



Central Iowa Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable

12:00 p.m., Tuesday, November 19, 2019

Burnham Room, MPO Office

420 Watson Powell, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA

MINUTES

Roundtable Attendees Present

Acting Chair, Mindy Moore, Snyder and Associates

Derek Hansen, City of Des Moines

Jeff Wiggins, City of Des Moines

Chris Widmer, City of Pleasant Hill

Kevin James, City of Urbandale

Adam Fendrick, Polk County Conservation

Loren Lown, Citizen Advisor

Carl Saxon, DART

Mike Armstrong, Street

Collective

Jeremy Lewis, Street Collective

Coty Thompson, U.S. Army

Corps of Engineers

Butch Neibuhr, Bolton & Menk

Rob Haaland, Bolton & Menk

Jenifer Bates, Shive-Hattery Architecture & Engineering

Clifford A Leonard, Citizen

Roundtable Staff Present

Sreyoshi Chakraborty, Senior Planner

Gunnar Olson, Communications Manager

Allison van Pelt, Associate Planner

Tanvi Halde, Intern

1. **Call To Order – 12:00 PM**

2. **Introductions**

3. **VOTE: Approval of Agenda**

4. **VOTE: Approval of October 15, 2019 Meeting Minutes**

5. PRESENTATION: Rain Campaign

Allison van Pelt, from the MPO provided a presentation. Homeowners in Polk County, Iowa, can receive cost-sharing help from their participating municipality when they implement practices to help their yards soak up storm water. Some of the practices eligible for cost-sharing include planting rain gardens, amending soil, and using permeable paving solutions for driveways, paths, and patios. These best practices help improve the water quality of local watersheds by ensuring that more storm water is absorbed in the soil – and less runs off into streams, ponds, and lakes. In order to engage the community, a couple of art pieces have been developed to send to community events and festivals. A smaller sign as well as yard signs are also available to participating municipalities and homeowners.

6. PRESENTATION: E-Scooters

A presentation on the exploratory process of an e-scooter pilot in Des Moines was provided by Gunnar Olson. The group collecting information and input consists of members from the Partnership, MPO, DART and a few others. Some of the key areas of concern from the Roundtable are – collection of data during the pilot, how will it be tracked and be used to determine the future of the program, looking at peer cities such as Omaha that are doing a pilot, other small electric vehicles such as electric skates and will there be any code updates to address them, concerns regarding geographical boundaries and where to allow them, would they be allowed in the farmers market or the new skate park, extending the rules to private scooters too, age, helmet use and speed considerations need a lot of thought, injuries to older, disabled and small animals could become an issue, considerations if allowed on trails, how will sidewalk riding be addressed, lack of on street facilities will force riders on sidewalk.

7. DISCUSSION: B-Cycle Update

The Street Collective provided a year-end update on how things are going for the B Cycle Program including numbers from the past 5 years, types of trips, average ride time, day passes, trip length, top stations for 2019 etc. The station at RRVT Park seems to have gotten the highest use, thereby showing a demand for that kind of rides. The Collective is also currently exploring the option to add e-bikes to the B-Cycle fleet. Currently there are five e-bikes and have shown four times higher use as compared to classic bikes. In addition, peer cities that have electrified their bike share fleet are seeing a three to five times increase in ridership. There needs to be continued discussion with land managers on how to address e-bikes moving ahead and how to plan for them. Funding options are also being explored, including MPO and other grants. Collective will keep the Roundtable posted on updates regarding this.

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

- Model Bicycle Ordinance – Project currently tabled by MPO Executive Committee. Will come back to it in the future when there is interest and momentum.
- Trail Mapping Subcommittee – A subcommittee is helping the MPO and the City of Des Moines with trail mapping issues and helping streamline the process of updating data within the regional trail map.

9. Project Updates

Youngstown Trail Phase II completed, plans to extend north when funding becomes available, maintenance work on Great Western Trail

10. Future Agenda Items

- 2019 Trail Condition Report
- TBD

11. Next Roundtable Meeting Date: 12:00 p.m. on Tuesday, December 17, 2019

12. Adjournment