

# Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

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**Community: Monona**  
**Minutes by Trees Forever Field Coordinator: Emily Swihart**  
**Date and Time: April 28, 2016; 5:00pm**  
**Event Length: 1.5 hour**  
**Location: Monona Community Center**  
**Meeting Number and Title: 6; Inventory Review Meeting**

**Number of committee members in attendance: 12**

**Names of committee members in attendance:** -- Rogeta Halvorson (primary contact), Kerrill Schmidt, Craig Schmidt, Jim Langhus, Connie Halvorson, Gary Passmore, Fran Passmore, Dan Canton, Barb Collins, Shirley Seitz, Pam Malanaphy, Pat Malanaphy, Emily Swihart (Trees Forever), Patty Reisinger (Trees Forever)

## **Meeting Summary:**

Swihart welcomed everyone and thanked Fran for providing yummy cookies to help keep everyone's blood sugar elevated throughout the meeting. Swihart briefly spoke with the committee about plans made to transition facilitation responsibilities to Patty Reisinger in June as Swihart nears the end of her pregnancy and throughout maternity leave. Reisinger and Swihart have been and will continue to be in contact regarding Monona's Community Visioning process. Reisinger was present at the meeting and will continue to attend meetings until taking over facilitation in June. Reisinger introduced herself to the committee, recalling the last Community Visioning process Monona participated in where Reisinger was the lead facilitator. Reisinger is enthusiastic about having the opportunity to work with the community again.

Swihart continued the meeting with an overview of the evening's goals. As the committee transitions from the information gathering phase of the process to the design phase of the process, the purpose of the Inventory Review Meeting is to begin thinking about all the information gathered during the Transportation Assets and Barriers Focus Group Event (TAB), the Bioregional Assessment exercise and the Transportation Partners meetings in preparation for goal setting. Display boards containing information gleaned from the TAB and from Bioregional Assessment were present. Swihart asked the committee to spend twenty minutes looking through the resources, identifying trends and preparing to converse as a group about what the community has expressed as Monona's transportation strengths, challenges, and improvement desires. Swihart and Reisinger were available to help interpret the documents and answer questions.

Swihart called the committee back together and asked the committee to share their observations. The committee inquired about setting goals tonight and Swihart reminded the committee that the exercise was in preparation for goal setting which will occur on June 17. Below are highlights from the review:

- Trails and sidewalks are desired for year round use, safety, some areas need improved condition and need to accommodate all non-motorized transportation and ability; Safe and easy routes to the school and accessibility in the downtown

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- area were highlighted as examples; a trail around the community was identified as a way to connect many community members and destinations
- Wayfinding signage is needed to help direct traffic to destinations, needs to be sturdy and especially related to school and business destinations
  - Vegetation throughout the community; Monona is the “Garden City of Iowa”; windbreaks and plant material along the paths were cited as examples of desired enhancements
  - Downtown enhancements including lighting, greenery/trees, accessibility for all abilities and year round are desired
  - Enhancements to outdoor recreation opportunities and venues including City Park, Gateway Park and other existing public green spaces

After a lively and thoughtful discussion of emerging themes, the committee reminded each other that the overall goal of the process and community is to develop ways to attract folks to live, work, and play in Monona. This may result in a new paradigm of what businesses are in the community, what downtown looks like, or what small town life is like for residents and community visitors.

Swihart asked the committee to consider who and how this information will be presented to the landscape architecture team in June. The committee will want to revisit this discussion prior to setting goals; Swihart will help the committee prepare for this presentation at the May meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30.

**Next meeting:**

**May 26, 2016, 5:00 pm at Monona Library**