

**Macomb County Trailways Master Plan
Stakeholder Meeting
October 1, 2003**

Meeting Summary

Attendees

John Crumm	Macomb Co Planning
Gerry Santoro	Macomb Co Planning
Anthony Casasanta	Macomb Co Parks & Recreation
Lynne Yustick	Macomb County Public Works Office
Joe Pacella	Road Commission Macomb County
Joe Silbernagel	Clinton Township
Gary Young	City of Eastpointe
Carolyn Loh	Lenox Township
Denise Pike	City of Mt. Clemens
Kathleen Bolton	Ray Township
Paula Artman	Ray Township
Dennis Tipsword	Ray Twp/ Friends of the Macomb Orchard Trail
Jon Moore	City of Richmond
Troy Jeschke	City of Richmond
Bill Lamb	City of Utica
Daniel Smith	City of Warren
Eric Douglas	Clinton River Pathway
Roberta Urbani	DTE Energy
Jim Kropp	HCMA
Chuck Lumpkin	Macomb Land Conservancy
Drew Buckner	MDOT
Doug Skrzyniarz	Mt. Clemens General Hospital
Susan Stefanski	SEMCOG
Dave Anthony	Wade-Trim
Leah Hutko	Wade-Trim
Emily Apsey	Wade-Trim

Dave Anthony, Wade-Trim, opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and thanking them for their attendance and participation. He then asked everyone to introduce themselves due to the number of new faces at the meeting. Dave reviewed the project purpose and guiding principles statements and also reviewed the planning process diagram. The process diagram indicated six primary steps for the project, which is anticipated to be completed and published in June 2004. The six steps include: Inventory, Plan Formulation, Master Plan Development, Public Input, Implementation Plan and Marketing Plan. Currently, we are in the Plan Formulation Phase of the study.

The desired outcomes for the meeting were presented:

- Broaden project awareness
- Confirm plan formulation process
- Resolve remaining gaps in system
- Understand next steps

Leah Hutko, Wade-Trim, then gave an overview photo/image presentation. The intent was to illustrate the variety of environments, trail types and resources that already exist within Macomb County; to illustrate potential corridors within Macomb County; and to illustrate additional possible solutions that have been incorporated across the country.

The plan formulation process that has taken place to date was then reviewed. Leah demonstrated the process through the use of GIS. To begin the project, Macomb County GIS data was mapped to generate a base map including community boundaries, roads, water courses, location of parks, etc. Then, additional information was mapped to continue to illustrate the location of the various resources within the county including schools, historic sites, marinas, mills, orchards, museums, primary hospitals, community colleges, etc. Using input gathered at the initial stakeholder meeting, the segments of trail that have been built as well as potential trail corridors within the county were mapped. Meeting attendees were asked to confirm the locations of these built and proposed routes throughout the meeting. Wade-Trim then went through a discussion and demonstration of the potential classifications of the routes. Initial route classifications included:

Regional Corridor

Primary routes and corridors that connect into planned and/or built systems in adjacent counties as well as provide access to major regional destinations such as Lake St. Clair, and the Huron-Clinton Metropolitan Authority System.

County Connectors

Routes that provide significant connections into the larger regional system and continuously traverse a considerable portion of the county.

Local Connectors

Segments within the system that lead from the regional or county system to various destinations or points of interest. Local connector segments also serve as feeder connections within a community into either the County Connectors or Regional Corridors.

Blueway Water Trail

Water trails intended to allow small boaters access to rivers, streams, and coastlines. Designated to broaden awareness of navigable areas, natural resources, etc.

Route classifications are in the early stages and meeting attendees were asked to provide input in regard to modifying classifications if necessary. Potential trail head and staging area locations were also presented. Meeting participants were asked to confirm, add and/or delete potential trail head locations based on their local knowledge.

It was also indicated that four primary "gaps" in the system continue to remain:

- Connection between Polly Ann Trail and the Macomb Orchard Trail in and around Romeo and Bruce Township.
- Continuous route selection within New Baltimore.
- East-West connection between Roseville and St. Clair Shores.
- Route selection in south Warren from potential electrical easement route to proposed Conner Creek Greenway in Detroit.

General discussion within the group took place:

- In regard to the proposed route along the Red Run Drain in Warren, it was suggested that the idea be presented to the Intercounty Drain Board (owns the property) as soon as possible to gather their input and suggestions. The timeliness of this was reiterated due to the fact that development is occurring adjacent to the drain and during the review process, developers are utilizing portions of the drain easement for their developments. There is a concern that, while, in general sufficient land area currently exists within the easement now, this may not be the case in two years if development continues to encroach. The Drain Board will not assume any responsibility for the trail and will not assist with replacement costs if it is damaged due to flooding.
- It was suggested that later in the planning process, priority routes may be designated within those areas that are experiencing the greatest growth pressures and those along the natural resources.

- Eric Douglas, an advocate for a Clinton River Pathway, indicated that he believed that there was some public property west of Garfield and East of Hayes and that the Chateau Estates has recently (or will be) sold. He also indicated that land along the river was recently donated to Sterling Heights that may open up additional opportunities for trail extensions.
- During the meeting, it was suggested that it may be worthwhile and necessary to schedule individual meetings with:
 - MDOT and the Macomb County Road Commission
 - Bruce Township and the Polly Ann Trail
 - Sterling Heights, Clinton Township and Clinton River Pathway advocates
 - ITC who now owns the former DTE Electrical Easements
- Roberta Urbani, DTE Energy, confirmed that the major electrical easements have been sold to ITC. She offered to contact Elaine Clifford with ITC to provide her background on the Master Plan project and to assist in setting up a meeting in the near future to discuss the feasibility of utilizing ITC easements for non-motorized transportation.
- A draft copy of the South County Connector Greenway Study from St. Clair County was given to Wade-Trim. The City of Richmond indicated that while still in the draft stages, it appears the South Connector may intersect with Macomb County at 32 Mile Road.
- Eastpointe is interested in creating a walkable community, connecting to the planned non-motorized system in Detroit and in having a trail head/staging area.
- Discussions arose that there are several corridor and/or planning studies occurring in the County right now that should be coordinated with the non-motorized efforts. These include:
 - Gratiot
 - N. Gratiot
 - Harper
 - Van Dyke
 - South Connector Greenway
 - Airport Expansion in Ray Twp
- Ray Township indicated that the airport north of Wolcott Mills has expansion plans that have proposed a road at 31 ½ Mile. If these plans progress, the potential may exist to provide a connection between the Macomb Orchard Trail and Wolcott Mill along the stream corridor rather within a road right-of-way.

It was indicated to the group that the project website is up and running at www.wadetrim.com/resources/macomb/index.htm. Meeting announcements, summaries, agendas and draft maps and text will be posted during the project. A request was made to have the maps from today's meeting to be posted on the website in the next couple of days.

A breakout session took place where people worked on enlarged maps to propose possible routes in those areas that continue to have gaps, to modify data that was presented in regard to built and proposed routes and to propose additional trail heads/staging areas. After the group reconvened, everyone was thanked for their time and commitment to the project.

Next Meeting

The next meeting with the stakeholder group has been scheduled for **November 12, 2003 from 10:00a.m. to 12:00p.m.** at the Freedom Hill County Park. Visit the project website for updates and additional information. It's anticipated that revised maps and a draft master plan will be presented and discussed at the November meeting.