

**Minutes of Meeting**  
**MULTI-USE TRAILS JURISDICTIONS COMMITTEE**  
**October 27, 2015**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Committee Members**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Elliott McKinley, Chair	Springfield Park District
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Lori Williams	City of Springfield
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Andrew Werner	Illinois Department of Transportation – District 6
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Brian Wright	Sangamon County Highway Department
	Matthew Saner	Village of Chatham

**Staff**

Linda Wheeland – Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission  
Neha Soni – Springfield-Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission

**Others**

Loren Easter – Central Illinois Trails Association  
Tim Hoesli – IDOT Outdoor Advertising Program Manager  
James Kyte – Federal Highway Administration  
Greg Piland – Federal Highway Administration Recreational Trails Coordinator

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Elliott McKinley called the meeting of the Multi-Use Trails Jurisdictions Committee to order at 10:05 AM.

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

The Chairman asked committee members and others in attendance to introduce themselves.

**III. APPROVAL OF 9/23/2015 MINUTES**

Chairman Elliott McKinley asked if there were any additions or corrections to the minutes of the September 23, Multi-Use Trails Jurisdictions Committee meeting. Hearing none, the minutes were approved.

**IV. 9-1-1 ADDRESSING PLAN**

Linda Wheeland described the 9-1-1 Addressing Plan put together by the Sangamon County 9-1-1 office to help facilitate emergency response to the trails that was distributed in the last meeting.

Tim, who used to be an emergency responder, commented that it would be very helpful to have mile markers on the trails because that could help 9-1-1 dispatchers greatly to locate the person on the trail for emergency response, which could then be provided quickly.

Lori suggested that the starting point for both the Wabash Trail and Interurban Trail should be at the same spot in the Park Street parking lot. Lori informed that the City does have jurisdiction over the sidepath along Junction Circle.

Linda noted the 9-1-1 Addressing plan recommends sidepaths not associated with a trail be addressed using the street addresses and off street trails be addressed using mile markers.

Elliott emphasized the importance of consistency of mileage markers used on all trails within the county border. He really liked the color coding system for the markers to identify different trails. This is a simple system for all users with any cognitive or literacy abilities.

Andrew raised a concern that in the past there have been requests to use roads as trails and have signs posted along the road corridors.

Lori raised a concern about having more signs on the street where trails and streets interconnect. The City does not have room in the budget to have more signs out there and further maintain them. It is better to keep the signs minimal only to recognize where someone is located. She liked the idea of color coded signs to identify trails as many times, people do not know the name of the trail they on. Also having both the trail name and color on the signs would make it easier to identify where people calling 9-1-1 are located.

Public comment included a discussion on having access points identified along with mile markers, so that it becomes easier for 9-1-1 to know which access point to use to get to that mile marker.

Elliott raised a question if we should focus only on the multi-use trails for the mile markers or also on street trails?

Brian suggested that the on-road connectors between trails already have plenty of identifiers to locate a person for 9-1-1 and the committee should concentrate only on the multi-use trails network for the mile markers. He noted that the Sangamon Valley Trail has a kiosk showing an overall map of the trail and initially when they did the mile markers, they started with mile markers from both the south and the north ends of the trail. This was very confusing. So, later to keep that continuity, they started measuring from the south and went north with mile markings. He agreed with Elliott to only concentrate on the multi-use trails network for mile markers.

Linda asked if the committee wanted to make the changes to the draft plan and submit it to 9-1-1.

Brian also raised a concern about identifiers in the draft 9-1-1 Addressing plan designating official trail access points and restricted access points with a 9-1-1 address. Lori discussed her concern over confusing nomenclature of the identifiers in the plan, such as at the drinking fountain at IDOT. Linda clarified that this was for internal use by 9-1-1 and not necessarily to be used on the trails.

Linda mentioned that the 9-1-1 office had stated that federal grants would not be available if trails were not addressed and asked the representatives from FHWA if this was true. James replied he was not aware of such a federal requirement.

Linda also asked if there are also any federal grants available for purchasing mile markers and road name signage for the trails. James and Greg replied that the Recreational Trails Program and Highway Safety Improvement Program could be sources of funding for signage.

There was also discussion of providing signage at rest areas and road crossings to help orient trail users to their location.

Based on discussion, Linda will prepare a modified 9-1-1 Addressing plan for the multi-use trails and send to committee members for review prior to the November meeting.

V. **ADVERTISING ON TRAILS**

Linda explained that there are different rules about advertising on trails than highways. One cannot have a sign on the trail that can be seen from a highway as had been proposed to the County Highway Department for one of the bridges on the Sangamon Valley Trail. The committee had been looking at allowing advertising for the businesses that might be along the trail or the ones who might want to adopt the trail as an income-producing measure. Representatives from IDOT and FHWA were at the meeting today to address any questions committee members might have about advertising on trails.

Greg said that at the moment FHWA has no official policy just for advertising on trails. The Highway Beautification Act is for Interstates and highways. There was some guidance they could provide however. Any advertising would have to be linked to a purpose on the trail in some way so, specific to the pedestrians and bicyclists traveling on the trail. The main intent should be on the activities or the facilities on or within a reasonable distance of the trail and not to be seen from a road on the National Highway System. Signage should not be focused only on advertising. One should consider creative ideas like using benches or trash cans for sponsorship signage that focuses on the trails.

Tim submitted a document prepared by FHWA headquarters in 2014, Policy on Sponsorship Acknowledgement and Agreements within the Highway Right-of-Way, that would provide some guidance for signage along trails.

Linda asked if there is any limit on the size of a sign. Tim replied that there is none according to the policy but Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) dictates the size, font and the like for signs.

Elliott noted that advertising signs could make the trails commercialized and cautioned that this is something that should be avoided

Referencing the suggestion that advertising signage could be placed on trail amenities, Andrew asked if there was an inventory of trash cans, benches and such facilities on the trails. Linda distributed individual maps prepared by the Planning Commission showing various such facilities on the trails.

Elliott suggested that the committee should formulate a policy or an ordinance establishing rules for advertising signage on the trails. Lori added that after formulating the policy, the individual trail jurisdictions would have to adopt that policy.

Tim suggested that he sees this in two ways. The signs on the trash cans and benches are more at the advertising end of it and the other side would be the trail sponsorship. So, this could be formulated into two different standards. For example, in Chicago, the city has a contract with an advertising company that also supplies the trash cans. For sponsorship, the companies help maintain certain portions or aspects of the trails. These could be two different pots or potential funding that the committee could be looking at.

Elliott emphasized that the committee needs to be practical and conservative on how advertising signs are allowed on the trails to preserve the actual trail experience of enjoying nature and getting away from commercialization. But there are still some creative ways to support the trails.

Linda proposed the Planning Commission staff could start putting ideas together and draft a plan to be sent to committee members for review before the November meeting.

## **VI. TRAIL ACCESS POINTS AND AMENITIES PLAN**

Linda distributed a draft Trail Access and Amenities Plan and supplemental maps prepared by Planning Commission staff. She described the maps and the document that were put together showing existing access points and potential access points that people are using to get on or off the trail unofficially. Existing amenities at these access points and proposed amenities are also included.

Lori asked if all the access points shown are official public access points. Linda clarified the access points labeled existing are official and those labeled proposed are where people have created their own path. The Planning Commission suggests making some of them official. On the Interurban Trail there are three such points along one segment but the plan suggests using only one of those, the one connecting the South Douglas area. A lot of the proposed access points are in private ownership and there is information on the ownership of those properties provided.

Elliott indicated some concerns about the encroachment issues that should be kept in mind. Similar experiences have happened at the parks but at the same time no one wants to close off or fence a park. Information and communication should be established between the trail jurisdictions to establish safe access points and consistent design elements on the trails.

Committee members will review the draft Trail Access Points and Amenities Plan over the next two months.

## **VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS**

There were no public comments.

## **VIII. FUTURE MEETINGS**

### **A. Meetings Schedule**

Committee members established the third Wednesday of the month at 10:30 AM as the meeting schedule.

Next Meeting Date – Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup> at 10:30 AM

### **B. Topics for Next Meeting**

1. 9-1-1 addressing on the trails draft rewritten
2. Advertising
3. Street name signs on trails

## **IX. ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Chairman Elliott McKinley called to adjourn at 11:15 AM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Neha Soni  
Recording Secretary