Chester Valley Trail West
Feasibility Study and Master Plan

Public Meeting 1
October 17, 2017
Tonight’s agenda

Presentation

• Project overview
• Feasibility study and master plan process
• Report deliverables

Public Input

• Survey
• Where should the trail go?
• What should it connect to?
• What are your hopes for the trail?
• What opportunities do you see that a trail could help bring about?
Why trails?

“Planning as a public act is a political process of translating social values into government policies and programs to protect and enhance the public health, safety and welfare of a community.”
Why trails?

Stakeholder groups

Public Meeting on 10/26!

Outreach events

Photo Contest

Public Survey

We want to hear from YOU on how to create a future that balances growth with preservation to maintain Chester County’s quality of place. You can help with the next comprehensive policy plan: Landscapes3.

MAKE YOUR OPINION COUNT!

Take five to ten minutes to complete the online PUBLIC SURVEY www.ChescoPlanning.org starting May 15

Steering Committee
Why trails?

Acquire, enhance, and manage as essential infrastructure, an integrated network of protected open spaces that are linked together by greenways or trail corridors.

Provide a safe intermodal transportation system, which optimizes mobility and access, sustains quality of life, strengthens the economy and protects the environment.

Support a strong and diverse economy through sustainable development practices, to attract, grow and maintain the quality of life that has made Chester County an attractive place to live and work.

Provide accessible community services and facilities county-wide; and meet the specific human services and public health needs of all county residents.
The many roles trails play

Trail as...

- social scene
- connector of communities
- linear classroom
- bird-watching venue
- connector to nature
- first date location
- transportation network
- peace and quiet!
- commute
- free gym membership
- way to reduce my carbon footprint
- meeting place
- activator of healthy habits
- stress-reliever
- place to learn to ride a bike

Chester Valley Trail WEST
A continuous trail from Harrisburg to Philadelphia
Map courtesy Campbell Thomas & Co.
Chester Valley Trail - Existing

375,000+ annual users
Chester Valley Trail Extension
Enola Low Grade Trail

• 28 mile rail-trail in Lancaster County (20 miles built)

• Last 8 miles are just west of Atglen in Eden, Bart and Sadsbury Twps. and Christiana Borough. In design: construction anticipated 2019-2020.

• Ultimate goal: connect to Northwest Lancaster Co. River Trail, which will connect to Harrisburg
Study Purpose and Goals:

🌟 Recommend an alignment for connecting the CVT to Enola Low Grade Trail

🌟 Plan the alignment according to multi-use trail design standards wherever possible

🌟 Identify ways to leverage the trail as a driver for economic development

🌟 Find new stakeholders and partners, and develop an implementation plan to move the project forward
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Trail Design Standards

Multi-use Trail

Multi-use Sidepath

Cycle Track

Bike Lane

Chester Valley Trail WEST
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Trail Towns and Trail-Oriented Development

Trail Towns:
• Are walkable and bike-friendly
• Have amenities for trail users (bike shops, cafes & restaurants with outdoor seating, hotels/B&Bs, etc.)
• Have wayfinding systems for both trails and businesses

Frostburg, MD along the Great Allegheny Passage (gaptrail.org)

⭐️ Critical to have buy-in from the community, elected officials and local businesses!
Trail Towns and Trail-Oriented Development

Case Study: Great Allegheny Passage
150 Miles (Pittsburgh to Cumberland, MD)
940,000 annual users (2013)

• Avg. day user spends $18/day (2014)
• Avg. overnight guest spends $124/night (2014)

• Net gain of 65 new businesses along the trail since 2007
• 270+ net new jobs created
• Estimated sales due to trail traffic:
  • 2008: 25%
  • 2012: 30%
  • 2013: 34%
  • 2014: 40%

Source: Creating Opportunities Along the Nation’s Trails report. Trail Towns, The Progress Fund
Project Schedule

1. Feasibility/ Master Plan
2. Secure ROW/ Easements
3. Design & Engineering
4. Bidding & Construction
5. Project Completion
Steering Committee Representation

- Downingtown Borough
- Caln Township
- City of Coatesville
- Valley Township
- Sadsbury Township
- West Sadsbury Township
- Parkesburg Borough
- Atglen Borough
- Chester County Facilities and Parks
- CC Dept. of Community Development
- CC Health Department
- Lancaster Co. Planning Commission
- PennDOT District 6-0
- Western Chesco Chamber of Commerce
- Brandywine Health Foundation
- Brandywine Conservancy
- Natural Lands
- Friends of the Chester Valley Trail
- TMACC
- Victory Brewing
- Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission
- Bike Chester County
Project Schedule

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- Draft Report
- Recommended Alignment
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Existing Conditions - setting the context

Land Use

Topography

Hydrology

Natural Heritage

Chester Valley Trail WEST
Existing Conditions - setting the context

Infrastructure

Open Space and Recreation

Transportation

Cultural Heritage
Route 30 Multimodal Transportation Study
What will the feasibility study include?

- Inventory of existing conditions
- Opportunities for trail-related economic development and recommendations for further study
- Options for potential trail alignments
- Pros and Cons of each alignment
  - Ability to construct a multi-use facility
  - Trail continuity
  - Difficult/expensive improvements required
  - Feasibility of acquisition
  - Environmental opportunities and constraints

Recommended alignment
What will the master plan include?

- Trail design standards
- Recommended trailhead locations and access points
- Trail and trailhead amenities
- Ideas for interpretive signage
- Maintenance and safety requirements

- Wayfinding suggestions to bring trail users from the trail into commercial areas or other destinations
- Statement of probable cost
- Implementation strategy
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Public Input
- Survey
- Project website
- Landscapes3 Swag Bag Giveaway
- Where should the trail go?
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Happy Trails!

Project website:
http://www.chescoplanning.org/transportation/cvtw.cfm

Public Survey:
https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ChescoPlanningCVTW