

# ON TO HANOVER!



## 2020 ANNUAL REPORT

*"As York County Rail Trail Authority celebrates its 30th anniversary, Explore York is proud to offer a tourism grant to support the creation of a new logo and other promotional materials in a palette of colors that really 'pops'. These new elements are sprinkled throughout the 2020 Annual Report. Enjoy!"*

MELISSA BEAVERSON  
Explore York's Director of Destination Marketing



Enriching York County communities and countryside through  
the development of a network of public, multi-use trails.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE



The year 2020 was marked with many challenges, large and small. In March, we notified our new treasurer of his appointment. He accepted with excitement, but said he was stranded in Iowa coaching a wrestling tournament that had just been cancelled and did not know if he could return to York in time to make his first meeting as treasurer. *Challenging.* Next, our offices were too small to accommodate a meeting within the

COVID guidelines, and so the monthly meetings for April and May were cancelled. *Challenging.* Meetings resumed in June at the Seven Valleys Rail Trail pavilion, but the meetings had to conclude by dark since the pavilion had no lighting. *Again, challenging.* As fall turned to winter, York County Parks was gracious enough to allow us to meet in the Nixon Park Nature Center, which has space, lights, and heat!

On a positive note, YCRTA successfully concluded three years of negotiations to purchase a dormant rail line that will become a major portion of the Hanover Trolley Trail. By year's end, grants were also awarded to begin design of the Hanover Trolley Trail—the next logical step in converting the rail corridor to a multi-use trail.

Looking forward to the next several years, construction of the Hanover Trolley Trail along the rail line will be our primary focus. And with infrastructure funding a top priority of the new Congress, construction of the Hanover Trolley Trail along the dormant rail line may be just the project to benefit from new federal funding sources.

Year 2021 will be an exciting, yet challenging, year. Adding miles to the York County trail network is exciting. Meeting construction costs of \$8-10 million will be challenging. New federal funding programs coupled with current state grant opportunities—and both backed by local donors—will ensure success. We ask for your support.

Frank Kempf, Chairman

## EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE



August 1999 marked a milestone for the York County Rail Trail Authority, when then President Commissioner Robert Minnich stood upon a stage in downtown York to officially declare the Heritage Rail Trail complete from the Maryland line to the City of York. To the surprise of many, he completed his remarks with this enthusiastic statement, **"On to Hanover!"**

Much of our work in 2020 has echoed Commissioner Minnich's words. While we all reflect upon this past year as a time of less—less social engagement, less travel, less family celebrations—for York County rail trails, 2020 was a year of more. We witnessed more visitors to the Heritage Rail Trail, as residents flocked to our outdoor spaces to work their bodies and rest their minds. And as 2020 came to a close, so did our negotiations with Genesee & Wyoming Railway to purchase 8.5 miles of rail corridor to build more of the Hanover Trolley Trail. Our work to acquire this rail corridor resounds with Commissioner Minnich's not-to-be-forgotten words, **"On to Hanover!"**

Gwenth Loose, Executive Director

## MEMBERS

Frank Kempf  
*Chairman*

Albert Gleichauf  
*Treasurer*

Mack Johnson  
*Vice-chairman*

Silas Chamberlin  
Sharon Dorn

Ed Hughes  
*Secretary*

Jeffrey Hines  
Danielle Stehman  
Ann Yost

## MEMBERS EMERITUS

Henry Herrman

Lori Mitrick

## STANDING COMMITTEES

### Planning Committee

Carl Knoch  
*Chairman*

Bob Gotwols  
Kim Hogeman

Travis Bowman  
Matt Chronister  
Kathy Deporter  
Tom Essig

Ed Hughes  
Mack Johnson  
Karen Kneupfer  
Nick Pullo  
Terry Steyer

### Hanover Trolley Trail Operations Committee

David Brown  
Jeffrey Garvick  
Mack Johnson  
Kate King  
Bradley Martin  
Joe Montminy

Rebecca Ream  
Terry Reichart  
Andy Shaffer  
Chris Wagman  
Clair "CJ" Weigle

### Pumpkin Walk Committee

Gwen Loose &  
Carl Knoch, *Chairs*

Todd Howdysshell  
Ed Hughes

Kathy Deporter  
Meg Fullerton  
Blaine Gerver  
Bob Gotwols  
Dean Grote  
Karen Holway

Mack Johnson  
Brian Malcarne  
Sgt. Bret Newcomer  
Peggy Schlichter  
Chris Snyder  
Christine Tobias  
Chris Wagman

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Gwenth L. Loose, CPRP  
*Executive Director*

Jeffrey Shue, PE  
C.S. Davidson, Inc.  
*Project Engineer*

Scott Beaverson,  
Esq.  
*Solicitor*

## AFFILIATIONS

Explore York

Pennsylvania Recreation & Park Society

Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

York County Board of Commissioners

York County Department of Parks  
& Recreation

## HERITAGE RAIL TRAIL COUNTY PARK



The section of trail from John Rudy County Park to N George St. in the City of York, often referred to as the “northern extension,” officially became part of the Heritage Rail Trail on January 29, 2020 when the Rail Trail Authority offered a presentation to the York County Board of Commissioners, who in turn passed a motion accepting the project into the county park system. Many thanks to Jeff Hines and Patti Stirk for preparing a video to introduce the commissioners to this section of trail and the beautiful scenery along the pathway (photograph 1).

With the completion of the Heritage Rail Trail to N George St., focus throughout 2020 switched to completing the gap within the City of York to the Heritage Rail Trail’s southern 21.5 miles of trail that stretches to the Maryland line. An on-road route was established to provide a temporary connection (photograph 2), and engineering of a dedicated, off-road connection was completed by year’s end. Construction is scheduled for 2021.

Lastly, the County of York and the York County Economic Alliance launched two visionary projects in 2020: York County Trail Towns and a broadband installation. Whereas the first project invites Heritage Rail Trail visitors to explore beyond the trail and discover the many amenities offered within the five communities along the trail, the second project installed new fiber-optic cable within the trail’s infrastructure to bring high-speed internet to these communities (photograph 3).



## HANOVER TROLLEY TRAIL

While negotiations to acquire two sections of dormant Genesee & Wyoming rail line, located in Heidelberg, Jackson and West Manchester Townships, and Spring Grove Borough, continued throughout 2020, the project received an unexpected bequest in February. The estate of Richard L. Doss, was willed to York County Rail Trail Authority with the stipulation that it be used for development of the Hanover Trolley Trail. Through this generous and thoughtful gift, the Authority was able to apply for a \$300,000.00 state grant in April with the bequest serving as the required match.

In June, a Purchase Sales Agreement was finalized with the railroad. The Agreement stipulated that the sale would go forward under the Surface Transportation Board’s federal “railbanking” regulations, permitting conversion to a trail while preserving the railroad right-of-way.

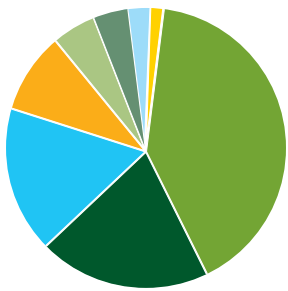


The purchase was completed in December 2020, just as additional grants were awarded from York County’s Open Space and Land Preservation Program, PA Department of Environmental Protection, and PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources. This funding ensures that the project can move into engineering in early 2021.



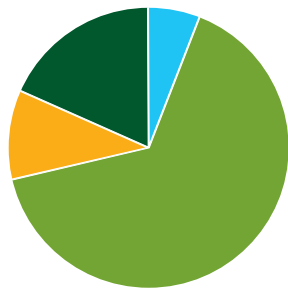
# FINANCIALS

## 2020 OPERATING REVENUE



- CARES Act Grant \$100,000
  - York County Convention & Visitors Bureau \$46,656
  - York County General Fund \$40,000
  - Membership Contributions \$20,685
  - Give Local York \$12,777
  - Annual Fund Drive \$7,775
  - Operating Grants \$3,250
  - Miscellaneous \$1,767
- TOTAL**  
**\$232,910**

## 2020 OPERATING EXPENDITURES



- Office & Utilities \$7,989
  - Personnel \$86,964
  - Professional Services \$13,738
  - Additional Covid-related Expenditures \$24,635
- TOTAL**  
**\$133,326**

PROJECT FINANCIALS

**PROJECT REVENUE: \$353,587.38**  
 State & Federal Grants: 38%  
 Local Grants & Donations: 61%  
 Interest: 0.6%

**PROJECT EXPENDITURES: \$493,705.97**  
 Acquisitions: 88%  
 Construction & Inspections: 9.4%  
 Engineering, Permitting & Consulting: 1.3%  
 Other Professional Services: 1.3%

**PROJECT GRANTS:**  
 FirstEnergy Foundation, Memorial Health Fund of York County Community Foundation, PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, PA Department of Transportation, PENNVEST, and Warehime Foundation.

# RAIL TRAIL SPECIAL FRIENDS

For conducting monthly inspections and performing light maintenance on the Hanover Trolley Trail as part of our Adopt-the-Trolley-Trail Program, we thank: **Dave Jones** of Hanover Cyclers, **Jeffrey Garvick** of Penn Township, **Terry & Don Reichard** of West Manchester Township, **Anita Meyers** of Hanover.

For maintaining and improving the Hanover Trolley Trail's Jackson Township trailhead entrance garden, we thank **Chris Johnson**.

For providing representatives to serve on YCRTA's planning committee, we thank: **Downtown Inc**, **York County Economic Alliance**, **YMCA of York**.

For providing representatives to serve on the Hanover Trolley Trail operating committee, we thank: **Hanover Cyclers**, **Jackson Township**, **PA Representative Kate Klunk**, **Penn Township**, **Pixelle Specialty Papers**, **Spring Grove Area Recreation Commission**, **Spring Grove Borough**, **Spring Grove Chamber of Commerce**.

For providing technical assistance to manage YCRTA's website, create engaging videos and other promotional content, we thank **Jarrett McAlicher**.

For providing a 2020 Tourism Grant to improve YCRTA's brand identity through the design of a new logo and color palette, we thank **Explore York**.

## WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS

During 2020, YCRTA welcomed **Albert Gleichauf** of Weinstein Realty Consultants to serve as its treasurer, **Rebecca Ream** of the Spring Grove Chamber of Commerce to serve on the Hanover Trolley Trail operating committee, and **Nick Pullo** of York's Downtown Inc and **Karen Kneupfer** of the York Road Runners to serve on the YCRTA's planning committee.

## THANK YOU AND GOODBYE

In July 2020, YCRTA's confirmed **Lori Mitrack** as its second member emeritus. Lori was appointed to the Authority in June 2016, having previously served as York County President Commissioner.

In December 2020, YCRTA member **Danielle Stehman** resigned her position on the Authority to begin a new adventure in Boise, Idaho.

We also remember **Sam Reimold** of Glen Rock, PA who passed away in October 2020. Sam was the founding member of the Early Morning Riders, who cycled daily on the Heritage Rail Trail. Sam volunteered countless hours building benches and museum exhibits, preparing bulk mailings, and recruiting other volunteers to assist the York County Rail Trail Authority and York County Department of Parks & Recreation. Sam and his generous spirit will be greatly missed.

**IN ADDITION TO THE MANY FRIENDS OF YORK COUNTY RAIL TRAILS, WHOSE GENEROUS ANNUAL CONTRIBUTIONS SUPPORT THE WORK OF YORK COUNTY RAIL TRAIL AUTHORITY, WE RECOGNIZE THE FOLLOWING DONORS:**

Vincent Aaron	Dr. Lawrence & Gayle Freer	Gwenyth Loose	Robert Snader
Adams Electric Cooperative	Kim and Doug George	James and Mary Lubas	Jodi Snyder
Daniel Arnold	Joshua George	Joyce and Karl Ludemann	L Christine Snyder
Sharon Austin	Glatfelter Insurance Group	Helen and Todd Mansteller	Snyder Secary & Associates
Grant Austin	Mark Goedecker	Martin Marcocelli	Springfield Twp
Deborah Bailey	Deb Gogniat	Memorial Health Fund	Linda & Eric Stager & Family
Diane Baker	Donald Gogniat	Jean Merritt	Danielle Stehman
Marilee and Michael Ball	Jodi Graham	Karen Mitchell	Betsy Stein-Hoffmaster
Robert Bankert	Steve and Mary Green	Barbara Moore	Elizabeth Swartz & Bert Baublitz
Celine Baum	James Groff	Jennifer & Robert Myers III	The Hummingbird Hill Fund
Scott Beaverson	Hanover Cyclers	Amy Nelson	The Jones Family Foundation
Cy and Joan Beekey	Michael Harter	Marilyn & David Neuberger	The York Water Company
Bob Hoffman Foundation	Hellam Township	North York Borough	Ray & Doris Tobias
Buchart-Horn, Inc.	Edward Hengst	PA DCNR	Transportation Resource Group
Stephen Byers	M Frances Herzog	PA DOT	Don and Jackie Uphouse
Randall & Susan Byrnes	Jeff Hines	Sue C. Peck	David Van De Streek
Christine and Stanley Carbaugh	Marc Hirsh, MD PC	Penn Township	Jane & John Wagman
Linda Carroll	Joseph and Maureen Honeychuck	PENNVEST	Christian Wagman
Silas Chamberlin	Heidi Hormel	Kelly Pepper	Warehime Foundation
Jason Chesla	George & Jocelyn Hubbard	Bob & Donna Pullo	Robert Warner
Sharon Christ	Nancy H Ickes	Walt & Leslie Reamer	Brad & Karen Warner
Erica Cover	John and Julie Ilyes	Terry & Don Reichard	Jeffrey H Waybright
Joseph and Diana Cybularz	Beth Inkrote	Richard Renn	Weinstein Realty Consultants
Denny Daugherty	Richard Jefferson	Gary and Debra Rickrode	Ryan White
C. S. Davidson, Inc.	Mack & Joni Johnson	Leslie Robinson	Brian and Melinda Williams
Joseph Dement	Jody Keller	Jesse & Cindy Rowe	Victor Winstead
Kathleen DePorter	Frank Kempf	John Sanstead	Phyllis Wise
Sharon Dorn	Jack and Anne Kline	Steve & Marie Saubel	Katherine Wolf
Denise Drudy	Karen Kneupfer	Scott Savoie	Eric & Sherrie Wolfgang
Peter Dubs	Carl & Anne Knoch	Dave & Peggy Schlichter	Elizabeth Wright
East Manchester Township	Mark Kohr	Mark & Ruby Schmidt	York County
David Ehrlich	Laurie Lears	Paula & Charles Shamoian	York County Community Foundation
Dean Emig	Matt Leininger	Steven Shelley	Ann Yost
Explore York	Cathy Leiphart	Dale & Nancy Shirey	YSM, Inc.
FirstEnergy Foundation	Katherine and Andrew Lesko	Shrewsbury Township	George & Mary Zerba
Jonathan Fleckenstein	Jeff Limm	Jeffrey Shue	
Dennis Flickinger		Edward & Anna Smith	



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*Celebrating*

**30**  
**YEARS**

*of Rail Trail Development!*

The York County Rail Trail Authority is organized under the Pennsylvania Municipality Authorities Act of 1945. Contributions are used exclusively for the development of public trails and, as such, may be fully tax deductible pursuant to the Internal Revenue Code. Official registration and financial information may be obtained by contacting the York County Rail Trail Authority.