

### Transportation Enhancements Committee Meeting Minutes

The Transportation Enhancements Committee met on Monday, August 18, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. in Council Chambers of the Cedar Rapids City Hall.

Present: Tom Treharne, Dave Elgin, Dave Kramer, Dan Biechler, Steve Krug, Randy Burke

Absent: Richard Fox, Allen Witt

Staff Present: Adam Lindenlaub

Others Present: George Kanz, Ron McGraw, Commissioner Thomas, Jeff Streitz (Ely engineer from Shive-Hattery)

The meeting was called to order at 2:02 P.M. Dave Kramer moved to approve the minutes of the August 8, 2003 meeting. Dan Biechler seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

#### Roadside Scenic Improvements along Wright Brothers Boulevard Project

Adam Lindenlaub distributed a handout from Randy Parks, Visual Arts Commission Chair, explaining the status of the Wright Brothers Boulevard project. Dave Elgin asked if the Visual Arts Commission had a federal agreement to start incurring costs for the project. Adam Lindenlaub said that he asked Randy Parks that question and Randy responded that he would have to check and report back to Adam later.

#### Priority Trails Segment and Trails Projects Criteria

Adam Lindenlaub explained the handouts that he distributed and the maps on the wall regarding priority trail segments.

George Kanz asked why there wasn't a priority trail segment connecting Ely to the Hoover Nature Trail, which would follow RPC's decision to complete the N/S trail (Cedar Valley Nature, Cedar River, Hoover Nature) through RPC's planning boundary. Adam Lindenlaub said he would check the RPC minutes to see if the decision was to complete the trail through the metro area or through the planning boundary.

Randy Burke asked if the above mentioned trail section would go through Ely or go around it. Jeff Streitz said there is continuing discussion regarding the location of the trail. Jeff said that there is a possibility of running the trail along State Street and then running the trail by Rogers Creek to the Community Center. Randy Burke asked about the status of Segment G. Dave Elgin said it appears that funding is in place and briefly filled in the committee about the Federal Trails Program grant. Commissioner Thomas said that completing the Cedar River Trail to 76<sup>th</sup> Ave. would complete what is in the Metro Trails Map. Dave Elgin asked if it would make sense to include the small trail section to Ely. The committee agreed that it would make sense to do so. Jeff Streitz said he would send the committee design plans for the trail through Ely.

Dave Elgin said that IDOT has funds in the Hwy. 100 Extension plan for a trail from Morgan Creek Park to Edgewood Rd. so there should be a connection made from Edgewood Rd. to the existing trail system. George Kanz asked about loop trails. Dave Elgin said it would probably be easier to build connectors than loops. Dave said since there is approximately \$2-3 million planned for a trail with the Hwy. 100 Extension then a connector to that trail would be a higher priority than a loop trail.

Tom Treharne said that the suggested priority trail segment from the Marion Parks Trail to the Grant Wood Trail needs to be revised to show the Grant Wood Trail going south on Hwy. 13 then west to Squaw Creek Park then north along the Squaw Creek to the above mentioned priority trail segment. Dan Biechler said that connecting Grant Wood to Squaw Creek Park should be a priority. Tom Treharne asked if the land is already acquired. Dan Biechler said about a mile of that trail is in Squaw Creek Park. Randy Burke said the owner of a large parcel of land that would be required for the trail has expressed interest in providing a trail corridor if there is a commitment to build the trail.

Tom Treharne said that Marion is trying to get Menards to grade for a trail (CEMAR) through their property.

Dave Elgin said there needs to be a north and south connector from the Hwy. 100 Extension Trail, possibly one to

Boyson Rd.

Dave Elgin asked how the state ranks trail projects. Staff said they were continuing to look into how other Iowa MPOs rank trail projects and would also look into the state's practice. Tom Treharne said trail segments that connect trails should be more important than ones that do not. Steve Krug said destinations should be separate from connecting trails. Dave Elgin asked about ranking. The committee directed Staff to have priority segments and criteria developed by the next meeting. Randy Burke said that destinations should be ranked by importance.

The committee agreed to meet again in early October.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:20 p.m.