

MINUTES OF MEETING

Subject: Community Trails Initiative Meeting

Public Meeting Date: March 3, 2010 – 6:00 P.M.

Place: Alle-Kiski Museum, Tarentum

Attendees: See Attached Sign-In Sheet

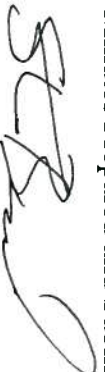
Discussion - Action Items are shown as (A)

- 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 gave a brief overview of the project and provided information on funding for the project. Darla also introduced the project partners and several other individual / groups that have provided letters and other support for the project.
- 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 expressed concerns with the trail located along Karns Road in Harrison Township due to the traffic along Karns Rd. and the limited roadway width.
 - PPG Industries Inc. in East Deer was recently sold and now is PGW (Pittsburgh Glass Works). MKA will investigate the opportunity to put the trail through the property.
 - Various individual expressed concerns with the proximity of the trail in regards to the active railroad.
 - An individual stated that the riverfront property along Allegheny Ludlum in Harrison Twp. would be a great place for the trail because it is already a flat area and is clear. This idea is used for the preferred alignment; the practical alignment bypasses this area. MKA will investigate the opportunity to put the trail along the riverfront in this area.
 - An individual stated the trail alignment through Cheswick should go along the riverfront (where the preferred alignment is) because of the scenery and the connection to the Rachael Carson Trail. The individual also stated that the large commercial business there was recently sold and the new owners maybe in favor of placing the trail along their riverfront property. MKA will investigate the opportunity to put the trail along the riverfront in this area.
 - An individual questioned whether owners will be allowed to walk their pets along the trail.
 - An individual questioned whether restrooms will be provided along the trail.
 - An individual stated that in Springdale Borough along the Cheswick border, there is an abandoned railroad line that can be used to provide a direct connection to the Rachael Carson Trail.
 - An individual expressed concern that the current alignment in East Deer by the East Deer Recreational Facility is proposed to go through the East Deer Sanitary Authority property along the riverfront. The individual stated that in this area, the sanitary authority outlets directly into the river and there is no room and security issues will prevent the trail to be placed in this area.
- 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