

MINUTES OF THE BI-STATE REGIONAL TRAIL COMMITTEE

Thursday, November 21, 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 September 26, 2019 – The minutes from the September 26, 2019 Bi-State Regional Trail Committee were approved as presented.
3. National Parks Service Rivers, Trails, & Conservation Assistance Program – Mr. Mencarini detailed the NPS’s mission, which is to “cooperate with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.” He shared information about the Rivers, Trails, and Conservation Assistance Program, which creates partnerships between communities and the NPS. The NPS provides technical assistance to local governments that are planning outdoor recreation or natural resource conservation projects.

NPS planners are located in seven locations around the Midwest. Numerous assistance projects have taken place throughout the NPS Midwest Region, such as in Ludington, MI and Kirksville, MO. There are two ways communities can get the NPS involved in a project. The first is through an application process. A successful application will result in one to two years of assistance. The other is through a consultation process, whereby the NPS helps get the ball rolling on a project. One or two public meetings in the evening are typically hosted by NPS staff to gather input on a project.

4. Long Range Transportation Plan – Nonmotorized chapter existing conditions – Mr. Schmid discussed the existing conditions of nonmotorized transportation in the Quad Cities as part of the *2050 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan*. He noted federal and state guidance on bicycle and pedestrian facilities in transportation projects. Nationally, such projects have been promoted in U.S. DOT policy since 2010, while Illinois has had a Complete Streets law since 2008, and the IA DOT approved a Complete Streets policy in 2018. Nationally, pedestrian and pedalcyclist fatalities have been rising steadily at an alarming rate over the past ten years and now account for 17% of all roadway fatalities. Locally, roadway crashes have resulted in the deaths of over a dozen pedestrians and bicyclists in the Quad Cities since 2016. In this light, pedestrian and bicycle accommodations in the LRTP seek to promote safety on the region’s roadways. In previous public input, such accommodations have received high levels of support. Data informing the plan include trail counts and environmental justice measures to gain insight on trail development on communities with high rates of limited English proficiency (LEP), high concentrations of minority populations, and low income areas.

5. Committee Member Reports

Bettendorf–

The city would like to make Walk and Roll events in 2020 more interpretive with guided walks and rides. The Parks and Recreation Department uses the hashtag #BettTrails every Tuesday to promote the trail system. More coordination will be made with the Quad City Health Initiative.

Eldridge –

The city will let the First Street Trail project in December or January. Construction is anticipated for the spring.

Friends of the Hennepin Canal–

The Friends have a new president, Michelle Hartwig.

LeClaire –

The city recently completed a plan for its levee district. Proposals include a boardwalk on the river. Extensions of the MRT are also included as part of the plan.

MetroLINK –

Mr. Osing noted that bikes are allowed on Channel Cat vessels. Two docks will be improved at Moline’s TGI Fridays and the Village of East Davenport.

Princeton –

Mr. Mencarini visited the Princeton Sidewalk and Trail Committee along with a representative from the DOT. The sidewalk ordinance passed at the last council meeting. The committee will seek to become a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization. The city attorney volunteered to draft bylaws to submit to the state.

Quad Cities Bicycle Club –

An 87-year-old man just recently became the first person to walk the length of the Rock River Trail. He was greeted at the end of his hike by a contingent of well-wishers. The bike club will sponsor a charter bus for RAGBRAI again this year. Iowa’s Ride will take place the week before and begin at the Mississippi River and head west.

Quad City Health Initiative –

The QCTrails.org website has seen an uptick in traffic.

Rock Island County Forest Preserve District–

The district is seeking funds to construct a bike lane through Illiniwek Forest Preserve, plus reconstruct a restroom and bike maintenance station.

Scott County –

County planning staff are looking at the 1998 Greenways Plan again with an eye to future projects. The plan was facilitated by Bi-State with an EPA grant.

Scott County Health Department –

The Health Department received funds from the Iowa Department of Public Health to promote the 5-2-1-0 program. The grant will go toward purchasing wheelchair charging stations. Five stations will be placed in ADA accessible campgrounds. The Health Department also conducted a senior needs assessment at Spring Village in coordination with the Physical Activity Access Project with Bi-State.

Visit Quad Cities–

The 2020 Visitor Guide is out. Visit Quad Cities views recreation as a potential draw to the area.

6. Other Business – A discussion was had about adding the electric charging station locations to QCTrails.org. Mr. Schmid would look into the logistics of adding them.
7. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:30 a.m.

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

Meeting of: Bi-State Regional Trail Committee

Date: November 21, 2019 Time: 10:00 a.m. To 11:30 a.m. Minutes: Yes X No __

Place of Meeting: Scott County Administrative Center

Name:	Title/Representing:	Contact # or Email:
1. Taylor Beswick	Scott County	
2. Jeff Craver	Rock Island County Forest Preserve District	
3. Brent Herman	City of Princeton	
4. Lynn Hunt	Visit Quad Cities	
5. Cheri Lewis	Quad City Health Initiative	
6. Becky Lovich	City of Bettendorf Trails Committee	
7. James Martin	City of Eldridge	
8. Dean Mathias	Quad Cities Bicycle Club	
9. Christina McDonough	Scott County Health Department	
10. Michael Mencarini	National Parks Service	
11. Linda Mitchell	LeClaire Parks & Recreation Board	
12. Tanner Osing	MetroLINK	
13. Bruce Perry	Ride Illinois; Friends of the Hennepin Canal	
14. Mike Petersen	Rock Island County Forest Preserve District	
15. Bryan Schmid	Bi-State Regional Commission	
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