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**GREEN RIVER AREA DEVELOPMENT DISTRICT  
REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE**

July 19, 2011

M-I-N-U-T-E-S

The Green River Area Development District (GRADD) Regional Transportation Committee (RTC) met on Tuesday, July 19, 2011, at 9:00 a.m. The meeting was held at the GRADD office in Owensboro, KY. It was determined that a quorum was present with the following persons in attendance:

MEMBERS PRESENT

Jody Wassmer, Greater Owensboro Chamber of Commerce, Chairman  
Steve Austin, Mayor, City of Henderson  
(Rep. by Doug Boom)  
Al Mattingly, Daviess County Judge/Executive  
(Rep. by Jim Lambert)  
Jim Townsend, Webster County Judge/Executive  
(Rep. by Linda Wilson)  
Gary Noffsinger, Owensboro Metropolitan Planning Commission  
(Rep. by Brian Howard)  
Edna Rice, Citizen Representative  
Donnie Mayton, Biking Greenway  
Dan Lanham, Director, Green River Intra-Transit System (GRITS)  
Ed Riney, Director, Owensboro Riverport Authority  
Kim Humphrey, Union County First – Industrial Authority  
Sammy Vinroe, Union County Schools Transportation  
Captain Bob Shoultz, Kentucky State Police – Post 16  
(Rep. by Trooper Corey King)  
Melvin Smith, Minority Representative

MEMBERS ABSENT

Jack McCaslin, Hancock County Judge/Executive  
Jody Jenkins, Union County Judge/Executive  
Kelly Thurman, McLean County Judge/Executive  
Hugh McCormick, Henderson County Judge/Executive

Bill Markwell, *Chairman* ■ Mary Pate, *Vice Chairperson* ■ Jody Jenkins, *Secretary* ■ Bill Parrish, *Treasurer* ■ Jiten Shah, *Executive Director*

Green River Area Development District ■ 3860 U.S.Highway 60 West ■ Owensboro, Kentucky 42301-0200  
(270) 926-4433 ■ Fax (270) 684-0714 ■ [www.gradd.com](http://www.gradd.com) ■ TDD Users: 1-800-648-6056  
Serving the Municipal and County Governments of Daviess ■ Hancock ■ Henderson ■ McLean ■ Ohio ■ Union ■ Webster



David Johnston, Ohio County Judge/Executive  
Ron Payne, Mayor, City of Owensboro  
Doug Wells, Community Based Services  
Kevin McClearn, Kentucky Transportation Cabinet (KYTC), District 2  
Bob Whitmer, Owensboro-Daviess County Regional Airport  
Karen Miller, Owensboro Tourist Commission, Executive Director  
Jimmy VanCleve, Area 3 Training Center – Public Safety Agencies

GUESTS AND STAFF PRESENT

Dr. Bob Darrell, Chairman, Bicycle Owensboro  
Dr. Patricia McKeegan, Co-Chair, Communications Task Force, Bicycle Owensboro  
Tony Parks, Visitor  
Logan Parks, Student  
Jiten Shah, Executive Director, GRADD  
Gina Boaz, Regional Transportation Planner, GRADD  
Jennifer Wedding, Transportation Planner, GRADD  
Paula Snyder, Support Services Technician, GRADD

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jody Wassmer called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m., and welcomed those present.

II. CONSIDERATION OF MINUTES

Chairman Wassmer asked for a motion to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2011, meeting of the GRADD Regional Transportation Committee.

A motion was made by Edna Rice and seconded by Melvin Smith to approve the minutes of the May 17, 2011, Regional Transportation Committee meeting. A vote was taken and the motion carried.

III. OLD BUSINESS

A. Unscheduled Projects List (UPL) Prioritization

Gina Boaz presented the committee with the finalized rankings of the 21 projects prioritized at the last meeting. She stated the number one project is the reconstruction of the Highway 60 westbound lanes from Hawesville to Lewisport. She reported the cost of the project would be \$23.5 million. Additionally, she reported there is \$1 million in the bi-annual Six-Year Highway Plan.

Chairman Wassmer commented on the driving hazards on the westbound lanes from Hawesville to Lewisport, and asked if it would be advisable for the committee to send a letter to Representative Dwight Butler and Senator Carroll Gibson reaffirming the need for this project, and

report it as the number one project on the GRADD UPL. Jiten Shah said he recommended sending a letter to all GRADD legislators as to what is the top project in their district, so when they have meetings with the KYTC those projects will be ready topics. Gina Boaz confirmed the RTC sends this information to them and that they receive all the mail outs. She said GRADD's state and US representatives receive the mail out information packets as well; however, letters will be sent from the committee to reaffirm the need, since there can never be too much communication.

#### IV. NEW BUSINESS

##### A. Bicycle Owensboro

Chairman Wassmer introduced Dr. Bob Darrell of Bicycle Owensboro stating that through their efforts the city added "Share the Road" signage and "Sharrows" across town. Dr. Darrell gave a brief history of Bicycle Owensboro, and stated their main interest is bicycle safety. They offer education on bike safety in schools, private organizations, and to anyone willing to learn. Dr. Darrell said the main problem is teaching the automobile driver the importance of bicycle laws, safety, and making them aware of the growing number of cyclists on the road.

Dr. Darrell stated Bicycle Owensboro is again working with the city on extending the bicycle lanes on two streets; one east/west and one north/south connecting the Greenbelt to the river. He said he anticipates phase two being completed by late this summer or early spring 2012.

Dr. Darrell invited the committee to become members. He stated there isn't a fee, and it's open to all form of cyclists, and all ages.

Chairman Wassmer introduced Dr. Patricia McKeegan to the committee. Dr. McKeegan leads a bicycle group on Tuesday evenings starting at GRITS. She creates the Bicycle Owensboro Bulletin, which gives upcoming events, and helpful information on cycling. Dr. McKeegan brought examples of the bulletin and brochures for the committee. She gave a brief overview of what the Owensboro Pedicab is, and informed the committee it is available to ride downtown on Friday and Saturday nights.

Dr. McKeegan said Bicycle Owensboro visits several of the area schools educating the students on bicycle safety, and holding Bike Safety Rodeos. She stated the rodeos help children practice bicycle safety. Bicycle Owensboro provides bicycle helmets for the children to keep, because they do not want anyone riding without a helmet.

Chairman Wassmer introduced committee member Donnie Mayton, Co-Chair of Technical Development and Planning for Bicycle Owensboro. Mr. Mayton asked the committee to view the bicycle map provided. He said through his bicycle tours, he takes the lessons and examples he's learned and applies them here to improve safety and possible new routes. He said their plan for Owensboro and Daviess County is for everyone to have a safe route to access the Greenbelt, because once on there, it is possible to go almost anywhere in town. To accomplish this, several streets will need on-street bike routes, and areas of the Greenbelt will need short extensions. He informed the committee that Daviess County has collaborated with them on part of this plan as well. There was much discussion on bicycle safety issues as well as what can be done to help the community become more aware.

Jim Lambert informed the committee Daviess County is currently exploring opportunities to extend the Greenbelt section that belongs to the county from Horse Fork Trail to the Highway 54 area. He anticipates eventually gaining access to the new hospital, Yellow Creek Park, and Whitesville. While he understands some of the property involved is privately owned he feels it is a possibility.

B. GRITS Transportation Bike Rental Program

Dan Lanham gave an overview of the Bike Rental Program and the brochure he provided for the committee. He said GRITS was able to have this program due to a mini grant obtained by Owensboro Medical Health System (OMHS). They were able to purchase eight “cruiser” bicycles and two tandem bikes. The price for rentals is \$2.00 for the whole day, and free on Tuesday evenings when riding with Dr. McKeegan. Mr. Lanham said he hopes when the downtown area is completed there will be more interest.

Jiten Shah inquired about the possibility of GRADD coordinating with GRITS on a way to make bikes available at GRADD so people can park and ride bikes along the Greenbelt. Dan Lanham replied it would be a great opportunity, and would like to meet again regarding the rental obligations and obtaining funding for bikes from OMHS.

Chairman Wassmer asked Trooper Corey King what problems he has encountered with cyclist. Trooper King said there are different Kentucky Revised Statutes (KRS) for the cyclist and motorist, and even though they are regarded as much the same on the road, the laws are not the same. Dr. Bob Darrell stated Owensboro Bicycle would be pleased to meet with the Owensboro Police Department and the local Kentucky State Police Post to review the rules for cyclists. Donnie Mayton said they could provide cards with the rules of the road for bicyclists for officers to hand out when they see a person riding unsafely.

Chairman Wassmer recognized visiting student Logan Parks. He reported to the committee that Mr. Parks is very interested in bicycle safety, especially the importance of wearing a helmet, since his biking accident. Mr. Parks has worked as a page for Representative Tommy Thompson and has been actively working with him on a bill regarding helmet regulations.

C. Regional Transportation Concept Plan (RTCP)

Gina Boaz reported the Regional Transportation Concept Plan is distributed every year, and due to its size she has made available the link to locate the plan on the GRADD Regional Transportation website page. She stated she would also make a CD of the plan for any committee member if needed. Ms. Boaz said the RTCP has segments on highways, rivers, rail, air, bikeways, and public transportation. Additionally, there are sections for all the transportation planning tools, resources, and maps.

V. UPDATES

A. Highway District Office Update

No one was present from the KYTC District Office.

B. Other Updates

None.

VI. OTHER ITEMS

A. Public Comments

None.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Ed Riney reported the Kentucky Transportation Center (KTC) has recently collaborated with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) on researching the importance of the transportation waterways and their impact on the economy. Mr. Riney suggested the committee invite director Joe Crabtree or a representative to explain the aspects of the research and its role for the Henderson and Owensboro areas. Chairman Wassmer agreed and asked Gina Boaz to see to the possibility of setting up a guest speaker for a future meeting.

Chairman Wassmer informed the committee the next meeting is scheduled for September 20, 2011, and it will be held at GRADD in the boardroom.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 10:40 a.m.

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