



Mississippi River Parkway Commission Teleconference Transportation Committee Meeting (Annual Meeting in Memphis, TN)

Memphis, TN | September 9, 2022 | 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Minutes

Introductions

MRPC – Anne Lewis
Arkansas – Jeff Ingram
Illinois – Craig Mitckes
Iowa – Lisa Walsh
Kentucky – James LeFevre
Louisiana – no representatives
Minnesota – no representatives
Mississippi – Lindsey Killebrew, Derick Biglane
Missouri – Mark Kross
Tennessee – Michael McClanahan
Wisconsin – Francis Schelfhout

MRPC Annual Meeting – September 7-9 - Memphis, TN @ Peabody Hotel

- Committees were tasked with addressing the following list of items to consider for full commission (all 4 sub-committee) projects for 2022-2023
 - **Brainstorming from Board Meeting – Continue Byway Funding**
 - This was discussed and the committee felt this should be a NO/State standard operating procedure – if we are falling short – the effort related to this should be adjusted as MRPC existence is dependent (core value) on this
 - **Brainstorming from Board Meeting – Take AAR to the Next Level**
 - This was discussed and the committee felt this should be a NO/State standard operating procedure – if we are falling short – the effort related to this should be adjusted – taking advantage of the AAR designation in all that we do moving forward is a core value of the MRPC

Mississippi River Parkway Commission

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- **Brainstorming from Board Meeting – Return on Investment – Value of MRPC and Engagement**
 - This was discussed and the committee felt this should be a NO/State standard operating procedure – if we are falling short and because this generally ties closely with funding or overall support – the effort related to this should be adjusted as MRPC existence is dependent (core value) on this
- **Brainstorming from Board Meeting – Outreach Efforts**
 - This was discussed and the committee felt this should be a NO/State standard operating procedure – if we are falling short and again because this generally ties closely with funding or maintaining, adding or enhancing the support we receive from partners (agencies, ICs, municipalities, etc.) – the efforts related to this should be adjusted
- **Brainstorming from Board Meeting – Electric Vehicle Charging Stations**
 - **What is the timing?**
 - It was reported that draft submittals were currently in process in several states awaiting FHWA comments – this would appear that the opportunity for substantial changes or asking for coverage for the GRR if it has not already been included has passed
 - All reporting states confirmed that interstate corridors were the draft submittal corridors identified and seemed skeptical that a rural roadway would garner any support
 - **What sources (public or private) are currently available?**
 - Illinois IC reports self-funded (\$5,000) installation
 - HyVee is installing with all new builds was reported
 - Probably many other public/private locations
 - **ACTION:**
 - All States will look to inventory all public/private locations along/near the GRR and report back to committee with locations
 - All States will collaborate to determine if there are any 150 mile or greater gaps that exist (bordering states (WI/MN) should compare locations at Miss. R. crossings)
 - If we can prove that with planned/existing EV charging stations that no gaps of 150 miles or more exist, we should be marketing the GRR as an EV or Alternative Fuels Route

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- **Panel Presentation – Interpretive Centers – Strengthen our Relationships**
 - Support for State Commissions to meet at ICs for their regularly scheduled meetings on a rotating basis was expressed and desired to be implemented
 - Transportation Committee involvement was determined to be solely signing (wayfinding to/from ICs from the GRR) in support of this project
 - **ACTION:**
 - Inventory (including pictures of each) all signs that name and provide direction to ICs from the GRR (this will include “Ahead”, “At” signing and should include turn by turn directions from the GRR or detailed map to document locations/signs/directions
 - Concern was expressed over the resourcing of this effort (especially in states that have hundreds of miles of GRR)
- **Panel Presentation – Pollinators – Connecting Everyone**
 - Transportation Committee supports this initiative and feels they can contribute to building a “playbook” that could contribute to the overall effort
 - **ACTION:**
 - Gather any Policies, Procedures, Specs or other formal documents
 - Provide any marketing angles that garner support for the effort (farmers, duck hunters, fishermen, birders, etc.)
- **Panel Presentation – Mississippi River Trail – Closer Look**
 - Discussion was cut short on this item, but Transportation Committee would take a lead role in this effort if it were chosen as the project for the next year by the Commission as a whole
 - Resolutions of Support from every municipality was discussed – this would be required regardless of roadway jurisdiction/maintenance responsibilities
 - **ACTION:**
 - Due to complexity and number of steps necessary to reach US Bike Route criteria for 10-State Route consideration, Francis agreed to summarize the steps and send out
 - Based on these detailed steps – each state will report back on the status of their state with regards to the steps (individually)

Next Meetings

- Transportation Committee Meetings (4th Friday – Quarterly)
 - **October 28th (9-10am)**
 - **2023 Meeting TBD**

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