

**Minutes of the
QUAD CITIES RIVERFRONT COUNCIL (QCRFC)**

Tuesday, January 26th, 2016, 12:00 p.m.
Union Station Visitor's Center
102 S. Harrison Street
Davenport, IA 52801

Council Members in Attendance:

Mr. Jeff Anderson	Dr. Rodney Simmer
Mr. Steve Grimes	Mr. Joe Taylor
Mr. Tim Huey	Ms. Katie Tolley
Mr. Tim Knanishu	Ms. Kathy Wine*
Mr. Bill Nelson	

**Current QCRFC Officers*

Others in Attendance:

Mr. Taylor Beswick	Ms. Lindsay Whitson
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1. **Call Meeting to Order.** Meeting was called to order by Ms. Wine at 12:10 p.m. Introductions were made.
2. **Approval of the November 17, 2015 QCRFC Meeting Minutes.** A motion to approve the minutes was made by Mr. Grimes, and Mr. Huey seconded. The meeting minutes were approved as written.
3. **Presentation. – Moving Forward, Starting Today – 2045 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan, Ms. Lindsay Whitson & Mr. Taylor Beswick, Bi-State Regional Commission.** Ms. Whitson and Mr. Beswick reported that the Transportation Policy Committee concurred on initiating the public review process for the *2045 Quad Cities Long Range Transportation Plan* (LRTP). Under the Committee's direction in concert with the Transportation Technical Committee, Bi-State staff have worked for the last 4 years on the plan update. The update is a federal requirement as part of the transportation planning process of the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), which is Bi-State Regional Commission. Five public input meetings are being scheduled for mid-February to roll out the draft plan. The Policy Committee will make a final recommendation to the Bi-State Regional Commission board for approval at their March 2016 meeting. An in-depth presentation will be made at the February 24, 2016 Commission meeting, and the plan will lay on the table for a month for consideration of approval in March.

Ms. Whitson & Mr. Beswick noted that the plan addresses travel and transportation needs for the Quad Cities metropolitan planning area, today and in the future. The plan represents the two-state area with 298,005 population and 122,360 housing units (2010). It also highlights 2045 projections of population at 328,544 and housing units at 136,863. Employment is also projected from 2010 with 161,988 jobs to 188,358 jobs in 2045.

In addition to the five upcoming public information meetings, Bi-State staff have solicited other public input via a household travel survey, public input and freight surveys, a web-based meeting forum, outreach meetings, and committee meetings. Key public travel issues include repairing the

streets, completing gaps in sidewalks, being bike and transit friendly, addressing lack of funding and congestion, and seeing through on the I-74 reconstruction and Quad Cities-Chicago passenger rail projects. Other issues include river crossing capacity improvements, air quality, system reliability, connectivity, accessibility, system redundancy, safety, security, and implementation of planned projects.

Ms. Whitson & Mr. Beswick indicated that the plan is required to be fiscally constrained, so there are no unrealistic wish-list projects that cannot be reasonably funded. The LRTP summarizes \$8.9 billion in transportation investments on the state and local transportation system, including road expansions, road and transit operations and maintenance, trails and transportation alternatives, and transit capital projects. While not fiscally constrained, the LRTP plan does note projects requiring additional study. It will be important to look at these types of projects that require feasibility studies and more definitive alignments to fill future needs outlined by subsequent plan updates in five and ten years. The draft LRTP is currently available on the Bi-State website.

4. **Certificate of Appreciation Award Nominations.** Nominees were discussed and a preliminary list was compiled. Members were assigned to each nominee to complete a nomination form.
5. **Individual Riverfront Reports.**
 - *Bi-State* – Mr. Beswick shared that QCTrails.org will go live on February 1. Those present were encouraged to visit the new site and give comments or input to Mr. Beswick.
 - *Bettendorf* – Bettendorf is developing the Town Square project in Downtown. The I-74 letdown structure has been finalized and the plans call for trail access underneath I-74 adjacent to Leech Park. Greenways and rain gardens will be added in place of concrete underneath the letdown structure. Some future street realignments include traffic on State Street turning into a woonerf or pedestrian only traffic and Grant Street converted back into a two-way traffic.
 - *Moline* – The Spiegel Building in Downtown Moline adjacent to the I-74 Bridge has been taken control over by the City of Moline. A request for proposals is out for development. There is currently good interest in loft apartments on the upper floors and commercial on the ground floor.
 - *Princeton* – Ms. Tolley shared that Princeton Days will be held in July this year.
 - *QCCVB* – Mr. Taylor announced that staff was attending the Explore Illinois by Train Day Event at Union Station in Chicago.
 - *River Action* – The theme for this year's Upper Mississippi River Conference is fixing the river's 'D' grade. There will be a meeting at the Augie Club on January 30 discussing the bike share study and plan. The Henry Farnham Dinner will be on March 18 at St. Ambrose University.
 - *Rock Island* – Rock Island Public Works is working on a project, which is separating storm and sewer water along 6th Avenue. Highland Springs Golf Course is developing a learning center, which could include a golf/disc/soccer park. This winter's deer hunt harvested 47 deer yet there are still high number of deer-vehicle collisions. Last fall there

was damage to the dock at Schwiebert Park due to high winds and the city is currently working on strengthening it before boating season commences. Rock Island is currently planning a burn in the Sylvan Slough area for this spring or fall.

- *Rock Island County* – Illiniwek Park is completing a wetlands restoration project next to the ballpark and campground. There will also be more prairie lands added this summer allowing the county to save on maintenance and have the land be more environmentally friendly than grass.

6. **Other Business.**

7. **Meeting Adjourned.** Next meeting will be Tuesday, January 26, 2016 at Union Station Visitor's Center in Davenport.