

**Community:** Stuart

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

**Date and Time:** June 21, 2016; 2:00pm

**Meeting Length:** 1 hr

**Location:** Stuart City Hall

**Transportation Meeting**

**Number of committee members in attendance:** 4

**Visioning Committee Members Attending:** Mike Morgan, Lynsi Pasutti, Matt Funk, Jenyse Belden

**Other Attendees:** Nick Kauffman (Adair County), Josh Sebern (Guthrie County), Scott Suhr (Iowa DOT)  
Leslie Berckes (Trees Forever), Amber Gable and Hannah Schmitz (Bolton and Menk)

## Summary:

The Transportation meeting started with welcome and introductions. The DOT District 4 Transportation Planner, Scott Suhr, Guthrie County engineer, Josh Sebern, and Adair County engineer, Nick Kauffman 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 Stuart 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 heavy truck traffic in Stuart from the ethanol plant. Trucks traveling to or from I80 use P28 and county road 925 (White Pole Road) causing them to travel right through the middle of town. This traffic creates pedestrian safety issues and road deterioration. The committee and transportation officials discussed a number of different options including designation an alternative truck route, designating a new farm to market road, or using street calming devices along the existing route that would make trucks want to avoid going through the community. More specific information is as follows.

## Discussion of Current/Upcoming Projects on County and State Level

- Guthrie County is working on paving all trail crossings that go over gravel roads. There are no projects, trail crossing or otherwise, that will impact Stuart
- There are no major projects in Adair County that would impact Stuart.
- Iowa DOT is currently working on an I-80 planning study. Public can access and comment here: <http://www.iowadot.gov/interstatestudy/>
  - There are no specific projects planned by the Iowa DOT that would affect Stuart.

## Features to Discuss

- Safety
  - There is a high level of foot traffic between gas stations, restaurants, and hotels on South Division Street right off of I80.
  - Several incidents have occurred where cars ran through the stop sign near the intersection of Front St. and North Division Street
  - Traffic coming from the East along White Pole Road into town does not always acknowledge speed change, resulting in high speed traffic near residential areas
    - The committee and transportation officials discussed doing a speed study and the community can request to have this done.
  - Truck traffic on Front Street and South Division Street make it unsafe for children to ride their bikes or walk to various destinations throughout town

## Discussion of Proposed Projects

- Alternate truck route to reduce traffic through town.
  - There was discussion about creating an alternative route for truck traffic that would see trucks avoiding the route through Stuart. This did not seem feasible to the transportation officials.
  - The committee discussed if a new alternative route could be create that could be added as a Farm to Market road?
    - Counties can only have a certain number of farm to market roads. If a new one is designated, one has to be removed.
    - Farm to market funding is not currently available for Guthrie county and will not be available for a while
- The committee talked about adding an underpass along White Pole Road so that people could more safely reach the north and south ends of town. Discussion of this underpass near the sports complex.
- The committee learned that P28 and White Pole Road are eligible for federal funds because of their classification. Additionally, once inside city limits, each county road falls under city jurisdiction, so the city can make decisions as they see fit.
- Consider Scenic Byway designation for White Pole Road

## Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

- Contact Mary Stalhut – Byways program Manager. Based in Ames. 515.239.1369
- More information here: <http://www.iowadot.gov/iowasbyways/designations.html>
- TEAP study would help understand if traffic signals could be installed.
- Focus on Traffic Calming Measures to alleviate stressful truck/car/pedestrian conflicts
  - Tree & Native Prairie Plantings
  - Bump-outs
  - Reduce perceived width of road to slow traffic.

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.

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**Community:** Stuart

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

**Date and Time:** June 23, 2016; 5:30pm

**Meeting Length:** 1 hr

**Location:** Stuart City Hall

**Goal Setting Meeting**

**Number of committee members in attendance:** 6

**Visioning Committee Members Attending:** Mike Morgan, Lynsi Pasutti, Matt Funk, Jenyse Belden, Kristen Renslow, Erin Hunsaker  
Leslie Berckes (Trees Forever), Amber Gable, Casey Byers, and Hannah Schmitz (Bolton and Menk)

## **Summary:**

The Steering Committee met on June 23rd to select the projects that the designers from Bolton and Menk will create designs around. The meeting started with a brief review of the assessment boards from the Transportation Assets and Barriers and a discussion of the Transportation Meeting held earlier in the week. 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 basically informing the committee that no state or county transportation issues would influence Visioning projects.

Much of the assessment data supported Stuart's assumptions about what needed to be improved or addressed in the community especially as it related to pedestrian safety along White Pole Road and South Division Street. Casey and Amber asked the committee to generate a list of potential projects. Project ideas were listed and when brainstorming was complete, the designers from Bolton and Menk began to combine ideas that fit under the same category. The designers will be able to focus on all projects, but they did ask the committee to vote so that they would know priority. Based on what the committee deemed a priority, the designers will spend more time on those projects. Results of the process are as follows with vote counts listed.

## Initial brainstorming ideas

- Site Furnishings
- Children's gardens
- Recreational field parking
- ROW plantings
- Directional signage
- Park and trees in new developments
- Safe routes to school
- Traffic calming throughout town
- Entrance features – identity and branding
- Beautification
  - Landscaping
  - Art
- Pocket Parks
- Family spaces

## Iowa's Living Roadways Community Visioning 2016

- Lighting
- Safe pedestrian crossings on major roads

Projects the designers will work on plus votes

- Parks and Plantings (2 votes)
- Wayfinding/Identity (4 votes)
- Traffic Calming/Streetscape (3 votes)
- Pedestrian Amenities/Safe Routes (6 votes)

### Upcoming Meetings

- Community Tour (Committee members who can attend are more than welcome, but not everyone needs to be there) – **July 7 from 12:30-1:30pm**
  - Community Design Workshop (All from community invited. Press release will be sent) – **July 7 from 2:00pm to 6:00pm (presentation from 6:00-7:00pm – informal presentations given)**
  - Preliminary Review of Designs (Just committee members to attend. This is where the committee will get a sneak peek at 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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