



Pottawattamie County Trails Association

Brian Shey, from the Pottawattamie County Trails Association, spoke to the Treynor Optimist Club on March 14. He is also the Mayor of Crescent.

About five years ago a group of 65 people met in Council Bluffs to discuss biking trails. The next meeting they had 20 people and the next they had 5. Since no action was being accomplished, they formed the Association. They drew up a propose trail map and the Pottawattamie County Board approved it.

The Association has applied for a lot of grants and currently has \$2.6M. Each mile of trails costs \$250,000 to \$400,000 because they prefer cement trails so they last. The minimum width now is 8 feet, but they prefer 10 feet.

Council Bluffs will pay for a trail on Highway 6 to the North border of the city. Iowa DOT is supplying funding to get bicycles off the roads. Over \$6B is spent in the country on trails each year.

Iowa has made a commitment to be first in the nation in trails. Des Moines has a lot of trails. Pottawattamie County would like to connect to the trails in Atlantic.

The purpose of bicycle and walking trails is to allow people to get more exercise and to help provide economic development in small towns. Mineola has a bar that mainly serves bikers. They typically have 1000-1500 people per night.

The Wabash Trail uses mainly volunteers to maintain the trail. They hire a few people each summer to help.