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Village of Hampshire
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Village of Lisbon
Village of Maple Park
Village of Millbrook
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City of Plano
Village of Plattville
City of Sandwich
Village of Sleepy Hollow
Village of South Elgin
City of St. Charles
Village of Sugar Grove
Village of Virgil
Village of Wayne
Village of West Dundee
City of Yorkville

County Members

Kane County
Kendall County



KANE KENDALL COUNCIL OF MAYORS



COUNCIL STAFF
Heidi E. Lichtenberger
Council Director

George T. Kandathil
Regional Planning Liaison

Gretchen H. Klock
Regional Planning Liaison

Kane Kendall Council of Mayors (KKCOM) Bicycle & Pedestrian Committee

March 20th, 2025 2:30 pm

Hybrid – Forest Preserve District of Kane County Headquarters & online via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Ben Haberthur, Chair	Executive Director	FPDKC
Kevin Anderson	Traffic engineer	City of Aurora
Roopa Anjanapra	Civil Engineer	City of Aurora
Scott Marquardt	Project Manager	Village of Campton Hills/HR Green
Tom Armstrong (online)	Board Member	Elgin Community Bikes
Ken Anderson	Business Development	ERA
Don Kirchenberg	Chairman	Friends of the GWT
Jeff Palmquist	Director of Planning	Fox Valley Park District
Jennifer Rooks-Lopez	Chief of Planning & Operations	FPDKC
Zach Tegge	Landscape Architect	FPDKC
Brian Davids	City Engineer	Village of Geneva
Heidi Lichtenberger	Council Director	KKCOM
George Kandathil	Planning Liaison	KKCOM
Gretchen Klock	Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator	KKCOM
Bruce Heidlauf	Owner	Mill Race Cyclery
Ryan Anderson	Superintendent of PW	Village of Minooka
Ric Offerman	President	Village of Minooka
Chris Gottlieb	PW Engineer Manager	City of St. Charles
Scott Nadau	Executive Director	Sugar Grove Park District
Brian Schiber	Public Works Director	Village of Sugar Grove

I. Opening of Meeting

- A. Chairman Ben Haberthur called the meeting to order at 2:34 p.m.
- B. Approval of October 10, 2024 Minutes.
Scott Nadau of Sugar Grove made a motion to improve the minutes, seconded by Kevin Anderson of Aurora. The minutes were approved unanimously.
- C. Public Comment
Chairman Ben Haberthur shared that the Forest Preserve District of Kane County tax referendum in the November 2024 election passed. He noted that other surrounding county forest preserve districts also saw success in passing referendums this past election season.

II. General Business

- A. Bicycle & Pedestrian Coordinator Update
Gretchen Klock from KKCOM delivered the Bicycle & Pedestrian coordinator update.

Staff Update

It is with bittersweet sentiment that KKCOM and the Kane County Division of Transportation bid farewell to Jackie Forbes on February 28th. Jackie's guidance, support, and wealth of knowledge have left a lasting impact on our team, shaping not only our work but also our growth as professionals. While we will certainly miss her leadership, we are immensely grateful for her expertise and distinct professionalism. We wish her all the success and happiness in her new role at the Illinois Tollway!

Upcoming Meetings

KKCOM Transportation Policy: April 17th, 2025

KKCOM Full Council: May 1st, 2025

Funding Opportunities

Federal Recreational Trails Program

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources is now accepting applications for the [Federal Recreational Trails Program \(RTP\)](#). This program provides funding assistance for acquisition, development, rehabilitation, and maintenance of both motorized and non-motorized recreation trails. The RTP program can provide up to 80% federal funding on approved projects and requires a minimum 20% non-federal funding match. The application deadline is **March 21st**.

CMAP & RTA 2025 Call for Technical Assistance

This year, CMAP and RTA will again partner together to offer technical assistance to local governments to help foster the growth of sustainable, equitable, walkable, and transit-friendly communities around transit assets by encouraging transit-supportive land uses and infrastructure. Applications will be accepted from **March 10th to April 4th at noon**, and more information can be found online: [CMAP's Planning Technical Assistance Program](#).

Active Transportation Alliance Mini-Stipends

The Active Transportation Alliance is offering 10 \$200 mini-stipend for organizations to host a Bike Month (May) event and 10 \$200 mini-stipend for organizations/individuals to host a Week Without Driving (September 29th-October 5th, 2025) event. Any group/organization/individual is eligible to apply. Applications are due by **April 14th** for both programs and information including event ideas is available online: [Bike Month Stipends](#) & [Week Without Driving Stipends](#).

Training/Conferences

2025 IL Bike & Walk Summit

The 2025 Illinois Bike & Walk Summit hosted by Ride Illinois will take place May 7-8 in Springfield. Professionals, advocates, and individuals from communities of all sizes are invited to attend the conference

to learn, collaborate, and identify creative solutions related to biking and walking in their community. This year's theme is creating connected, livable, thriving communities. Those interested in attending can register online: [IL Bike & Walk Summit](#). Contact info@rideillinois.org with any questions.

CMAP ADA Coordinators Group

CMAP has launched a Regional ADA Coordinators Group to provide Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) coordinators with practical, actionable knowledge and resources to help improve accessibility and ADA compliance in northeastern Illinois. This is also a space for ADA coordinators to connect with each other to share challenges, opportunities, and lessons learned. The next meeting is May 13th and will continue the discussion from the March 18th meeting on Self-Evaluation and Transition Plans. Details on the group including past slides and future registration opportunities are available online: [CMAP ADA Coordinators Group](#).

Planning Updates

Kane County Safety Action Plan

Work continues on the Kane County Safety Action Plan as the online survey and interactive map closed on Friday, February 28th. The project team will draft the safety action plan, using what they heard from the community and will share more on existing safety conditions and a high-injury network later this spring and summer. Kane County Department of Transportation teamed up with the Cook County Department of Transportation and Highways to host a Safe Travel for All open house in Elgin on Saturday, February 22nd at the Centre of Elgin. The project team talked with residents from Elgin and the surrounding area about specific safety issues and locations of concern, as well as ideas for safety solutions in downtown Elgin.

CMAP Regional Transportation Plan Outreach

Take CMAP's [survey](#) and share how you get from point A to point B, and how the region's transportation system can be improved. As CMAP leads development of the [Regional Transportation Plan \(RTP\)](#) — northeastern Illinois' blueprint for roads, rails, and trails over the next 30 years — your feedback will shape how CMAP improves transportation, reduce congestion, and build a more sustainable future for our region. Responses will be accepted throughout 2025, giving everyone plenty of time to weigh in. If you have questions about the RTP or questionnaire — or would like CMAP to present or attend a local event — please reach out to rtp@cmap.illinois.gov.

Kane Bicycle & Pedestrian Resources

This is a list of links and resources that regarding biking and walking in Kane County:

- [KKCOM Bicycle & Pedestrian Info](#) webpage
- [KDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Resources](#) webpage
- [KDOT Bicycle and Pedestrian Web App](#)
- [KDOT 2023 Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan](#)
- [2023 Kane & Northern Kendall Bicycle map](#) and [order form](#)

B. Bike Friendly Community Application

Gretchen Klock from KKCOM provided an update on Kane County's Bike Friendly Communities application. This is the county's first time applying to the program. Aurora and Batavia are working to reapply for their bronze level status and Geneva recently received an Honorable Mention and plans to reapply in the future. Gretchen is collaborating with these municipalities on the County's application and to support the communities' applications.

Gretchen answered a question regarding eligibility for the program. Park districts are not eligible to apply on their own for the Bike Friendly Communities Program. They would have to partner with the corresponding municipality.

C. KKCOM Bike Map Update

Gretchen said that she is beginning work on update the KKCOM Bike Map for 2025-2026. This map covers Kane and Northern Kendall Counties and is updated every two years. She is hoping to have the new map published this summer.

D. Regional Trail Signage

The City of Aurora shared that they are working with a consultant to evaluate what side path traffic signs are necessary to comply with a new Illinois law. The Fox Valley Park District stated that the law would require signs that would be convoluted and would not support safety. The Forest Preserve and Fox Valley Park District have been following the law to see what actions will be necessary and can share updates.

III. Announcements/Updates

A. Director Updates

Jen Rooks-Lopez shared that FPDKC has selected a contractor to do trail resurfacings in Big Rock Forest Preserve through a RTP grant. The contract was awarded and construction should begin soon. The Forest Preserve was also awarded RTP grant for Fitchie Creek to repair the limestone trails and do some drainage maintenance. The Forest Preserve is working on a 4-year trail restoration project on the Fox River Trail from SEBA Park to the John Duerr Forest Preserve. The project also includes retaining wall along the Trolley line.

Chairman Haberthur shared that cleanup of the Illinois Prairie Path east of Kirk cleanup is currently in the draft budget. Ben shared the annual report which includes information on the Carpentersville dam removal. He added that there are new IDNR and Army Corps regulations which may delay future dam removals for municipalities.

Additionally, the Kane County Cougars baseball team was sold to a Texas company, REV Entertainment. The team will continue to play at Northwestern Medicine stadium which is owned by the Forest Preserve.

On June 8th, the Forest Preserve District of Kane County is celebrating its 100-year birthday. There will be a celebration at Johnson Mound which is the first forest preserve in the district. There will be a tree planting and plaque unveiling ceremony.

B. Public/Local Agency Updates

Jeff Palmquist shared that the Fox Valley Park District is moving forward with their HUD grant for the Bike/Ped bridge over the Fox River by Lippold Park. He added that the Board approved an ordinance to reduce the speed limit on Fox Valley Park District trails from 20mph to 15mph in order to align with the Forest Preserve.

Ben added that the Forest Preserve has bought and deployed two speed feedback signs. The signs have been vandalized twice and had to be replaced. He added that speed feedback signs may encourage speeding as people may use them to test their speed. Jeff shared that he has begun working with the law enforcement division on an education campaign about the new speed limit.

Scott Nadeau gave an update on the Sugar Grove Park District bike/ped bridge over Blackberry Creek adjacent to the Virgil Gilman Trail. The bridge is anticipated to be installed in May with the feeder paths being constructed in June and July with a ribbon cutting ceremony in July or August. They are working to create a dedication plaque for the bridge.

President Offerman of Minooka shared that they are working on a bike path grant with Kendall County and as a part of the Ridge Road expansion project, a bike path will be build within Minooka. The mayor expressed a desire to eventually build a bridge over the DuPage River to connect Minooka Bicyclists with the IM Canal trail system starting in Channahon.

Don Kirchenberg, Chairman of Friends of the Great Western Trail shared that the 2025 Annual Trails Cleanup of the Great Western Trail and Illinois Prairie path will be on Saturday, April 26th. The group is celebrating the 30th anniversary of Great western Trail Clean Up. He also commended the Sycamore lions for their clean-up work as well on the trail. Kirchenberg asked about the eastern expansion of the Great Western Trail.

Ben Haberthur answered that there is no update of the Eastern expansion of the Great Western Trail in St. Charles. The Forest Preserve condemned the railroad but the railroad did not respond. St. Charles Park District attorneys are working with corporate council for the Forest preserve District to move forward. The project is stalled for the St. Charles mayoral race. Both the incumbent mayor and challenger support the project.

Roopa Anjanapra stated that in Aurora, the bike/ped bridge and Fox River Trail adjacent to RiverEdge Park north of downtown will be closed this year through November due to construction at RiverEdge Park. The Indian Trail and High Street signalized intersection with the Illinois Prairie Path is not officially open but has received praise for being safer. The city is aiming to have their draft Bike Plan available for public comment in April with a proposed plan adoption in May or June.

Chris Gottlieb from St. Charles shared that the Fox River Trail at IL 25 by Moore Avenue will be closed through May for a culvert replacement.

IV. Next Meeting

TBD June/July 2025

V. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 3:13.