

Macomb Orchard Trail - Phase II and III Design

Communication Brief #3

November 1, 2005

Communication Briefs will be developed and distributed throughout the project period in an effort to increase awareness of the project happenings, issues, schedule, and meetings. It's anticipated that Communication Briefs will be developed approximately every six to eight weeks.

The 2nd progress meeting was held with the advisory workgroup on October 13th at Washington Township Hall. At this meeting, the design team presented a variety of issues and concepts for input and discussion. The discussion included the project budget, existing conditions and rehabilitation preferences for the 7 bridges, typical trail cross-section, road crossings, bollards, signage, trail head locations, overlook location, and equestrians.

The input gathered at the advisory workgroup meeting was used to develop a set of design recommendations for the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission. The design team presented recommendations to the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission at their regularly scheduled meeting on October 25, 2005 at Rotary Park. After presenting the various design considerations, the Commission made the following actions:

- Proceed with bridge rehabilitation as recommended in the analysis, and seek design exceptions for Bridges 03 (North Branch) and 06 (East Branch of Coon Creek).
- Proceed with bridge railing design as was illustrated in handouts, meets AASHTO standards, and includes timber construction with vinyl-coated wire mesh to ensure views are maintained.
- Contact communities that are members of the MOT Commission and request a decision on paving or not paving their portions of the trail. Develop an estimated range of costs to pave.
- Work with the Road Commission to investigate feasibility of implementing the concept of split trail crossings (St. Clair Road and Fulton Road), keeping in mind long-term maintenance and safety concerns.
- Work with the Road Commission to realign the trail crossings at 33 Mile Road and Romeo Plank Road and at 33 Mile Road and Armada Ridge Road.
- Include Clinton River Watershed signage in the trail construction plans (provided by the Drain Commissioner). Mile Marker posts will be in the concept package as an option for future implementation when funding becomes available.
- The presented trail head locations will be included in the concept package for future implementation when funding becomes available.
- Incorporate overlooks into the bridge deck over the Clinton River (look into shortening railing to allow open views). If cost exceeds \$5,000, the issue will be brought back to the MOT Commission for further approval. Also design an octagon-shaped space at the center of the Clinton River Bridge to enable covering in the future.
- Include an overlook platform (rustic) down by the Clinton River in the conceptual design package for future consideration.
- Incorporate a shared use trail (bikes, peds, equestrians) from the Clinton River Bridge east to the intersection of 33 Mile Road and Armada Ridge Road. If the trail is paved in the future, equestrians would be required to be on a separated trail.

The 3rd progress meeting with the advisory workgroup has been scheduled for Tuesday, November 29th at 2:30 p.m. at Freedom Hill County Park. Results of the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission Meeting will be discussed as will draft plans for Grade Inspection submittal to MDOT in mid-December.

A project website has been established and will be maintained throughout the design and construction phases. Visit www.wadetrail.com/resources/orchardtrail/index.html for more information including meeting dates, summaries, contact information, etc.

