

Macomb County Trailways Master Plan Presentation For Public Response

August 26, 2004

Clinton-Macomb Public Library

A courtesy presentation was held at the Clinton-Macomb Public Library in Clinton Township to gather further public response in regard to the draft Macomb County Trailways Master Plan. Approximately fifty (50) people attended, including county residents, county staff, county commissioners, local government staff, and consultants.

The purpose of the project was discussed as well as the process that has taken place thus far to develop the draft master plan. The results of the four previous public forums was presented, preferred corridors were discussed as were the recommended actions included in the master plan. Comments were taken from the public and noted. They were as follows, in no particular order:

- Is there a project website?
- What is the timeline for adoption?
- Residents fought to keep the Clinton River natural. A pathway would provide good access to the River. Issues and details still remain, but encourage local community support.
- Impact on wildlife is a concern.
- Macomb Land Conservancy supports the plan and is willing to talk to people about property donations and purchases.
- There are extensive cultural and historic resources in Macomb County and are what define Macomb County. These should be prominent in the master plan.
- Safety should be a priority. It may be easier to implement on a roadway, but studies show that accidents at intersections, between cars and bikes are greatest.
- Where there are options, should look at trails that are away from roads.
- Areas are threatened by development and need to be conserved now.
- Trails have positive economic impacts.
- 80% of the Clinton River Pathway is in public property.
- Look for the best bang for the buck.
- Consider CD copies of the master plan for distribution.
- Chesterfield Township the trail crosses a road and now stops at the Salt River Bridge. Bridge is too narrow to cross and it needs widened. It's a lakeside community, but the lakeside is inaccessible to residents because it's almost entirely in private ownership.
- It's only going to get harder to get land along natural resources in the county. Protect what we can now.
- Applaud what is being done so far. There's a lot more work ahead.
- Integrate local connections into the larger system.
- Clinton Township is looking for funding for a pedestrian bridge into Mill Park area. Non-traditional funding sources are being looked at due to the historical significance.
- Implementation takes time, you can't move too fast. You need to set the stage properly first.
- Local conditions may dictate the trail locations.
- Need to support each other to move toward implementation.
- Get involved.
- Development of master plan should make it easier for supporters. Need success stories all over the county. Need to show local progress.
- Will there be a summary mailed to elected officials so they are aware of the project?
- Can public forums summary be more in the forefront of the master plan?
- Building non-motorized systems should be a priority in the County. Can't get from place to place very easily on a bike right now.
- Need to connect the trail systems together.
- Trail building is an incremental process. Need a plan to get started and then go piece by piece.

- Would like to see more coverage in the newspapers. More PR is needed. Dave Wallace would be a good PR contact.
- It's more relaxing to use trails in natural areas— better for your health.
- Is there a timeline for getting a more formal committee started?
- Would there be a West Nile concern in the natural areas?
- Mosquitoes breed in still water, not moving water. Maintenance program may need to include mosquito spraying.
- Would never consider donating property to Clinton Township along the river because of the trail project. Want to build homes on their property and think they're being denied because of the trail project plans.
- Be careful of chemical spraying. It kills more than bugs.
- The River Gate area has unused trails because there is a bad bug problem.
- SMART buses now have bike racks. It would be nice to connect into the bus stops.
- Clinton River Pathway is working to connect neighborhoods together.
- There are great local parks along the river that are underused. Most people are going on short trips and need connectivity between them.
- Make destinations map more visible in master plan.
- Plan needs local governments to move it into implementation.