

**Macomb County Trailways Master Plan
Stakeholder Meeting
April 21, 2004**

Meeting Summary

Attendees

John Crumm	Macomb Co Planning
Gerard Santoro	Macomb Co Planning
Anthony Casasanta	Macomb Co Parks
Lynne Yustick	Macomb Co Public Works Office
Joe Silbernagel	Clinton Township
Jon Moore	City of Richmond
Troy Jeschke	City of Richmond
Carolyn Loh	Lenox Township
Rick Onagn	Macomb Township Parks & Recreation Board
Kathleen Bolton	Ray Township
Jennifer Welch	ITC
Chuck Lumpkin	Macomb Land Conservancy & Clinton River Pathway
Matt Kowalczyk	Michigan Mountain Biking Association/Friends of the Red Run Trail
Jennifer Chehab	AEW
Susan Stefanski	SEMCOG
Dave Anthony	Wade-Trim
Leah Hutko	Wade-Trim

Dave Anthony, Wade-Trim (WT) opened the meeting and had everyone give a brief introduction. He then asked Leah Hutko (WT) to proceed with the agenda items. The desired outcomes for the meeting included: review results of public forums, review corridor changes since public hearings, determine changes to make based on forum results and to schedule the final stakeholder meeting and public hearing to review the draft master plan

Public Forum Results

The results of the four (4) public forums that were held in February and March throughout the county were reviewed with the stakeholder group. An "overall summary" sheet was passed out as were detailed comment summaries from each of the four forums. Both of these are posted on the project website. Overall, attendance at the four forums was impressive and general sentiment was in support of the development of a connected trail system within the County. Attendees were encouraged that the County and communities were working together to establish a foundation and beginning for a non-motorized system. Concerns that were heard and documented included "typical" issues of almost any trail project. These included concerns about property values, crime, disruption of nature, private property rights, maintenance, safety, etc. Within the entire County, the two trail segments that garnered the greatest amount of comments and concerns were the Red Run Drain and the Clinton River Pathway.

Before design and construction would begin on **any** proposed trail segment within the county, much greater planning work, analysis, public involvement and coordination will need to take place. However, the issues and concerns, both for the public and the political entities that remain outstanding on the Red Run Drain and Clinton River Pathway, as well as the Macomb Orchard Trail and Polly Ann Trail connections in Bruce Township and Oakland County, warrant a much greater detailed analysis, beyond that of which will be permitted during this process. In order to determine feasibility, it is likely that separate planning studies for each of these corridors would need to take place before a conclusive feasibility determination could be made.

Maps illustrating the composite “priorities” for each of the four forums were displayed as were three maps that illustrated the composite results of all four forums together. The three maps illustrated the regional, county and local connection priority of all four of the forums. These maps are posted on the project website. While nearly every trail segment proposed on the county-wide map received at least a couple of “priority votes”, several segments received a vast majority of “priority votes”. These include:

Regional Corridor

Macomb Orchard Trail
Stoney to Metro Beach
Red Run Drain
Clinton River Pathway

County Connector

26 Mile Road
North-South Ray Twp Corridor
Clinton River Pathway
Gratiot (New Haven to Richmond)
16 Mile Road

Local Connector

Garfield Road
Clinton River Pathway
East-West Ray to Washington Twp

Route Changes Since Public Hearing

Since the public hearings, Lenox Township has completed a master planning effort and added additional local connections that they wanted to forward onto the county-wide map. At the Chesterfield Township forum, Township staff indicated a desire to add some additional local connectors as well as adjust the regional corridor route to avoid issues related to Selfridge Air Base. The railroad under I-94 and into Mt. Clemens was also removed due to the owner of the railroad indicating that it was still used as such. This revised map is posted on the project website. All communities were encouraged to again review the map with their elected officials and staff and let us know of any changes as soon as possible.

Classification of Trail Segments

It was agreed that there are three segments of trail that have merit and generated significant and discussion during the public forums: the equestrian connection in Bruce Township (Macomb Orchard Trail to Polly Ann Trail), the Clinton River Pathway and the Red Run Drain. Each of these three segments warrant much more study and analysis to resolve outstanding issues and determine feasibility. It was generally agreed that these three segments be illustrated on the map as “Special Study Areas”. This would acknowledge the interest shown at the public forums as well as the many outstanding issues that need to be studied in much greater detail before progressing. It was also suggested that separate “cut sheet” descriptions of these three projects be created to further explain the issues and status.

Last Stakeholder Meeting

The last stakeholder meeting (for completion of the master plan) has been scheduled for *Wednesday, June 16, 2004* from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm at the Freedom Hill County Park. The primary agenda items will be to review the draft master plan and to discuss the format and agenda of the final public hearing. It is likely the final public hearing will be held toward the end of July, date and location yet to be determined.