

Mississippi River Trail Community Engagement Meeting

Learn how your community's businesses and residents can participate in and benefit from improvements coming to the Mississippi River Trail (MRT) bicycle route.

Winona	Monday, Oct. 24 3:30-5:30 pm	Tandeski Center 1200 Storr's Pond Road Winona, MN 55987 Directions
Grand Rapids	Tuesday, Oct. 25 3:30-5:30 pm	Blandin Foundation 100 North Pokegama Avenue Grand Rapids, MN 55744 Directions
St. Cloud	Wednesday, Oct. 26 3:30-5:30 pm	St. Cloud Public Library Rm. 106 1300 W St Germain St St Cloud, MN 56301 Directions
Twin Cities	Tuesday, Nov. 1 3:30-5:30 pm	Bonestroo/Stantec Inc. 2335 West Highway 36 St. Paul, MN 55113 Directions



WHAT IS THE Mississippi River Trail (MRT)? The **Mississippi River Trail** is an exciting bicycle route that follows America's premier river, from its headwaters in Itasca State Park to the Gulf of Mexico offering a unique north-south transect of the United States to adventurous bicyclists. Although the majority of the MRT is routed on relatively low use roads and road shoulders, imbedded throughout are significant off-road trail opportunities to delight almost any bicyclist.

MEETING GOALS.

- Provide a progress update and lay out plans for future MRT improvements within Minnesota;
- Demonstrate ways to realize the MRT's potential to attract new visitors and local economic activity;
- Assess community support for a series of "MRT Discovery Rides" in the Spring (2012) for each of the six segments of the river;
- Invite additional considerations for local bicyclists and long-distance travelers, and;
- Describe attributes and consider/identify/select the six Hub Cities, additional Host Cities and two Gateway Cities.



MRT's Six River Segments

WHO SHOULD ATTEND? Business owners, convention & visitors bureaus (CVBs) and tourism industry representatives, chamber of commerce members, local public officials, community leaders, public health providers, bicycle advocates, Great River Road devotees and just about anyone curious about this great new tourism attraction happening "right here in River City!"

FUNDING AND SUPPORT OPPORTUNITIES. Six cities will directly benefit from consultation with tourism marketing expert Steve Markuson (former Director of Explore MN Tourism) and planning assistance from the [Minnesota Bicycle Alliance](#) to make each community more "bicycle friendly." Limited funding is also available to assist six MRT Discovery Rides in the spring of 2012. Finally, funding to erect permanent community information kiosks that features the MRT and other local points of interest has been secured for the six MRT Hub Cities.

Make sure your community is represented at this important meeting.

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More Mississippi River Trail bikeway information: <http://www.dot.state.mn.us/bike/mrt.html>

