

**Community:** Colfax

**Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator:** Leslie Berckes

**Date and Time:** June 28, 2016; 3:00pm

**Meeting Length:** 1 hr

**Location:** Colfax Park Office

**Transportation Meeting**

**Number of committee members in attendance:** 7

**Visioning Committee Members Attending:** Pete Parvi, Linda Darrock, Don Edwards, Jeff Davidson, Doug Garrett, Dave Mast, Kim Seebeck

**Other Attendees:** Jerry Ratcliff (Jasper County Conservation), Mike Clayton (Iowa DOT), Andrew Collings (Central Iowa Regional Transportation Planning), Shelia Navis (Iowa Heartland RC&D) Leslie Berckes (Trees Forever), Bruce Niedermyer and Sara Davids (RDG)

## **Summary:**

The Transportation meeting started with welcome and introductions. The DOT District 1 Transportation Planner, Mike Clayton, Jasper County Conservation, Jerry Ratcliff, Regional Planning Office, Andrew Collings, and Iowa Heartland RC&D, Shelia Navis were present to update the group on various transportation issues. Several committee members were present for the meeting as well. Leslie updated the group on the Community Visioning process to date and the assessments that the community had completed

A list of potential community projects were presented to the group and were used as a starting point for discussion. The following list was used as a base point for transportation discussion and if they presented any particular issues in Colfax that should be brought to light before design work began:

### Natural Features

- Native plant remnants
- Native plant restorations
- Other sensitive natural areas – wellheads, known habitat areas, etc.
- Water – drainage areas, retention areas
- Where snow drifts occur

### Cultural Features

- Existing or proposed trails
- Special road use designations – heritage byway, scenic byway, etc.
- Sign ordinances
- Amenities such as roadside parks and interpretive signs

### Management and Maintenance

- Safety issues – accident area, priorities for clear zones, etc.
- Style of management – IRVM or other?
- Current and Future issues in maintenance for the area – trail?

### Big Changes

- Change in road alignments
- Borrow areas
- R-O-W boundaries
- Backfill/altered soils

## Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

Much of the conversation revolved around creating a safe, walkable, and inviting entrance to town along Hwy 117. Mike indicated that the committee and designers should keep District 1 in the loop regarding significant changes to make sure they will be DOT approved. Specific issues that were discussed, and that Mike will check into:

- The bridge over the Skunk River – several people in the community talked about the small pedestrian bridge over and that it is not wide enough for multiple people. Mike is going to check when or if that bridge will be replaced.
- Highway 117 and F48 – Traffic traveling southbound on Hwy 117 does not have to stop because of the hill. People will often stop anyway or someone at the other stop signs thinks this is a four way stop. The stop creates confusion and potential safety issues. DOT will check if signage can be changed.

Mike also let the community know that I80 is currently be studied for traffic volumes and in the future I80 may become six lanes.

The committee also asked about trail connections to Prairie City and to Mingo or Valeria. Right now, the committee is wondering about a trail off the shoulder of Hwy 117 or a paved one in the ROW. Both are options and ones that the DOT and Jasper County Conservation would be involved with implementing. Currently, Jasper County Conservation does not have any trail plans that would involve Colfax.

Andrew Collings from the regional planning office discussed funding that would be available to Colfax. Since Colfax's population is under 3,000, they are not a "member" of the regional planning office and they would have to go through Jasper County to apply for any TAP or STP funds. Funds are available for things such as beatification, trails, road improvements, bridges, etc. and funding for one of Colfax's Community Visioning projects could come from this pool of money.

At the end of the meeting Leslie let the group know that the information gathered would be used for the upcoming meetings, including the Goal Setting meeting. Any questions that come up during the design process can be directed to the transportation officials present.

**Community:** Colfax

**Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator:** Leslie Berckes

**Date and Time:** June 28, 2016; 6:30pm

**Meeting Length:** 1 hr

**Location:** Colfax Park Office

**Goal Setting Meeting**

**Number of committee members in attendance:** 8

**Visioning Committee Members Attending:** Brad Magg, Pete Parvi, Linda Darrock, Travis Cook, Jeff Davidson, Doug Garrett, Dave Mast, Kim Seebeck  
Leslie Berckes (Trees Forever), Bruce Niedermeyer and Sara Davids (RDG)

## **Summary:**

The Steering Committee met on June 28th to select the projects that the designers from RDG will create designs around. The meeting started with a brief review of the assessment boards from the Transportation Assets and Barriers and the Transportation Survey and a discussion of the Transportation Meeting held earlier in the day. At the Transportation Meeting, the committee learned about future plans for road improvements from the transportation officials; committee members who were present at the Transportation meeting gave an update at the Goals Setting meeting.

Much of the assessment data supported Colfax's assumptions about what needed to be improved or addressed in the community especially as it related to Hwy 117. This project was first on the list of potential projects for Bruce to design. After that, the committee continued to generate a list of potential projects. When Bruce and Sara reviewed the projects, they determined that many of them could be combined or that they fed into one another. For this reason, all projects that were listed were selected. Results of the process are as follows with vote counts listed. The committee still voted on the projects so that Bruce and Sara could get a sense of priority.

## **All projects to be designed**

- Entrance signage/Wayfind at Hwy 117 and F48 (4 votes)
- Hwy 117 Improvements (3 votes)
  - Traffic flow
  - Lighting
  - Park Access (Quarry Springs)
  - Bike Lane
  - Beautification
- Safe routes to school/recreational trail loops + crosswalk on F48 (1 vote)
- Downtown Improvements (4 votes)
  - Complete streets
  - Pedestrian safety

At the end of the meeting, Leslie discussed the next meeting which will be the Design Workshop. The day will start off with a community tour with some committee members attending. During the design workshop, the design team will spend a majority of the day designing in Colfax. Committee and community members are free to come throughout the day to give feedback on the designs. At the end of the day, a public presentation of

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the designs will be presented to the community. The community tour and design workshop will be held on July 11<sup>th</sup>. Doug is checking to see if the library is available. Dave is checking with his church for use of the 15 passenger van and if the pastor can drive.

### Upcoming Meetings

- Community Tour (Committee members who can attend are more than welcome, but not everyone needs to be there) – **July 11 from 10:30-11:30am**
  - Community Design Workshop (All from community invited. Press release will be sent) – **July 11 from 1:00pm to 7:00pm (presentation from 6:30-7:00pm)**
  - Preliminary Review of Designs (Just committee members to attend. This is where the committee will get a sneak peek as the final designs and can give input) – **TBD**
  - Public Presentation of Designs (Entire community invited to attend. Committee members should be there so that they can discuss the designs with community members) – **TBD**
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