

## Transportation Enhancements Committee Meeting Minutes

The Transportation Enhancements Committee met on Monday, August 4, 2003 at 2:00 P.M. in Council Chambers of the Cedar Rapids City Hall.

Present: Tom Treharne, Dave Elgin, Dave Kramer, Allen Witt, Richard Fox, Dan Biechler, Steve Krug

Absent: Randy Burke

Staff Present: Adam Lindenlaub

Others Present: Ron McGraw, Dale Crosier

The meeting was called to order at 2:00 P.M. Richard Fox moved to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2003 meeting. Dave Kramer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

### Roadside Scenic Improvements along Wright Brothers Boulevard Project

Adam Lindenlaub gave an update on the project and informed the Committee that he would be meeting with Randy Parks, Chair of the Visual Arts Commission, on August 13 for an update on the project's schedule. Adam said he would send the Committee a memorandum regarding that meeting.

Dave Elgin asked if they can phase in the project and if they have a federal agreement or design schedule. Dave offered the Engineering Department's assistance in getting through the federal process. Dave said the Committee needs some documentation on "why or why not" the funds for the project should be reprogrammed. Randy Fox said the Visual Arts Commission needs to get moving on the project. Dave Elgin said that maybe the funds should be reprogrammed and the project could be funded at a later year when the fund raising has been completed.

### Trails Section of 2030 Transportation Plan

Dave Elgin said the Committee needs to reprioritize the trails shown in the 2030 Plan so that only the trails that could actually be completed in 30 years are reflected in the plan.

Richard Fox said that once the North/South trail is done then Marion should be connected to the trail, perhaps utilizing the Grant Wood Trail.

Dave Kramer asked if most of the funding is in place for the North/South trail. Dave Elgin said that for the most part the funding was in place.

Dave Elgin gave an update on the Cedar River Trail section over the U.P. rail lines by Tait Cummins Park.

Richard Fox said Marion has offered to purchase land S/O Thomas-Legion Park that could be used to connect to the Cedar River Trail and Squaw Creek Park. Tom Treharne said that Marion is pursuing negotiations for the property rights of the abandoned Illinois Central railroad tracks between 7<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Avenues in Marion. Dave Elgin said Cedar Rapids is also trying to pursue the portion of tracks located in Cedar Rapids.

Dave Elgin said there needs to be criteria for prioritizing trails projects. Richard Fox said that funds should go to finish segments that are beneficial instead of parts of segments. Dave Kramer said population centers should be connected to the North/South trail before loops are funded. Dave asked Ron McGraw how much of the Grant Wood Trail is complete. Ron said approximately 10 miles are complete. Richard Fox said there is talk of connecting it to Marion. Dan Biechler said the plan is to take the trail south on Hwy. 13 and then west to Squaw Creek Park.

Dave Elgin said the Committee needs to agree on segments and segment names. Dave Kramer said segments shouldn't be funded that do not promote connectivity. Tom Treharne said that tying existing trails together should be a priority. Tom asked if the Committee should work on the above during meetings or if Staff should and report back to the Committee. Dave Kramer said Staff should. Staff was given two weeks to identify trail segments and criteria for ranking trails projects. The following criteria were suggested: connectivity to destinations, segment length, cost per mile, and the amount of ROW required.

Dave Kramer moved to adjourn the meeting at 2:50 p.m. Richard Fox seconded the motion, which carried unanimously