



Mississippi River Parkway Commission

222 State Street, Suite 400
Madison, WI 53703



Mississippi River Parkway Commission Transportation Committee Meeting

September 19, 2014

8:00 am – 9:00 am

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1:15 pm – 2:45 pm

Minutes

I. Call to order and introductions

Attendees: David Dahlquist – IA, Brenda Edgin – MS, John Goodman - IA, Tom Harrison – TN, Lee Hinson – TN, Bobby Kennedy – AR, Mark Kross – MO, Al Lorenz – WI, Mark McAdoo – TN, Mike McGregor – KY, Craig Mitckes – IL, Lindsey Netherland – MS, Greg Pruitt – KY, Mary Stahlhut – IA, Carol Zoff - MN

II. Kentucky Great River Road NSB Signing Project Update

Greg and Mike provided an update on the project plan development which is moving along as planned and is currently 90% complete. KDOT will provide the posts and hardware, as well as most of the installation. The hoops and process required by Federal funds have been a challenge they are also meeting. Advice was sought regarding America's Byways sign colors allowed and used by others. The group referenced the MUTCD which indicates black and white or red, white and blue are allowed. The consultant wanted to consider brown and white.

III. Survey Of Cross-River State-to-State Routes

(See attached form and for reference the following map of river bridges

http://bridgehunter.com/category/waterway/mississippi-river/exhibit#/exhibit?&_suid=141079275053808608169839576336)

Mary and John shared that Iowa is preparing for a scenic byway route revision. In preparation for that the Iowa MRPC is considering including Great River Road spurs from the current route which parallels the river to each river crossing bridge at approximately the state line. They sought advice including if any other state has spurs to the river bridges, if any state has signs directing to the GRR from the river bridges.

No other state has GRR spurs to the river crossings, although some do sign from one state to the other (MN to WI in MN at US 10 and US 61). MO showed online how the river is at times many miles away from the river and not the first road or even major road one encounters when traveling from a river crossing. IL does sign to the GRR from Interstates.

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IV. Minnesota Great River Road Corridor Management Plan Project

(See <http://www.mnmississippiriver.com/cmp/>)

Carol shared a summary (attached) of what the project entails, some initial project results, and encouraged Committee members to participate in the online survey at <http://www.mnmississippiriver.com/cmp/mq.htm> which will be available until October 15. The project will be more thoroughly described at the Semi-Annual Meeting in St. Cloud, MN April, 2014.

V. Other GRR projects ongoing or planned

WI – DOT 8-20-2014 press release announcing “Upper Mississippi River receives Federal Marine Corridor Highway designation.” (attached) No one present had heard this news yet affecting St. Louis to Minneapolis to be known as M-35. All asked for the press release to be a part of the minutes for further use once back in the office.

AR- Dr. Ruth Hawkins is working with local communities on a project related to the Sultana, a Mississippi River side-wheel steamboat that exploded on April 27, 1865 in the greatest maritime disaster in United States history. An estimated 1,800 died as a result.

IL – Denise Todd is a DOT staff member recently assigned as the state byway coordinator.

MO - I-70 reconstruction near the St. Louis Arch is underway and will result in a cover over the open Interstate better connecting the historic and park properties in the area.

Also The Stan Musial Veterans Memorial Bridge (known as the New Mississippi River Bridge until its formal naming in 2013 and informally known as the "Stan Span") is a bridge across the Mississippi River between St. Clair County, Illinois, and the city of St. Louis, Missouri. Built between April 19, 2010, and July 2013, the bridge opened on February 9, 2014. The cable-stayed bridge has a main span of 1,500 feet.

IA: The IaMRPC is more than half way to completion of a Corridor Management Plan update. Dave shared results from visitor and resident surveys, public meeting input and route and amenity analysis. Very impressive process and results. Other outcomes include discussions with DOT regarding utilizing Google maps for GRR mapping as a better map is one area the survey reveal a need for improvement. Project documents are available for review at <http://ddaforum.com/DocumentLibrary/tabid/80/Default.aspx>

Also the GRR web site is now being hosted at <https://www.iowabyways.org/>

TN- A 4 year transformation from zero to all-encompassing priority for bicycling, events and facility development. The entire Annual meeting was testament to this amazing transformation and sustained energy and effect.



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MS- Recently biking on the Natches Trace VS in towns and along the river appear to be a choice for tourists/residents and thus agency focus.

VI. Set next teleconference meeting

Tuesday December 9 at 10 am

VII. Other

Comment was provided that people utilizing Federal Transportation funds should be aware that \$500K is the tipping point for an audit. These cost approximately \$12K so folks should be aware that the cost should be budgeted for projects this large.

Motion by IA, 2nd by IL to recommend to the BOD that every other year a MRPC meeting be collocated with the MRC meeting to better understand MRC work and how the MRPC can help them do their job and vice versa. Motion passed unanimously. Suzanne offered an update on how the MRC currently meets, is structured, operates and is funded.