

MINUTES OF MEETING

Subject: Community Trails Initiative Meeting

Public Meeting Date: March 2, 2010 – 6:00 P.M.

Place: Millvale Community Center

Attendees: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

Discussion - Action Items are shown as (A)

- Darla Cravotta (AC) started off the meeting by thanking all the people for attending and stated the purpose of the meeting was to inform the general public about the purpose and scope of the project and to review project progress. Darla introduced McTish, Kunkel & Associates as the consultant who was selected to prepare the feasibility study for the Allegheny Valley Community Trails Initiative. Darla explained that the Allegheny Valley Community Trail will provide a missing link to the Pittsburgh to Erie Trail, Pittsburgh to Harrisburg, and Mainline Canal Greenway and Three Rivers Heritage Trail.
- Hannah Hardy (PEC) gave a brief overview of the project and provided information on funding and partners.
- Jack Porter (MKA) discussed the process for developing the feasibility study. Jack explained that MKA has met or spoken to municipal representatives from all the 17 involved municipalities to gain local knowledge and develop a trail alignment. Jack explained that MKA has developed a preferred and practical trail alignment based on feedback from the municipalities. The preferred alignment generally follows the riverfront. The practical alignment takes into account challenges and property ownership and follow parallel alignments in some communities.
- Jack stated that the estimated trail length is 27 miles with the estimated affected property owner lengths of:
 - Railroad Property \approx 16 miles
 - Private Property \approx 2 miles
 - Public Right-of-Way \approx 6 miles
 - Existing Trails \approx 3 miles
- Jack explained that any feedback or suggestions from the public meetings will be taken into account for community connections and trail alignments when finalizing the feasibility study for the Allegheny Valley Community Trails Initiative.
- Steve Baird (MKA) presented the project base map on an overhead projector and walked the group through the preferred and practical trail alignments. Steve pointed out various property owners, public railroad crossings, community connections, public parking areas, municipal limits and estimated right-of-way throughout the trail alignments. There was discussion and questions from the audience.
- Public responses are listed below:

- Various individuals expressed an interest in working with the scrap yard under the Highland Park Bridge in Sharpsburg to see about a trail alignment through the property.
- Various individuals commented on providing more public parking for access to the proposed trail and clearly identifying trailheads.
- An individual stated that the set of tracks in Sharpsburg that goes under the Highland Park Bridge and behind the Sharpsburg business district to the township baseball fields has been removed and would be a great location for the alignment of the trail. Instead of locating the alignment along Main Street, the alignment would run up 19th Street to the township baseball fields and connect to the old railroad bed. The alignment will then follow the old railroad bed under Freeport Road and the Highland Park Bridge and continue onto the existing railroad maintenance road that parallels Freeport Road.
- It was noted that there is a federal tax credit in effect for business owners who have employees who use bicycles for transportation to work.
- There was a discussion about rails with trails and what that means. There was also discussion about what different railroads require in terms of distance from the railroad tracks.
- Jack (MKA) thanked all attendees for their interest in the project and for their participation during the meeting. Jack stated that MKA has prepared hard copies of the project plan map and people can come up and provide further municipality feedback regarding the trail alignments.

These minutes have been prepared as accurately as possible. If any revisions or additions are necessary, please notify me in a timely manner.

Minutes Prepared and Submitted by:



Steven D. Baird, E.I.T.
Highway Engineer
McTish, Kunkel & Associates