



Mississippi River Parkway Commission

P.O. Box 7395
Madison, WI 53707



Mississippi River Parkway Commission Transportation Committee Teleconference Meeting November 17, 2023 | 9:00 AM – 10:00 AM

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85089475760?pwd=c2lRNW5meFhsZlNCd3FnRnL0V3dz09>

Meeting ID: 850 8947 5760

Passcode: 056479

One tap mobile: +1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

AGENDA

Introductions

MRPC – John Anfinson (Pilot Pro Tem)
Arkansas – no representatives
Illinois – no representatives
Iowa – Lisa Walsh, Emily Whaley
Kentucky – James LeFevre
Louisiana – Adriane McRae
Minnesota – Peter MacDonagh
Mississippi – no representatives
Missouri – Mark Kross
Tennessee – Michael McClanahan, Robin Sealy
Wisconsin – Francis Schelfhout, Liat Bonneville

Minutes from September 21, 2023 (Annual Meeting/Committee Meeting)

Francis offered to answer any detailed questions regarding the materials presented at the annual meeting to anyone that was not able to attend. Will work with the National Office to make sure that at future annual meetings that there is still a virtual option to attend for those committee members unable to attend in person.

Mississippi River Trail (MRT) – U.S. Bike Route

- AASHTO Steps to Designation as U.S. Bike Route
 - Draft Route
 - Existing Route
Existing maps, routing – will build a database of examples provided by state (links, maps, resources, etc.) – WI example at: [The Great River Road - Mississippi River Trail Bicycle Map - WisDOT \(wisconsin.gov\)](#)
Could include details like vertical rise, shoulder widths, traffic volumes or other details that would benefit users/conversations with locals.
ACTION: send Francis all links, maps, resources regarding your state's MRT as it exists
 - Mapping/KMZ of Existing/Alternative Routes

Mission Statement: Promote, enhance and preserve the Great River Road and the Mississippi River.

Phone: 866-763-8310 • Web Site: ExperienceMississippiRiver.com • E-mail: info@experiencemississippiriver.com



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- “How to...” completed – review – Q&A
KMZ can be created in most GIS applications, help document shows creation of KMZ using GoogleMaps – recommend leveraging Transportation Department resources if possible.
ACTION: provide Francis with KMZ file for your respective state’s MRT (KY confirmed that their MRT is exactly the same as the GRR)
- Displays of Existing/Alternative Routes
This will be the next help document and is a much quicker way to show/prepare for the public outreach. It can be completed in Bluebeam or Adobe. Recommend showing existing route, some alternative routes to consider, can in some instances include routes that were considered and dropped for good reason. Routes considered should include those closest to the river or the GRR and in some state this might be on levees or other “off system” trails/facilities.
- Local Agreements/Support
AASHTO requires/shall have local agreement/resolution/letter of support from every community that the route runs through. This is regardless of jurisdiction of the roadway or facility on which the route will be designated. Example is routed along a state/US highway through a town. Although the roadway is the Transportation Department jurisdiction, local support from the town must be attained of the route through their municipality.
Sample materials will be added to the Transportation Committee website:
 - PowerPoint Presentation
 - Draft Resolutions
 - Draft MapsThe local meetings to attain this support are probably best served is presented/attended by a Transportation Department representative and at least one representative from the State MRPC (Wisconsin has had state chair or county commissioner in attendance).
Tourism departments may also be an attendee and even lead the effort, but keep in mind that the final application to AASHTO must come from the Transportation Departments
- Submit Application
Formal dedication of the route in Wisconsin is estimated to be a 3-5 year process (250 miles, 76 communities) – keep this in mind.
Intention is to continue to work at this at each state level with the intent to file a 10-state (in whole or in parts) application for a US Bike route. View this similarly to the AAR applications – get as many states to participate as possible.
- Trademarked
Will provide further update in January, but the non-profit from TN has not filed proper paperwork to stay in “active” status. We are further investigating how that impacts the trademarked symbols, name, etc. and what legal actions could/should be taken to secure the trademark symbol, name, etc. (this could be just the naming rights or just the symbol or both/all).
- Sign Plate
No update provided.

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- Route Status
- No update provided.

Interpretive Centers – Strengthen Relationships

- Update – Sample Inventory from Francis Schelfhout
Will Post full inventory of signs per affiliated Interpretive Centers for WI
Confirmed that we are looking to establish a baseline level of signage for the different locations that an IC may be in relation to the GRR (Adjacent would have minimum of Ahead/At or just At?)
- Wayfinding signage inventory (including pictures)
 - “Ahead”, “At”, “Turns”
 - Including turn by turn directions, distances, etc.
 - Detailed map documenting locations, signs, directionsFirst “How to” document will talk about creating the parcel map. Parcel map is important to describe the IC’s site, how it functions, multiple access points, changing directions depending on direction of travel, etc.
Francis will be working with National Office to create a working page for IC signage work also.
- Emily Whaley asked about the GRR Panels (that are required to be available/posted within ICs as part of our agreements with them) – primarily looking for status on the order, who oversaw the order, etc. – Francis sent an email to contacts within the National Office to get this information and included Emily and Lisa from IA

Next Meetings

- MRPC Board Meeting – December 8, 2023 @ 9am CST
- Collaborative Committee Meeting – November 24, 2023 @ 1pm CST
- 2024 Transportation Committee Meetings (4th Friday – Bi-Monthly @ 9am CST)
 - January 26 - March 22 - May 17 - July 26 - September 27 - November 15

Noted that:

May 17 is the third Friday due to the Memorial Day Holiday

September 27 will likely be adjusted to align with the annual meeting date/time

November 15 is the third Friday due to the Thanksgiving Holiday weekend

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