q C communities results of all trail enhancements.
- k. no opinion

**10. Where do you see the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee in one year?**

- a. Implementing an annual work plan with measurable action steps to accomplish goals.
- b. A strong lobby group involved in the growth and maintenance of regional recreational opportunities through governmental and private cooperation.
- c. More meetings, greater participation.
- d. I see the Trails Committee energizing communities to prepare for the grand opening of the I-74 Bridge.
- e. Hopefully more widely known
- f. Operating a tele-conference meeting system. Working closer with member governments to plan trails and set priorities.
- g. More organized goals established, better meeting attendance.
- h. Continuing the good work.
- i. Much of the same.
- j. no opinion

**11. Where do you see the Bi-State Regional Trails Committee in five years?**

- a. Being a leader in community trails management.
- b. Continuing efforts to expand trails and provide education and technical assistance.
- c. As a model of cooperation in the Quad Cities and beyond for coordination and planning for trails and recreation use.
- d. A key instrument in construction of regional trail corridors.
- e. More meetings; greater participation.
- f. Continuing the legacy of connecting the dots to the outlying communities, opening new vistas, and encouraging attendance at Iowa and Illinois Bike Summits.
- g. More vibrant due to better resources
- h. Expansion of 10.
- i. ?
- j. no opinion