

MINUTES OF THE BI-STATE REGIONAL TRAIL COMMITTEE

Thursday, March 24, 2022 – 10:00 a.m.
Teleconference

1. Welcome/Introductions – Ms. McDonough opened the meeting by welcoming those on the call and asked for introductions. (See attached attendance sheet.)
2. Approval of the Meeting Minutes from March 24, 2022 – The minutes from the March 24, 2022 Bi-State Regional Trail Committee were approved as presented.
3. Presentation on the Great American Rail-Trail – Mr. Belanger discussed the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) and its effort to construct a 3,700-mile trail from Washington D.C. to Washington state, named the Great American Rail-Trail (GART). The route of the GART passes through the Quad Cities Region. The trail follows railroad corridors, and in the Bi-State Region, it follows the Hennepin Canal Parkway Trail and Mississippi River Trail. RTC is seeking to make the economic impact of long-distance recreational trails more well known in the communities and regions through which they pass. Western Illinois is one of three target areas where known gaps could be resolved to connect significant segments. RTC is looking to promote the trail through partnerships with local organizations and state departments, including health organizations. RTC would like to get the GART included in statewide planning documents, and have governors mention the trail in their 2023 state of the state addresses.
4. Presentation on Bettendorf Trail Initiatives – Mr. Beswick detailed trail and bicycle related plans in the City of Bettendorf. Activity related to the I-74 bridge is continuing. The glass oculus in the center of the bicycle and pedestrian path was installed, and the path is expected to open in mid-to-late April. The let-down structure will be on the Fall 2022 bid letting, and construction will begin next year. The old bridge must be removed before construction on the elevator can begin. Construction of the nearby urban park will be on the May 2022 bid letting. The TBK Bank Sports Complex will expand in coming years with more fields, a golf driving range, hotels, and more, and will coincide with reconstruction of Forest Grove Drive. The road will include a 10-foot separated trail on both sides. Middle Road, too, will include separated trails on both sides. A pedestrian bridge will connect the east and west sides of the complex, which will feature 8-foot sidewalks on interior streets. The Forest Grove Drive trail will be extended to the new elementary school. Tanglefoot Road will be reconstructed between Devil's Glen Road and Crow Creek Park, and will include a sidepath on the north side.

5. Committee Member Reports

Bettendorf –

The potential merger of Canadian Pacific and Kansas City Southern railways would have major impacts in our region in terms of increased rail traffic. This will create access issues for areas on the river side of the tracks. The city is looking into safety at crossings and potential quiet zones through the downtown.

Buffalo –

A trails committee has not yet been created to work to extend the trail to Camp Abe Lincoln.

Davenport –

The Goose Creek Trail project north of 53rd Street has been let, and trees have been removed. Construction is anticipated to begin in mid-to-late June.

Moline –

The city is accepting preliminary public comment for 19th Street, which will include a sidepath between the riverfront and Avenue of the Cities. The city received ITEP and local TAP funding.

Muscatine –

The city is looking to prioritize projects for the expansion of the existing trail network through GIS mapping.

Princeton –

The Dog Scamper fundraiser will take place on April 8 at 6:00 p.m. to raise funds for the Mississippi River Trail project.

Scott County Health Department –

The City of Buffalo is interested in working with the SCHD and Bi-State to conduct walk audits and a pedestrian needs assessment to find residents' impressions of their physical surroundings. The work for the Physical Activity Access Project will center on the food pantry in City Hall and the senior housing facility.

Silvis –

The first segment of the Grand Illinois Trail (GIT) connection between the Hennepin Canal Trail and the Mississippi River Trail is under construction in Silvis and East Moline. The trail is expected to be completed in the fall. Phase 2 of the GIT between Silvis and Colona may get an update to its Project Development Report (PDR), which will change the proposed alignment to follow a sewer right-of-way down the bluff in Carbon Cliff.

6. Other Business – The Committee discussed returning to in-person meetings beginning in May. A hybrid option may be possible. More information will be shared before the May meeting.
7. Adjournment – The meeting adjourned at 11:15 a.m.

MEETING ATTENDANCE RECORD MEMBERS, GUESTS & STAFF

Meeting of: Bi-State Regional Trail Committee

Date: March 24, 2022 Time: 10:00 a.m. To 11:15 a.m. Minutes: Yes X No ___

Place of Meeting: Teleconference

Name:	Title/Representing:	Contact # or Email:
1. Kevin Belanger	Rails to Trails Conservancy	
2. Taylor Beswick	City of Bettendorf	
3. Dennis Bockenstedt	City of LeClaire	
4. Nicole Carkner	Quad Cities Health Initiative	
5. Cassidy Darin	Visit Quad Cities	
6. Colleen Doak	St. Ambrose University	
7. Tonia Kennedy	City of LeClaire	
8. Jim Matthys	City of Buffalo	
9. Christina McDonough	Scott County Health Department	
10. Santos Saucedo	Muscatine County	
11. JD Schulte	Hutchison Engineering	
12. Bryan Schmid	Bi-State Regional Commission	
13. Jim Thompson	Henry County	
14. Jeff Uddin	IMEG	
15. Brittany Wells	Visit Quad Cities	
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