

## MEETING NOTES

### DES MOINES AREA METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATION (MPO) CENTRAL IOWA BICYCLE-PEDESTRIAN ROUNDTABLE

August 16, 2016  
12:00 PM.

MPO Office, Burnham Room  
Des Moines, Iowa

#### Roundtable Attendees Present:

Vern Willey, City of Altoona  
Tony Filippini, Ames Area MPO  
Gay Lea Wilson, Citizen  
John Peterson, Citizen  
Mark Arentsen, City of Bondurant  
Todd Seaman, City of Clive  
Jenny Richmond, City of Des Moines  
Madeline Sturms, City of Pleasant Hill  
Dan Lane, City of Polk City  
Kevin James, City of Urbandale  
Ethan Standard, DART  
Marco Alvarez, City of West Des Moines

Katie Fencl, Des Moines Area Sports Commission  
Carl Voss, Des Moines Bicycle Collective  
Andrea Boulton, INHF  
Lisa Hein, INHF  
Mindy Moore, Snyder and Associates  
Loren Lown, Polk County Conservation  
Emily Naylor, Shive-Hattery  
Jared Morford, INHF  
Jeff Cook, Friends of CVT  
Clifford Leonard, Citizen  
Heidi Soliday Benson, Citizen

#### Roundtable Staff Present:

Mike Armstrong, Associate Transportation Planner

#### 1. Call to Order

The August 16, 2016 Roundtable meeting was called to order at 12:07 p.m.

#### 2. Introduction

#### 3. Approval of Agenda

#### 4. Approval of the Roundtable's July 19, 2016, Meeting Notes

#### 5. DISCUSSION: Historic Preservation Challenges on Trails

Andrea Boulton (INHF) led a discussion on the recent challenges on historic preservation with SHPO and NEPA requirements for trails projects. Recently, permitting processes have changed that force NEPA permitting before purchasing land, making it more difficult for corridor acquisition and land transfers. The main concern is around rail corridor bridges, which are now being considered historic, which has created more upfront barriers for trail projects on or across rail corridors. Polk County Conservation has faced similar issues with older limestone culverts.

#### 6. DISCUSSION: Corridor Prairie Plantings

Lisa Hein (INHF) shared a discussion on trail corridor plantings. Working with Trees Forever, Lisa discovered a funding source that could do more elaborate corridor plantings in communities of 10,000 population or less. INHF brought this to the Roundtable to find potential areas that could apply for this funding. Bondurant has successfully undergone this process in the past and has applied for a new project this year. Applications were provided for communities.

#### 7. REPORT: Bike Safety Legislation

Mark Wyatt (Iowa Bicycle Coalition) reported on upcoming bicycle safety legislation. The number of fatal bicycle crashes has doubled this year over last year. With a recent increase in support, IBC is emphasizing change lanes to pass, texting and driving codes and penalties, and the legal definition of reckless driving. The IBC has a full legislative agenda packet available.

IBC is also building a grassroots movement around a database of district leaders and advocates for the safety campaign.

**8. DISCUSSION: Upcoming Items for the Roundtable**

Staff shared some upcoming MPO projects that relate to the Roundtable subcommittees. The MPO is revisiting the trail counter program and adding an on-street program. The trail gap map will need to be updated. The MPO is also discussing a menu of presentations that would be available for parks and rec boards, planning and zoning commissions, and other organizations. These presentations would be available to MPO members upon request and would educate on key transportation infrastructure, planning, and policy topics.

**9. INFORMATION: Bike and Ride Data**

**10. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee**

Gay Lea Wilson shared a grant that Iowa Heartlands put in for county-wide trail master planning. The second phase of the grant is starting and the committees are pulling together materials for the final reports for the different county commissions to adopt.

**11. Project Updates**

- Shive-Hattery is completing a signage plan for Ankeny.
- Ames opened the 6<sup>th</sup> St Bridge with new bicycle lanes, improvements to the Skunk River trail, and a new project working with parklets and temporary infrastructure.
- Clive Greenbelt Master Plan is finishing up in the next month or so. Clive also asked for feedback on a future trail project that would paint a division on the trail for walking and bicycling. The idea of separation was supported in general, but in this situation where there is not much width for bicycles to pass each other and restricted visibility led to some concerns. Another option would be looking into traffic calming measures for trails to slow down high-speed bicycle traffic.
- Bondurant bid and should finish phase 1 of the Gay Lea Wilson trail by October.
- CITA is building a pull-trail at Ewing Park that should be ready by next spring.
- IBC migrated to a new database with users looking for news. If Roundtable members have events/info to spread, send it to Mark.
- West Des Moines has installed the Jordan Creek Trail art project.
- Altoona will let their trail project in the coming month.
- Des Moines is having surface course issues on the Neal Smith Trail.

**12. Future Agenda Items**

**13. Next Roundtable Meeting Date**

The next meeting will 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, September 20, 2016, at the MPO office.

**14. Adjournment**

The August 16, 2016 Roundtable meeting adjourned at 12:55 PM.