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Gettysburg Greenway Master Plan Study Begins

The kickoff meeting of the Gettysburg Greenway Master Plan was held on Monday, November 19, 2012 at the Gettysburg Borough Hall. The study is expected to be completed by April 2013.

The Gettysburg area recently showed its firm commitment to the Gettysburg Inner Loop Bicycle Trail (GIL). Partners demonstrated their support by committing funds and in-kind work for Greenway Master Plan on the segment from the Post Office on Buford to the Bus Hub on Carlisle St. Partners committing cash or in-kind services include: Gettysburg Hospital (also funded Biser Trail), Thrivent, Gettysburg Convention and Visitors Bureau (also funded Biser Trail), Main Street Gettysburg, Gettysburg College, Adams Electric, Healthy Adams County, Adams County Office of Planning and Development, Rails to Trails Conservancy, South Mountain Partnership (also funded Biser Trail), Gettysburg Borough (also funded Biser Trail), HAPBI (also funded Biser Trail) and many private individuals. The \$20,000 Greenway Master Plan will be done by CS Davidson, Borough Engineers, and its subs; Campbell Thomas and Company, Trail Planners; as well as Harry Eastman for legal work.

When completed, the GIL and a Greenway will provide easy bicycle access to downtown, Steinwehr, West Middle/West Street, and other commercial areas. Other towns like Boulder, Minneapolis, and Madison have had great success bringing in patrons via bicycle. It promotes hassle free business access and keeps in town businesses healthy. Most towns across the USA have suffered from business flight to the suburbs. A safe bicycle system has often provided a remedy to this problem.

Other benefits include reduced oil dependency, less air pollution/greenhouse gasses, reduced traffic congestion, tourism promotion, personal health benefits, gasoline cost savings, and simply better quality of life.

This is an excellent opportunity to sharpen the thinking on issues like: business access/advocacy of downtown area, safe bicycling routes, storm water runoff, visual esthetics created by a Greenway, vegetation plantings, traffic patterns, homeownership enticements on Chambersburg St., and automobile congestion. Most alleys in the USA don't have very pleasing appearances. This is a chance to give Race Horse Alley a professional analysis.

According to the latest issue of the Rails to Trails Conservancy magazine, the Minneapolis Midtown Greenway has had great success, reducing a tremendous amount of automobile congestion as it carries 1.5 million bicycle trips per year. It has also been warmly naturalized with the planting of 4,000 new trees. (continued on next page)



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The Greenway Master Plan will be financed in part by a grant from the Community Conservation Partnerships Program, Environmental Stewardship Fund, under the administration of the Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation. HABPI is a partner of the South Mountain Partnership, an alliance of organization working to preserve and enhance the cultural and natural assets of the South Mountain Landscape in Central Pennsylvania. This project was awarded through the South Mountain Partnership with management oversight of the Appalachian Trail Conservancy.

Tom Jolin, GIL Coordinator for HABPI, was very grateful for the all the financial support on this effort. He says the many, many benefits of the GIL is what sells it. He praised the visionary support of the contributing organizations and individuals as showing true leadership. The benefits are many and very substantial. When completed, the GIL will provide great personal health benefits. He noted that the obesity rate in the Netherlands (a bicycling nation) is one fourth that of the USA. Using a bicycle or our feet to get from A to B contributes to good health as we simply go about our daily living.

The Borough and HABPI teamed together in 2007 to design and implement a safe bicycle system for Gettysburg. The Borough and HABPI have received very positive and encouraging public support for the GIL efforts.



Gettysburg Inner Loop