**Central Iowa Bicycle-Pedestrian Roundtable**

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**12:00 p.m., Tuesday, December 21, 2021**

**Burnham Room, MPO Office**

**420 Watson Powell, Suite 200, Des Moines, IA (\*HYBRID)**

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**MINUTES**

**Meeting Recording Link:**

[**https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-GR10GAjU8Ndkm0lNtd3-Qpbnp6LbEtPY7CM0kWrkb2zmtng94hI82ExgTqdIPpr.sxHCPRqi1GA5VFgC?startTime=1640106997000**](https://us02web.zoom.us/rec/share/-GR10GAjU8Ndkm0lNtd3-Qpbnp6LbEtPY7CM0kWrkb2zmtng94hI82ExgTqdIPpr.sxHCPRqi1GA5VFgC?startTime=1640106997000)

**Roundtable Attendees Present:**

Vern Willey, Chair, City of Altoona

Ryan Wiemold, Story County Conservation

Colby Fangman, DSM Parks & Recreation Dept.

Carl Voss, City of DSM/Street Collective

Jared Morford, Iowa Bicycle Coalition

Chris Widmer, City of Pleasant Hill

Pat Shehan, Story County Conservation

Jeremy Lewis, Street Collective

Jeff Wiggins, DSM Engineering Dept.

John Peterson, Citizen

Loren Lown, Citizen

Jenifer Bates, Shive-Hattery

Eric Holt, Shive Hattery

Marco Alvarez, WDM Parks Dept.

Scott Hock, Urbandale Parks, Rec & Facilities

**MPO Staff Present:**

Aspen Pflanz

Zhi Chen

1. **Call To Order – 12:03 p.m.**
2. **Introductions**
   * **Question of the Day:** What is your favorite holiday food, song, or tradition?
3. **VOTE: Approval of Agenda**

**MOTION:** Carl Voss | **SECOND:** John Peterson

**MOTION PASSES.**

1. **VOTE: Approval of November 17, 2021 Meeting Minutes**

**MOTION:** John Peterson | **SECOND:** Scott Hock

**MOTION PASSES.**

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

* **Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP) Applications**

TAP applications are open. The application deadline for the MPO region is Friday, January 7th, 2022, and the deadline for the CIRTPA region is Friday, February 11th, 2022. The updated program guidelines and scoring criteria is available on the MPO’s website. Contact Aspen Pflanz with any questions.

* **Notable News:**
  + **Des Moines shout-out in Planetizen article and Streetlight Data report**

Link: <https://www.planetizen.com/news/2021/12/115430-cycling-rates-remain-high-across-country>

Full Report: <https://learn.streetlightdata.com/hubfs/eBooks%20and%20Research/EB_2021%20Covid%20Bicycle%20Trends/StreetLight%20Data%20US%20Bicycling%20Trends%202021%20Update.pdf>

* + **Replanting trees lost from Project Ginger East development**

Link: <https://www.axios.com/local/des-moines/2021/11/12/des-moines-trails-tree-loss-urban-development?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=newsletter_axioslocal_desmoines&stream=top>

* + - Strategic Trail Planning Sub-Committee?

The MPO previously had a subcommittee concerned with researching best practices for maintaining the aesthetics, surrounding ecosystem, and connectivity of the regional trail network as development in the metro continues. The consensus of the group was to revive this group in conjunction with the active transportation/CONNECT Plan update.

This discussion also brought up concern about the Great Western Trail and all the additional crossings and tunnels that have been placed on the trail to accommodate highway construction projects. The City of West Des Moines will need to build a new underpass on the trail due to the realignment of County Line Road with Veteran’s Parkway and retirement of SE Maffitt Lake Road.

* + **Build Back Better Act active transportation funding**

Link: <https://www.railstotrails.org/trailblog/2021/november/06/the-build-back-better-act-could-create-new-opportunities-for-trail-and-active-transportation-funding/>

**Upcoming Events:**

* + Iowa Safe Routes to School Conference – January 27, 2022 (\*online)
  + Iowa Bicycle Summit – January 27, 2022 (Iowa Events Center, Des Moines)
  + Iowa Bike Expo – January 29, 2022 (Iowa Events Center – HyVee Hall C, Des Moines)
* **Others?**

1. **Project Updates**
   * **MPO Trail Counters**

The 5 additional trail counters from EcoVisio have been ordered and should arrive before the end of the calendar year. Aspen inquired about who to contact from the sponsor communities about their installation. The group discussed the counter posts that had

* + **CONNECT Plan Update**

The active transportation plan/CONNECT Plan update is moving along. The steering committee met on December 7th (MEETING LINK: <https://videos.files.wordpress.com/lE0J8wGt/video1789497973.mp4>) to discuss next steps and will meet again in February 2022. Aspen needs participation in a questionnaire (QUESTIONNAIRE LINK: <https://forms.gle/5L7oczVxoxBW7vEm6>) that is intended to gather professional/practitioner input for the plan as well as name ideas for the plan (InterCONNECT, ReCONNECT, CONNECTed, etc…).

* + **Others?**

Vern inquired about a joint project between the City of Pleasant Hill and the City of Des Moines: a trail connection between Gay Lea Wilson SE 6th and 30th St/MLK? Carl mentioned that when MLK is extended, a trail is intended to be planned between Scott Avenue and the MLK extension. Jeff noted that Colby frequently gets requests about a trail along this particular corridor, so it is on the City of Des Moines’ radar, but not yet in the planning stages. Chris added that the City of Pleasant Hill does have a connection between the Gay Lea Wilson on the south to Pleasant Hill Boulevard, which will eventually connect to the SE Connector.

1. **Future Agenda Items**
   * **Polk County Land & Legacy Bond (January)**
   * **One-wheelers/motorized devices on trails (January)**
   * **Build Back Better Act**
2. **ACTIVITY: Holiday Season Mad Libs**

The group filled out a bicycle-themed mad lib to brush up on their parts of speech and spread some holiday cheer. 😊

1. **Next Roundtable Meeting Date: January 18, 2022!**
2. **Adjournment – 12:55 p.m.**

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