

MEETING MINUTES: RPA 1 Transportation Enhancement Committee Thursday, May 18, 2017, 8:30 a.m. – Postville UERPC

Board members in attendance: Sheryl Struthers, Harold Chapman, Craig Fencl, Elaine Govern, Jenna Pollock, Barb Schroeder, James Janett, Joshua Johnson, Lora Friest, Bruce Palmborg, Rod Marlatt, Darla Kelchen, Darrel Knecht, Elaine Govern, Val Reinke, Russ Loven, Rachele Howe and Michelle Barness.

1. Meeting was called to order at 8:40 a.m. by Chair Marlatt.
2. Motion to approve the agenda was made by Kelchen, seconded by Schroeder, all approved.
3. A motion to approve the 3-30-17 minutes was made by Struthers, seconded by Schroeder, all approved.
4. Committee Updates:
 - o Allamakee County:
 - o Mississippi River Trail – There will be re-shouldering completed in areas in spring/early summer in preparation for Ragbrai.
 - o Driftless Visitor Center – Work on Columbus Rd. is being completed in preparation for opening the center in the summer. Displays are to be completed before Rabrai in July.
 - o Clayton County:
 - o Motor Mill Trail – An engineering firm has been selected and the contract is being completed and signed.
 - o Updates to the Pony Hollow Trail are underway.
 - o Howard County:
 - o Wapsi Great Western Trail – Trail paving went to letting. Govern shared information on the budget and design for the paving, and recommended their contractor Howrey Construction out of Rockwell City, IA for trail and sidewalk projects.
 - o Fayette County:
 - o TRRC – Work is occurring on trail beds for the Elgin to Gilbertson stretch of the TRRC. A trail bridge is scheduled for a fall/winter letting. Plans for the bridge had to be revised to account for zero rise, which required extending the bridge and acquiring additional funds.
 - o Winneshiek County:
 - o Trout Run Trail – A geo-tech study is underway where the trail collapsed with last year’s storms. The study will also consider how to correct the trail to permit some use in the near future. Storms continue to impact the trails in the area, including recent tree damage along Prairie Farmer Trail.
 - o Northeast Iowa Resource Conservation & Development:
 - o Friest shared an update on the scenic by-way management plans RC&D maintains.
 - o DOT (Barness reviewed updates provided by DOT District Planner Krista Rostad):
 - o The DOT Commission released the Draft 5-Yr Program, showing construction projects across the state, which will be adopted in June pending changes. Its available on the DOT website for review and comment.

- The Lansing Bridge NEPA study is underway. Consultants and DOT staff met with city staff and the Mayor, toured the area, and research is underway. A public meeting will be scheduled in August. IN the mean time bridge cleaning will occur each year and rehabilitation will occur in 2019.
- This year's construction projects include:
 - US 52/IA 9 intersection reconstruction at Decorah. Improved turning lanes, basically the same configuration; work set to begin 5/30/17 through September.
 - IA 9 bridge deck overlay in Decorah to start 7/10 through mid-September.
 - IA 51 paved shoulders from 3 miles north of Postville to IA 9
 - US 63 paved shoulders from IA 9 to MN border
 - US 18 Bridge at Marquette, annual bridge cleaning and deck overlay in 2018
 - US 18 Dry Run Creek, west of US 52, bridge deck overlays
 - US 18 in West Union, from east of IA 150 to Golden Road/B64; will start on or after 7/10/17 through September; resurfacing and ADA sidewalk work.
- 5. Planner Barness reviewed the final Transportation Planning Work Program (TPWP), incorporating changes requested by the DOT, to be submitted by May 1, 2017. Barness reviewed a new summary chart of activities and grants that had been added and stood for any questions. There were no requests for changes or additions to the draft plan.
- 6. Committee members discussed objectives and background for the Backbone Trail Study:
 - Marlatt provided background on Backbone Trail planning and the need for an economic impact and trail routing study.
 - Friest provided additional background and shared information on a TIGER grant trail impact study that Luther College completed for commuter focused trail routes. The success of the Luther College study partially stemmed from a strong public participation element, including building local resident champions to distribute surveys in impacted communities. Tourism, chambers of commerce and economic development participation in distributing surveys was also critical.

Friest also suggested referring to a study completed by Northeast Iowa RC&D with the University of Iowa that looked at how to draw young people to the region.
 - Loven shared information on a conference in Guttenberg that looked at how to draw people back to the area.
 - Kelchen suggested reviewing NIBN's housing impact study. The Howard County Housing Study and Clayton County Housing Study may also provide supporting information.
- 7. Floor items:
 - Michelle discussed updates on the status of the Iowa DOT TAP process, and also discussed TAP Flex.
- 8. Committee members discussed the date of the next meeting, which was set for August 24th, 2017 at the Lansing Visitor Center.
- 9. Friest made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Pollock. All in favor. The meeting was adjourned at 9:35 a.m.