

MINUTES
MCT TRAILS WORKSHOP

Madison County Mass Transit District
NO Nelson Campus – Lewis & Clark Community College, Leclaire Room
600 Troy Road, Edwardsville, IL 62025
9:00 a.m., Friday March 13, 2020

MEMBERS PRESENT: CHRISTOPHER C. GUY, RONALD L. JEDDA, AND J. KELLY SCHMIDT.

MEMBER ABSENT: ALLEN P. ADOMITE, ANDREW F. ECONOMY.

OTHERS PRESENT: SJ MORRISON, ACT; SUMMER MOORE, ACT; PHIL ROGGIO, ACT; MARK STEYER, ACT; AMANDA SMITH, ACT; ELLIE CARROW, ACT; DAVID COBB, ACT; KELLY BRASEL, ACT; SCOTT SLEMER, JUNEAU ASSOCIATES; BRIAN KULICK, JUNEAU, ASSOCIATES; ALEX ST. PETERS, RIVERBEND GROWTH ASSOCIATION; JOHN KELLER, RIVERBEND GROWTH ASSOCIATION; DERRICK KEITH COX, COLLINSVILLE TOWNSHIP; LARRY BLOEMKER, VILLAGE OF HAMEL; RAY WESLEY, MADISON COUNTY BOARD; WALT BLOTEVOGEL, SMS ENGINEERS; JUSTIN VENVERTLOH, THOUVENOT WADE & MOERCHEN INC; CRISTEN HARDIN, CITY OF COLLINSVILLE; TRUDY BODENBACH, MADISON COUNTY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT; JASON WATTERS, VOLKERT; RYAN ZWIJACK, CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE; BRYAN WERNER, METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT; MARK ACHENBACK, METRO EAST PARK AND RECREATION DISTRICT; MIKE WALTERS, SOUTHWESTERN ILLINOIS EMPLOYERS ASSOCIATION; BRETT STAWAR, GREAT RIVER & ROUTES TOURISM BUREAU; TOM MCRAE, MADISON COUNTY BOARD MEMBER; MEGAN RIECHMANN, ACTIVE STRATEGIES; KATHLEEN LIPE; BILLY DUNHAM; JODI GRIFFEL, VOLKERT, INC.; DAVID WEIDLER; TOM PELOT; JUSTIN ALLEN, CYCLERY; ELLEN DUNHAM; MATTHEW DAWSON, THE CYCLERY AND FITNESS CENTER; KENT SCHEIBEL; JEANNE CARTER; JIM HARLAN; SCOTT COUSINS, ALTON TELEGRAPH; MIKE MCCORMICK, VILLAGE OF GODFREY; FRED SCHULTE, EDWARDSVILLE TOWNSHIP; EMILY FULTZ, CITY OF EDWARDSVILLE;

SJ Morrison, Interim Managing Director, welcomed everyone to the MCT Trails Workshop and introduced the Madison County Mass Transit District Board Members, and ACT Staff.

Chairman Jedda, welcomed everyone to the MCT Trails Workshop. Jedda mentioned that the workshop would allow those in attendance to see the current trail system, and he stressed the importance of today's input for the future of the MCT Trails. The Madison County Transit Board is committed to the expansion, improvement, enhancement, and branching off into neighborhoods and parks throughout our communities.

SJ Morrison stated the workshop intention was to engage stakeholders, elected officials, business leaders, community members, and decision-makers to help us expand and enhance our trails by reaching our neighborhoods, parks, and commercial areas throughout Madison County. To think, "the first mile, the last mile."

SJ Morrison commenced with the presentation focusing on where we've been, where we are, and where we're going.

SJ Morrison invited the attendees to present public comments.

Kent Scheibel addressed the trail workshop with a suggested enhancement to place sculptures along the trails. The sculptures would not have to be a permanent fixture, maybe something that is rotated periodically with advertisement and news releases. The people would be drawn to the area not just for trail usage but nationally for sculptures. The economy would be improved by the need for bed and breakfast, hotels, eateries, and adding tourism opportunities such as bicycle rentals for all mobility types. The artist could submit an entry fee along with photographs to be juried, the artist selected would receive a stipend from the submission fee, and a percentage of the sales could be put towards the community, trails, and program. The local artist, colleges, and volunteers would be willing to participate in setting up the program.

Bryan Werner the Executive Director of Metro East Parks and Recreation District mentioned the MEPRD grant program which allows partnership with other public entities to improve parks, building trails, expand recreation, and amenities through a one-tenth percent sales tax approved by Madison and St. Clair County, Illinois voters in November of 2000. The funds, fifty percent is retained by MEPRD and the other fifty percent is distributed back to the respective Counties. MEPRD committed \$2,000,000 to the MEPRD Park and Trail Grant Program. A MEPRD Community Planning Grant Program allocates \$300,000 of grant funding for parks/greenway master planning and bicycle/pedestrian master planning. The physical location of the facility is at the Schoolhouse Trailhead and throughout the week the parking is overflowing onto the street, and other businesses parking lots. They often receive high-level praise from avid cyclist from other states and around the world daily. Some regulars come daily, some once a week, and some once a year but they travel a good distance to the MCT Trails.

SJ Morrison stated that MEPRD has been a crucial partner in facilitating the construction of the trails, MEPRD is an incredible advantage to Madison County to have MEPRD to come along communities, public bodies, to assist with grant funding.

Mike Walters with Southwestern Illinois Employers Association mentioned his past discretions with the bike trails considering them to be a waste of money. As time progressed, he noticed the bike paths assisted the community and attracted tourism. The trails bring people together, and he encouraged the naysayers to get out and have discussions with the trail users. The money spent is a better return on our values and urges people to get out and talk about the significance of trails.

Brett Stawar with The Great River & Routes Tourism Bureau encourages the expansions and to evolve the private sector for the expansion of tourism to our area. Brett recommends parcels of land for shops and repairs along the trails. Also, taking an inclusive stance for a sense of community instead of a hands-on approach.

Tom Pelot, trail user and resident of Godfrey, expressed that the trail is a multi-purpose trail. He suggested extending the Vadalabene Trail along the Hopp Hollow Road extending from Blue Pool to Mullins Lane in Godfrey. This stretch of level land was used during the Civil War to transport the deceased to the now Confederate Cemetery on Rozier Street. This would provide a level trail for the elderly and the children to enjoy

within a bluff terrain. The greatest challenge would be with working with the bordering property owned by The Nature Institute.

Jeanne Carter, a retired Madison County resident who grew up in a two-generation railroad family, wished to have the railroads highlighted with markers, and mimicking the National Parks stamps and passports with a version relating to the trails and highlighting points of interest along the trails.

SJ Morrison broke the meeting off into a breakout session where the attendees could discuss, complete surveys, and illustrate their suggestions on the provided trail maps.

Respectfully submitted

Summer Moore
