



Central Iowa Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable

12:00 p.m., Tuesday, July 16, 2019
Burnham Room, MPO Office
420 Watson Powell, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA

MINUTES

Roundtable Attendees Present

Chair, Vern Willey II, City of Altoona	Heritage Foundation
Damion Pregitzer, Ames Area MPO	Lisa Hein, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Molly Rupert, City of Bondurant	Luke Bowers, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation
Todd Seaman, City of Clive	Gay Lea Wilson, Citizen Advisor
Colby Fangman, City of Des Moines	John Peterson, Citizen Advisor
Jeff Wiggins, City of Des Moines	Eric Holt, Shive-Hattery Architecture & Engineering
Chris Widmer, City of Pleasant Hill	Clifford A Leonard, Citizen
Marco Alvarez, City of West Des Moines	Mindy Moore, Snyder and Associates
Adam Fendrick, Polk County Conservation	
Loren Lown, Citizen Advisor	
Carl Saxon, DART	
Andrea Boulton, Iowa Natural	

Roundtable Staff Present

Sreyoshi Chakraborty, Senior Planner

- 1. Call To Order – 12:00 PM**
- 2. Introductions**
- 3. VOTE: Approval of Agenda**
- 4. VOTE: Approval of June 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes**
- 5. DISCUSSION: Strategic Planning, Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation**

INHF led a strategic planning session to understand trends, opportunities, constraints, and their focus moving forward. Roundtable members provided feedback on a number of topics including:

- Focusing on economic benefit of trails
- Engage older riders, retirees and agencies such AARP who can be a good partner
- Focus on other trail users in addition to bicyclists such as walkers and leverage their support

- More need of real time trail condition and usage data through apps and other available technology
- Utilizing apps to figure out usage information
- Real time feedback, sharing of data, understanding what people want, mapping natural area information
- Greater education needed on conservation projects, how water quality is improved, access to clean water for use and recreation, tying with stormwater benefits
- Addressing climate change, reestablishing ecosystems, reviving diversity in environment, close to home recreation for children

The role of INHF is to be a facilitator for the above important issues, being a regional/statewide voice for policy, programming and budgeting in these areas. INHF also has a big role is assisting smaller communities in developing trails and conservation efforts.

6. PRESENTATION: Polk County Trail Ambassador Program

Rich Leopold from Polk County Conservation provided an overview of what they hope would be a future Trail Ambassador Program. This program would be modeled off an existing program in Dickinson County where the volunteers work with the Sheriff's Department. The volunteers ride the trails on ATVs and hand out water, maps, repair kits etc. but do not do enforcement. This program has been very popular and Polk County would like implement a similar program here. Existing trail ambassador program is small. They are looking at trying to implement something next year. There is some funding identified, PR will need to be done on the front end to make the presence of the volunteers known. REI could be a potential sponsor as they have funding identified for these kind of trail programs. The RT will be kept updated as the program gets ready to roll out in the future.

7. REPORT: CONNECT Plan Update

MPO staff had requested input from Roundtable members to determine CONNECT Plan action items that have either been completed, ongoing and/or not done. Roundtable members signed up to review action items under each of the seven categories to provide feedback to MPO staff. Staff will send out analysis of this information based on the feedback received to RT members to review prior to the next meeting.

8. Other Non-Action Items of Interest to the Committee

- The newly updated copies of the Central Iowa Trails Map published and distributed to Roundtable members.

9. Project Updates

- A couple design options for High Trestle Trail has been developed. They will be sent out the RT members for review and feedback.
- Gay Lea West Trail and Hubbell underway. It is expected to be open soon.

10. Future Agenda Items

TBD

- 11. Next Roundtable Meeting Date: 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, August 20, 2019**
- 12. Adjournment**