

# Grand History Trail Feasibility Study in Adams County

## Study Committee Meeting #6

Meeting Date & Time: Tuesday, September 24, 2019; 5:00-6:50 p.m.

Next Meeting Date: To be decided

1. See the attached meeting agenda. The topics and headings below are taken from the agenda. The bullets describe what was discussed or took place.
2. Prior to the start of the meeting, Douglas Maisey, with Campbell Thomas & Co. (CTC), distributed the following documents for each participant:
  - a. A meeting agenda
  - b. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Study Area Delineation Map", DWG NO. A.1, showing most of the roads that they analyzed in the study area.
  - c. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Alternative Alignments", DWG NO. B, showing in yellow, places for a trail, a side path, or an advisory bike lane.
  - d. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Alternative Segment Map", DWG NO. C, showing alternative segments on roadways.
  - e. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Interim ON-Road Alignment", DWG NO. D, showing recommended routes for a trail, a side path, or an advisory bike lane.
  - f. An 11x17 inch map titled, "Long-Term Alignment", DWG NO. E, showing recommended routes for the final trail, side paths, and advisory bike lanes.
  - g. Two 11x17 inch spreadsheets labeled "Segment Reach Analysis," showing characteristics of 73 different segments of roads.
  - h. An 11x17 inch spreadsheet labeled "Long-Term Recommended Alignment," describing the start and end points for each trail segment and the characteristics of those 24 different segments of roads.
3. Douglas also setup a projector for a PowerPoint presentation.
4. A list of people attending is the third attachment.

### I. PROJECT UPDATES

- a. PADOT District 8 right-of-way information. Mr. Robert (Bob) Thomas, CTC, discussed the feedback they received from PennDOT and stated that most roads do not have sufficient right-of-way (ROW) to add side paths without also using privately owned land along roadways.

- b. Developing a friends' group/advocacy group. Mr. Thomas stressed the importance of forming an advocacy group to help in talking with landowners and educating the public on the benefits of the proposed trail. Healthy Adams Bicycle/Pedestrian, Inc. (HABPI) currently serves in that capacity but the advocacy group needs to include more people. Dennis Hicketier, President of HABPI, said that he envisions the Study Committee transitioning to an advocacy group once the trail study is complete and the committee no longer exists as part of the existing study.
- c. Preparing an advocacy video. Mr. Thomas stated that now would be a good time to create a video showing people using similar trails. This time of year, with comfortable weather, is when trails are used a lot. Mr. Hicketier asked if similar videos already existed to give people who have never been on trails, a feel for what it is like. Mr. Thomas mentioned that the Rails-to-Trails Conservancy (RTC) might have something, but it would be easy enough to create on sometime this fall.

## **II. CONTINUING TO SPEAK WITH PROPERTY OWNERS**

- a. Addressing property owner concerns. Mr. Thomas emphasized how important it is to talk to property owners to understand their concerns, so we properly respond. He cited examples of how other trail developments have helped property owners deal with some of their concerns like stormwater management and access to land.
- b. Showing benefits associated with trail development. Mr. Thomas mentioned that the RTC has some information on their website on this topic. He felt that we need to stress these to our residents, especially if they may be directly impacted by the trail.
- c. Arrange individual and very small group meetings to explain benefits and learn owners' concerns. Mr. Thomas stated that most property owners will not speak honestly or openly in a public meeting because they are concerned about upsetting their neighbors. It is much better to speak with them privately with maybe a couple of trail advocates.

## **III. SELECTING A PREFERRED ALIGNMENT**

- a. Initially develop the off-road trail through GNMP and Tim Shields' property. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Douglas Maisey, discussed the maps that had been passed out, which showed where they recommended the trail go on private property and where side paths and advisory bike lanes should be used. As Mr. Thomas emphasized, his team made recommendations for where an immediate, interim

trail could be created using roadways, and then where the ultimate, preferred route would be located, using private land and roadways. In all cases, using property owned by Mr. Tim Shields near Sachs Covered Bridge and south of there, is instrumental for development of the trail.

- b. Select an interim on-road alignment south of Tim Shields' property. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Maisey discussed this alignment, using maps they provided.
- c. Recommend an ultimate off-road alignment that will require right-of-way negotiations with property owners. Maps and presentation slides were used to explain and show where this would be located. The Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP) and the Eisenhower Historic Site are key property owners whose cooperation is needed to make the trail a “continuous zone of wonderfulness” as stated by Mr. Thomas. Hopefully, the trail will be able to go along Emmitsburg Road between Cyclorama Drive and Eisenhower Farm Road and behind the Eisenhower farm out to Red Rock Road. Mr. Thomas and Mr. Maisey explained the spreadsheets they had created, listing all the road segments that had been evaluated using the following evaluation factors.
  - Start point
  - End point
  - Length in feet
  - Length in miles
  - Whether Share-the-Road, Side path, or Off-road trail recommended
  - ROW information
  - Vehicle Traffic Volume
  - Topography
  - Land parcels impacted
  - Whether a bucolic trail experience

#### **IV. DRAFT/FINAL REPORT**

- a. Project Schedule/Next Steps. Mr. Thomas displayed a slide showing the Project Schedule. The draft report should be completed in November. We will schedule a Study Committee meeting to review the report and allow time for possible changes prior to a public meeting. Mr. Thomas talked about deadlines for grants to pay for the next step of creating a Master Site Plan. These are in the spring. He mentioned grants from the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, the Department of Economic Development, the Federal Lands Access Program, and the PA multi-modal grants from PennDOT.

We discussed procedures for our next public meeting. Mr. Hicketier stated that he would schedule another Study Committee meeting to discuss the options and plan. Actions mentioned were sending out postcards, providing information through different groups, but especially the townships in the study area. Mr. Thomas mentioned getting the first responder community involved. Mr. Paul Kellett, Freedom Township Supervisor, said that his township would not support providing money for the trail. He wants the trail presented to his residents as a way to provide people with a scenic outdoor experience way that is free of businesses and further development. Mr. Jim Paddock, Cumberland Township Supervisor, expressed concern about showing Shriver Road as part of the ultimate trail alignment. Mr. Thomas stressed that we should strive to create the best trail experience and explain to dissenters why it should include Shriver Road, and the benefits it could provide. In the end, the trail may not go there, but we should try to make it happen.