



Mississippi River Parkway Commission
701 East Washington Avenue, Suite 202
Madison, WI 53703



**Mississippi River Parkway Commission
Transportation Committee Meeting
March 9, 2017 | 10:00-11:00 AM**

MINUTES

I. Introductions: Meeting participants included Diana Threadgill, TN; Lindsey Killebrew, MS; Al Lorenz, WI; Mary Stahlhut, IA; Lisa Walsh, IA; John Goodman, IA; Mark Kross, MO; Mike McGregor, KY; Susanne Thiede-Barnet, NO; Lyn Pilch, NO; and Carol Zoff, MN.

II. 10-state Great River Road Corridor Management Plan – historic and current documents that have guided byway development, interpretation, marketing, design, funding, organizational management, etc.: Minnesota emailed links to digitized historic and current Great River Road planning and design documents available from the MnDOT library and Mn Historical Society library on March 2 so members could review and compare to what they may have in their files or libraries. During the teleconference Iowa emailed links to documents they have.

Action Item: The committee members will next review what Minnesota and Iowa provided, then review what each state has and scan additional documents or at minimum the cover and table of contents of each.

View the Iowa 2015 CMP and go to the Library document to find a list of what is available in historic documents at <http://www.iowadot.gov/iowasbyways/IAGRR-CMP.html>

Iowa Historic Documents are in this section:
http://www.iowadot.gov/iowasbyways/CMP/Document%20Library/E-Document_Library_IAGRR_CMP.pdf

MnDOT library has several items digitally available for our use at <https://mdt.mplus.mnpals.net/vufind/Search/Results?lookfor=Great+River+Road&type=Title&mylocn=MDT&submit=Find> This collection includes Mn and ten-state documents.

Also digitally available are Great River Road documents in the Minnesota Historical Society library, including a few books beyond what the Commission or MnDOT produced, at http://mnhs.mnpals.net/F/S5U743UB6SVQKQIGVNU828NHDX5XC55LLNJI6L13H8E188B1UQ-20477?func=find-b&find_code=WRD&request=Great+River+Road&local_base=&adjacent=N



<http://www.mnmississippiriver.com/cmp/> is the link to Minnesota's current CMP.

III. GRR GIS shape file update: Lyn provided an update as follows –

- A firm has been identified to combine the ten states' files for use with the CMP, online map, print map and GRR app.
- Initial work indicates the files are good, but they will contact the Committee Chair with any questions.
- They are utilizing the MnDOT GIS standards sheet to follow best practices for metadata.
- New information can be added over time, such as the locations and information for the network of GRR Interpretive Centers.
- NO is working to build a platform so the alignment can be applied to the website
- Will work towards demonstrating the results at the Semi-Annual Meeting.

IV. National Advisory Committee on Travel and Tourism

Infrastructure (NACTTI): Diana Threadgill provided an introduction and a call for assistance.

- <https://www.transportation.gov/NACTTI> is the official website for this committee.
- Fixing America's Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) created the NACTTI to provide information, advice, and recommendations to the Secretary of Transportation on matters relating to the role of intermodal transportation in facilitating mobility with respect to travel and tourism activities.
- The members of NACTTI are a cross section of stakeholders from both the private and public sectors, with representatives from the travel and tourism industry product and service providers; travel and tourism-related associations; the travel, tourism, and destination marketing organizations; the travel and tourism-related workforce; State tourism offices; State departments of transportation; regional and metropolitan planning organizations; local governments; organizations with expertise in intermodal connectivity for travel and tourism; and entities having expertise in public-private partnerships.
- Subcommittees include:
 1. Research/Data/Performance
 2. Funding and Finance
 3. Federal, State, Local, Tribal and Territorial Planning/Engagement
 4. Innovation and Technology/Intermodalism and National Connectivity
- In January NACTTI members were invited to submit information on shovel ready projects to the Chair for inclusion in response to the new Administration's request for same.



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- Diana asked MRPC Transportation Committee members to help her be prepared for other solicitations by identifying Great River Road projects so she can represent the needs of all ten states' byway travelers.
- The Committee asked for a written summary they can share with DOTs and local byway segment managers, including other modal travel options byway travelers may utilize while getting to and from, as well during, their river exploration. As MnDOT is a part of the NACTTI, and participation is written into the 2016 GRR CMP, Carol will assist with this.

Also note:

FAST Act's Section 1201 Metropolitan Transportation Planning amending Section 134 of title 23, United States Code, Subsection (g)(3)(A) inserting "tourism" as follows "(A) In general. - The Secretary shall encourage each metropolitan planning organization to consult with officials responsible for other types of planning activities that are affected by transportation in the area (including State and local planned growth, economic development, tourism, natural disaster risk reduction, environmental protection, airport operations, and freight movements) or to coordinate its planning process, to the maximum extent practicable, with such planning activities;" and subsection (h) Scope of Planning Process. - (1) In general. - The metropolitan planning process for a metropolitan planning area under this section shall provide for consideration of projects and strategies that will - (J) "enhance travel and tourism;" and Section 1202 Statewide and Nonmetropolitan Transportation Planning amending Section 135 of title 23, United States Code subsection (d) Scope of Planning Process. - (1) In general. - Each State shall carry out a statewide transportation planning process that provides for consideration and implementation of projects, strategies, and services that will - (J) "enhance travel and tourism."

- V. **Other Business:** Suggestion from a Boston couple: Louisiana should add an "End" sign and interpretation at the end of the GRR to celebrate it, give it meaning, and to provide an iconic photo op. Traveler noted that the start of the route is well signed, although adding a "Begin" sign might be a good photo op too, and that the Great River Road is interpreted very well there. (see the attached)

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