

York County Trail Plan

September 2009

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

In 1977 the York County Planning Commission and York City Planning Commission completed the York Metropolitan Area Bike Route Plan.

The Recommended Plan, which was divided into three major phases (Immediate Action: 1978-1979; Interim Action: 1980-1982; and Horizon Action: 1983-1990), concentrated primarily on providing safe environments for bicyclists.

Projects identified in the Immediate Action Plan included York City's Codorus Corridor Bikeway, York County's York-New Freedom Railroad, and the Met-Ed York-Hanover Trolley Line.

In 1990, the York County Rail Trail Authority was formed and tasked with developing the county's first rail-with-trail pathway along the county-owned "York-New Freedom Railroad" officially known as the Northern Central Railway.



In 1998, as the County's Heritage Rail Trail neared completion, a York County Comprehensive Bikeway Plan & Implementation Strategy was prepared for the York County Planning Commission.

The 1998 Plan illustrated how an interconnected, county-wide system of bicycle lanes, rail-to-trail conversions, and greenway bicycle paths could provide safe and attractive recreational amenities and effective transportation alternatives for York County residents.



WHY A COUNTY-WIDE TRAIL PLAN?

The York County Trail Plan will provide a coordinated approach to trail development that insures responsible use of public and private resources, maximizes the benefits to the public, and highlights the varied landscape of York County's communities and open spaces.

OBJECTIVES

With a foundation based upon the York County Open Space and Greenway Plan, the Trail Plan will (1) create a coordinated planning and decision-making process for future trail development in York County and (2) offer a vision and strategy for future trail development in York County.

TIMETABLE

The study will be conducted throughout 2010.

PARTNERS

York County Rail Trail Authority is partnering with York County Planning Commission and York County Department of Parks & Recreation to conduct a study to create the Trail Plan.

Stakeholders, including municipalities, non-profit agencies, trail-related clubs, civic organizations, economic and tourism agencies, utility companies, transportation agencies, and local businesses will be invited to participate in the study.

PUBLIC INPUT

A study committee will work with a consulting firm to conduct the study. Focus group meetings, interviews, public workshops, website updates, and surveys will be among those methods used to invite public comment.



FUNDING

Funding is provided by the PA Department of Conservation & Natural Resources, York County Intergovernmental Grant Program, and Codorus Creek Watershed Endowment of York County Community Foundation.

Additional information is available by contacting the York County Rail Trail Authority: Telephone (717) 428-0999 or Email info@yorkcountyrails.org.