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Kane County



KANE KENDALL COUNCIL OF MAYORS



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Jacqueline L. Forbes
Executive Director
Heidi E. Lichtenberger
Council Director
George T. Kandathil
Regional Planning Liaison
Gretchen H. Klock
Regional Planning Liaison

Kane Kendall Council of Mayors Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee

October 10, 2024

2:00 p.m.

Forest Preserve District of Kane County
1996 S. Kirk Road, Geneva, IL 60134
Meeting Minutes

Attendance

Ben Haberthur – Chair	Executive Director	FPDKC
Jennifer Rooks-Lopez	Chief of Planning and Land Management	FPDKC
Rob Reimer	N/A	MCBC
Don Kirchenberg	Chairman	Friends of the Great Western Trail
Kurt Nika	Assistant Director of Transportation	KDOT
Phil Tartaglia	Deputy Director/Village Engineer	Village of Oswego
Todd Latham	Mayor	City of Sandwich
Kevin Anderson	Traffic Engineer	City of Aurora
Scott Nadeau	Executive Director	Sugar Grove Park District
Tom Armstrong	Board Member	Elgin Community Bikes
Roopa Anjanappa	Civil Engineer	City of Aurora
Jeff Palmquist	Director of Planning	Fox Valley Park District
Josh Einstein-Curtis (online)	Committee Member	Batavia ATAC
Andrew Barna (online)	Planner	Village of Bartlett
Bryan Beach (online)	Streets Forman	Village of Sugar Grove
Jackie Forbes	Executive Director	KKCOM
Heidi Lichtenberger	Council Director	KKCOM
George Kandathil	Planning Liaison	KKCOM
Gretchen Klock	Bicycle/Ped Coordinator	KKCOM

I. Opening of Meeting

- A. Chairman Ben Haberthur called the meeting to order at 2:02 p.m.
- B. Approval of May 11, 2023 Minutes
Ben Haberthur requested a voice vote to approve the minutes and they passed unanimously.
- C. Public Comment
Don Kichenberg, Chairman of the Friends of the Great Western Trail highlighted the upcoming Earth Day trail clean-up hosted by the Friends of the GWT on April 26, 2025. He expressed support of expansion of the Great Western Trail

II. General Business

- A. Planning Liaison Update
George Kandathil delivered this update.

Staff Update:

We are pleased to announce the addition of Gretchen Klock to the KKCOM Staff as our new Regional Planning Liaison and Bicycle Pedestrian Coordinator, welcome Gretchen!

Upcoming Meetings:

KKCOM Transportation Policy: TBD January 2025

KKCOM Full Council: TBD Fall/Winter 2024

Funding Opportunities:

CMAP FFY26-2030 Call for Projects: STP-Shared Fund, CMAQ, CRP, and TAP-L

Funding is available for the STP-Shared Fund, CMAQ, CRP, and TAP-L fund sources. The biannual call for projects administered by CMAP staff will open on October 21st through December 20th. Detailed information about eligibility, the application process, and FAQs can be found on the [Call for Projects webpage](#).

Partner Updates:

USDOT FHWA Learning Management System

FHWA's National Highway Institute launched its Blackboard Learning Management System (LMS) to provide a more interactive and user-friendly platform, offering easier access to course information, simplified course registration, transcript viewing, and online management of profile information and passwords. Visit [here](#) for more information.

USDOT Climate Change Webinars

Throughout 2024, the USDOT Climate Change Center has hosted webinars on climate change and transportation topics, ranging from greenhouse gas reduction strategies to climate resilience activities to research and technology advancements. There are three more climate webinars on the horizon: November 14th, December 11th, and January 15th

(2025). For more information as well as past webinars and slides, please visit [USDOT Climate Change Webinars](#).

IDOT BLRS 2024 MFT Eligibility and Spending Process T2 training

IDOT's T2 Center has announced that a new, informative 2024 MFT training is now available online. For more information on how to navigate this training, along with 35+ additional trainings offered by T2 Center, please reference the [Getting Started Guide](#). New users will need to contact Barry.Kent@illinois.gov for credentials.

IDOT Statewide Public Transportation Plan

IDOT's statewide public transportation plan, [Next Move Illinois](#), is still in progress. This plan is the successor plan to the 2018 Illinois Statewide Public Transportation Plan. As part of the planning process, IDOT will update as well as elicit input from stakeholders including state and municipal agencies, elected officials, and the public in order to improve public transportation quality. A fact sheet as well as a link to an online questionnaire is here: ([IDOT Public Transportation Survey](#)). Questions or comments about the plan can be emailed to: (DOT.IllinoisTransitPlan@illinois.gov). Initial findings will be finished in Fall/Winter 2024, and a draft plan will be made public in Fall/Winter 2025.

IDOT D1 PPI Form Update

Effective August 8th, 2024, the IDOT D1 PPI Form D1 PI0004 has been updated. Any PPI's submitted on the previous form will be returned for revisions. The new form can be found [here](#). Choose "District 1" in the Topic dropdown menu, hit "Filter Table", and scroll down to D1 PI0004 Project Program Information.

2023 IDOT National Highway System (NHS) pavement and bridge data

IDOT collects condition data on Interstate pavements annually and on non-Interstate pavements on a two-year cycle. Bridges receive a routine visual inspection at least every 2-4 years, depending on the condition. The results of the most recent NHS pavement condition assessments and bridge inspections, along with performance measures and targets, may be accessed here: [Pavement Performance](#).

2023 IDOT Statewide Crash Data

On July 22th, IDOT released Circular Letter 2024-15 announcing that 2023 statewide crash data is now available. This information can be accessed by logging into "IDOT's Safety Portal" via this [link](#). If you are a first-time user, a new account must be created as described in the circular letter.

Proposed 2025 Budget Released by Pace Bus

On September 18th, Pace released its proposed 2025 budget at its Board of Directors' meeting. The budget spells out the coming year's plan for operating costs and capital investments. Highlights of the 2025 budget include a replete capital program and fully funded operational budgets for both fixed route and paratransit services, with no fare increases or reductions in service. The public will have the opportunity learn about and comment on the budget starting on October 17th, 2024, when Pace will hold a series of in-person and virtual public hearings to present its proposed 2025 Operating Budget, 2026-2027 Two-Year Financial Plan, and 2025-2029 Five-Year Capital Program. More information can be found on the [Pace Bus website](#).

B. CMAP Call for Projects Overview

Heidi Lichtenberger of KKCOM delivered the overview. She mentioned that every other year CMAP hosts a call for projects for their CMAQ, TAP-L, and STP-Shared Fund. STP-L is during even years, and CMAQ, TAP, and STP-Shared Fund are during odd years. She mentioned that she wanted to give information about what types of projects can be applied for. Heidi emphasized that one of the scoring criteria is project readiness, and that while cities/towns that are considering applying may not be ready now, if they start planning they may be ready in a couple of years when this call for projects comes around again. All of the funding types require a 20% local match. Of the funding types, TAP-L seems the most applicable to member of this committee. She asked committee members to contact KKCOM with any questions about this funding type.

C. Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator Update

Gretchen Klock gave the update.

i. **2023 Kane County Bicycle & Pedestrian Plan:**

Gretchen mentioned that the 2023 Kane County Bike/Plan was passed last year, and is currently in the process of being reviewed and updated to make sure that all the maps and tables are accurate. No changes to the proposed facilities or other content will be made, but inconsistencies in the mapping will be addressed.

ii. **Kane County Safety Action Plan:**

Kane County, along with other collar counties, is developing a Safety Action Plan funded through a federal Safe Streets and Roads for All (SS4A) grant through CMAP. This project started earlier this year and is currently entering the stage of identifying a high injury network and finalizing the crash data/safety analysis which includes identifying factors causing crashes. Efforts are being made to identify not only urban but rural areas and crash related issues. The goal of the project is to address road safety and reduce fatalities and serious injuries to zero. Bicyclist and pedestrian safety are included and are identified as emphasis areas along with speeding, distracted driving, and other crash circumstances. The project is expected to conclude in spring or summer 2025.

iii. **Kane Bicycle & Pedestrian Resources:**

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

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

Gretchen also mentioned that maps and map order forms were available at the check-in desk. The current map is as of 2023.

iv. **Kane County Bicycle and Pedestrian Web App:**

Kane County maintains an interactive Bicycle and Pedestrian Web Map to supplement the 2023 Kane County Bike Plan. The web app was created a number of years ago and can be accessed directly from the KDOT homepage. This online application allows users to explore trails, paths, and on-street bike facilities in Kane and Northern Kendall Counties. The web app displays local &

regional trails, implementation status, trail surface type, forest preserves, bike shops, and level of traffic stress on major roads. Additionally, there is a tab for users to report issues using the Forest Preserve District of Kane County's Kane Forest Notify app, or by contacting the Bike/Ped Coordinator.

The data in these maps is continuously updated by the Bike/Ped Coordinator. Currently, a new layer showing trail closures and detours is in the process of development. Maintaining this layer will require coordination between the Bike/Ped Coordinator, municipalities, forest preserve districts, and park districts to report trail closure and detour information and keep the map up to date. A presentation of the current status of the map will be given. Any feedback regarding the map's usability is greatly appreciated. Gretchen also mentioned that the newest layer of the web app is the trail closures layer. However, keeping the layer up to date requires coordination among all the cities and towns that are doing work on the trails. Since Gretchen is the point of contact, she said to make sure that if a press release from a city/town is sent out, to make sure that she is notified. Jackie Forbes agreed saying that updating trail closure information depends on the efforts of everyone. Trail surface type information is also available on the web app. Gretchen went on to explain the level of traffic stress layer, and that it is for informational purposes only – i.e., it is not intended to be seen as recommendations. Gretchen also showed attendees how to make a request for maintenance on the web app.

v. Regional Trail Signage

Gretchen mentioned that signage was brought to her attention by the City of Aurora's bike/ped/transit commission who are interested in collaboration for regionwide trail signs such as trail courtesy signs to address trail etiquette as well as to deal with e-bikes speeding through the trails. This is an early stage idea, and is expected to be addressed at subsequent meetings.

III. Announcements/Updates

A. Director Updates

Chair Haberthur gave the update. He mentioned that speed signs were recently installed for e-bikes both in Carpentersville and Sugar Grove. The signs are static, and are run by the Public Safety Department of the Forest Preserve. He also mentioned that there was a small controversy with local mountain biking. Specifically, at Fabyan East there are some sensitive ecological areas, and we did a significant amount of brush clearing, which opened up the area and unauthorized trails increased. FPDKC stopped bikers from biking in that area of the Forest Preserve. In the Geneva area FPDKC are trying to develop a path with waste management on the Settler's Hill landfill, but there's no guarantee. Finally, on the November 5th ballot, for FPDKC land acquisition and preserve improvement plan, it is proposed to increase the property tax from 1.5% to 1.9%. Jennifer Rooks-Lopez mentioned that for the next three years, the Forest Preserve District will be working on the Fox River Trail along the west bank of the Fox River from South Elgin to the Jon Duerr Forest Preserve. Shoreline stabilization, retaining walls, and asphalt resurfacing are among things to be done. Jennifer also mentioned that Big Rock Forest Preserve was awarded RTP funding for trail restoration,

and Fitchie Creek was also awarded RTP funding for trail restoration and drainage improvements. Chair Haberthur mentioned that for the UP Railroad and the expansion east at LeRoy Oaks, UP Railroad is not returning calls at the moment. Condemnation proceedings began two years ago, but things are convoluted because the railroad is federally regulated. There needs to be an opportunity for the original owner or the heirs of the original owner to repossess the land. After the St. Charles mayoral race, Chair Haberthur believes movement on this issue will begin again. As of right now, the issue is held up in litigation. Jeff Palmquist of Fox Valley Park District mentioned that they are in the planning stages of a bike/ped bridge over the Fox River in North Aurora/Batavia. He mentioned that this will provide a good connection between two north-south regional trails. Currently, the consultant is undertaking environmental due diligence. A public involvement of this plan will happen in the spring of 2025, and construction is anticipated in the late summer/early fall of 2026. A conservative total project cost estimate is around \$5 million, with construction costs accounting for around \$3 million. They are now “shopping” for grant funding. Through Congressman Foster, FVPD became aware of the Community Project Funding Program which is through Housing and Urban Development.

B. Public/Local Agency Updates

Scott Nadeau of the Sugar Grove Park District mentioned that Sugar Grove is partnered with the forest preserve to construct a bridge connecting a Park District park as well as a neighborhood to Gilman Trail. However, this was delayed due to a manufacturing delay on the bridge structure. Construction will convene again in early to late spring 2025, and is expected to open in the late summer of 2025. A member mentioned that Elgin is currently working on a public action plan and also released an RFP for an active mobility plan. The city is also working with consultants to decide on replacement bridges for two Fox River crossings – the Chicago St Bridge and the Kimball St Bridge. Roopa of Aurora mentioned that Aurora is updating its bicycle/pedestrian plan, and the goal is to adopt the plan early in 2025. Jackie Forbes of KDOT mentioned that Longmeadow Pkwy corridor is open. As a result, there are some connections to trails in that area such as to IL-31 and Fox River Trail. There was also a ribbon cutting for the Dauberman Rd extension that now goes over US-30 and the railroad track. Included in the project is a multi-use path that connects to the Big Rock Forest Preserve. Jackie also mentioned that KDOT is also doing a multimodal phase 1 project on Randall Rd from about US-20 north to the county boundary. KDOT is looking at where they would install a multiuse path along Randall Rd.

IV. Next Meeting – Spring 2025

V. Adjournment - Ben Haberthur adjourned the meeting at 3:14 p.m.