

MINUTES OF MEETING

Subject: Community Trails Initiative Meeting

Public Meeting Date: March 6, 2010 – 1:00 P.M.

Place: Boyd 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. Darla also introduced the project partners and several other individual / groups that have provided letters and other support for the project.
- 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 follows 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 ≈ 16 miles
 - Private Property ≈ 2 miles
 - Public Right-of-Way ≈ 6 miles
 - Existing Trails ≈ 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:
 - An individual stated there is an existing dirt road that runs through the scrap yard under the Highland Park Bridge in Sharpsburg that could be used for the alignment through the property.
 - An individual was concerned about the available room adjacent to the roadway through Chapel Harbors. The trail may need to be along the road and the road may need to be shared with bicycle traffic. The road has low volume traffic.
 - An individual was concerned with placing the trail along Papercraft Road and 4th Street in Ohara / Blawnox due to the high volume of truck traffic along the roadway and limited roadway width. The individual suggested using 3rd Street instead of 4th Street.
 - Various individuals expressed concerns with the proximity of the trail in regards to the active railroad.
 - An individual suggested for the alignment of the trail to maintain along railroad property for the entire length instead of going through private property.
 - Various individuals stated they currently use the railroad maintenance road as a walking trail.
 - An individual was concerned with how many times the trail uses a public railroad crossing to cross 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