

# *Macomb Orchard Trail*

## *Phase II and III Design*

Project Kick-off Meeting  
September 13, 2005  
2:30 pm

### **Meeting Summary**

The kick-off meeting for the design and construction of Phases II and III of the Macomb Orchard Trail was held at Freedom Hill County Park with the following people in attendance:

- John Crumm                      Macomb County
- Gary Kirsh                      Washington Township Supervisor/MOT Commission
- Anthony Casasanta            Macomb County
- Dennis Tipsword                Wolcott Mill Equestrian Trail/MOT Friends Group/Ray Twp
- Marcia Tipsword                Wolcott Mill Equestrian Trail
- Jon Moore                        City of Richmond
- Troy Jescke                       City of Richmond
- Chuck Mabley                    Friends of MOT
- Robert Hoefpner                MCRC
- Vince Ranger                    MDOT Enhancement Program
- Jeff Edwards                    MDOT Metro Region
- Drew Buckner                   MDOT Macomb TSC
- Dave Anthony                   Wade Trim
- Dave Nummer                   Wade Trim
- Leah Groya                       Wade Trim
- Brian Woodworth               Wade Trim
- Bob Breen                        Wade Trim

The purpose of the meeting was to introduce the project team; review the scope and schedule; and, discuss issues and concerns for design. John Crumm opened the meeting, welcomed everyone, and thanked them for their continued interest in the implementation of the Macomb Orchard Trail.

### **Design Principles**

Dave Anthony introduced the project team as well as the overarching principles that will be used to design Phases II and III of the MOT. The design principles include:

- Preservation
- Restoration
- Water Quality
- Recreation
- Education

## **Concept Development**

Leah Groya indicated that the MDOT Local Agency Planning submittal deadlines were going to be a key driver in the design process. In order to meet the MDOT requirements, and submit Grade Inspection (GI) plans by mid-December, there are several key design decisions that need to be made within the next six to eight weeks. The elements below will be summarized and packaged for the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission and Macomb County to reference in the future. These include:

- **Bridge Design**  
There are 7 bridges within the project scope (not including the M-53 bridge). Decisions will need to be made regarding aesthetics, railings, coverings, approaches, etc.
- **Trail Head Locations**  
While the design of trail heads is not part of the current scope of work, we will need to know the proposed locations for trail heads so that the main trail corridor can be designed to accommodate these in the future.
- **Road Crossing Design**  
There are 17 County Road crossings within the project. Preliminary design for these road crossings will be developed and reviewed with the Road Commission prior to GI submittal.
- **Equestrian Trail Location/Design**  
There is a contingency of trail users that would like to see equestrians accommodated along an as yet undetermined length of the Phases II and III trail. Field work, design issues and feasibility constraints will need to be documented to determine the location and feasibility of providing equestrian trail improvements within the existing trail corridor as well as amenities for equestrian users.
- **Education/Interpretation Displays**  
While the specific design and layout of educational displays is not part of the current scope of work, it will be important to identify potential locations for such signage and displays so that the proposed trail improvements for Phase II and III can accommodate the desired educational and interpretive component for such amenities in the future.
- **Overlooks Location/Design**  
The design of overlooks is not included in the current scope of work nor in the current construction budget, however, as with previously noted items, it will be important to identify potential locations of such elements so that they can be accommodated in the future.
- **Security/Safety Systems**  
We will also look to understand current security and safety issues and concerns so that the appropriate and adequate design decisions can be made to alleviate as many of the issues as possible. Specifically, the design and installation of bollards will be investigated. We are aware that many of the bollards that were installed in the first phase of the trail have failed and will need to be replaced.
- **Maintenance**  
It was recommended that “maintenance” be added as another element within the concept design package. This will require an understanding of how maintenance is handled now, how it is envisioned to be handled in the future, what works from a maintenance standpoint on Phase I, and what doesn’t work. Design of Phases II and III will seek to minimize maintenance concerns and incorporate Best Management Practices as much as possible.

## **Technical Issues**

Dave Nummer addressed the technical issues for the project. The primary technical issues that will be addressed in the design package for the trail are bridge evaluations, road crossings, drainage issues, and surfacing for the trail.

## **Stakeholder Involvement**

Leah Groya reviewed the proposed stakeholder involvement for the project. There are several communication and input methods planned throughout the design process including:

- *Project Website*  
A mock up of the front page of the website was distributed for comment and input. The website will be hosted on Wade Trim's web page, however, it will important for other websites to provide links such as the Trail Commission, Macomb County, the Friends Group, the local communities, etc. The website will include the project goals, meeting dates, summaries, agendas, information on design and construction, as well as contact information. The site will be up and running by the end of September.
- *Communication Briefs*  
These will be one page project summaries and updates that will be posted on the website, emailed out to interested stakeholders, etc. to ensure awareness of project happenings. There are many people that don't necessary need or want to come to every meeting, but they do want to remain up to date on the latest progress. Brief #1 was distributed September 6, 2005.
- *Project Wise*  
The team will be utilizing ProjectWise for file storage and sharing. It is a web-based file storage system that will allow the various stakeholders to access read-only files such as Microstation files, even if they don't have the software on their machines. It's anticipated that this will be useful to post draft designs and then have the Road Commission, Drain Commission, etc. review them and red line them all within ProjectWise. Login names and passwords will be distributed in a few weeks.
- *Progress Meetings*  
It's anticipated that progress meetings will be held within this 15-20 person stakeholder group every six to eight weeks. This working group will serve in an advisory capacity to the Macomb Orchard Trail Commission and Macomb County.
- *Individual Stakeholder Meetings*  
Throughout project design, several individual stakeholder meetings will be held to address particular design issues. These will be held with entities such as the Road Commission, the MDEQ, MDOT, the Drain Office, etc. to ensure coordination.
- A public workshop was anticipated in the original scoping of the project, however, it was discussed that this would not be necessary due to the level of design and discussion that has already taken place. It was suggested that the Progress Meetings, in conjunction with meetings at the Trail Commission would suffice. The Trail Commission and Board of Commissioners will have the final decision making authority on design issues and considerations.

## **Project Schedule**

Dave Nummer reviewed the project schedule. The project is on schedule to have a construction contract approved in June of 2006. To meet this deadline, there are several critical dates that need to be met. Immediate critical dates include:

- Type, size and location (TS&L) submittal due to MDOT on November 4

- Completion of a Conceptual Design Package by November 16
- Grade Inspection (GI) due to MDOT on December 16

The Concept Design Package, including decisions on all major aspects of the project must be completed in mid November so that all project decisions can be incorporated into the GI plan submittal that is due to the state on December 16.

### **Upcoming Meetings**

Several meetings were set to ensure they got into everyone's calendars and the project remains on schedule. These include:

- Stakeholder Progress Meeting                      October 13<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm at Freedom Hill
- Workshop with Trail Commission                October 25<sup>th</sup> 10:30 am at Rotary Club
- Stakeholder Progress Meeting                    November \_\_\_\_ (TBD) 2:30 pm at Freedom Hill
- Stakeholder Progress Meeting                    December 14<sup>th</sup> 2:30 pm at Freedom Hill

### **M-53 Bridge Update**

The County gave a brief update on the status of the non-motorized bridge over M-53. The County has met with MDOT and have submitted an Enhancement Grant Application requesting nearly \$1M in funding assistance for the construction of the bridge. MDOT reiterated the Metro Region's support and assistance for the project.

### **Other Comments**

- The County indicated that there is \$2.7 million to design and construct Phases II and III. This will focus on getting the main trail corridor and bridges open and accessible. Additional amenities such as trail heads, staging areas, interpretive signage, overlooks, etc. will need to be implemented as funds become available.
- Cost estimates for the various design alternatives will be developed for the November progress meeting so that decisions can be made.
- The corridor has been used as rear yard drainage in many areas and has standing water.
- West of Omo Road is a drainage problem.
- East of Omo Road is a problem area as well.
- Exposed pipe and no restoration between Omo and Armada Ridge.
- City of Richmond would like to have asphalt out to 33 Mile and Armada Ridge. The City has 22 acres and potential staging area. It was discussed that this staging area might be appropriate for an equestrian staging area and that horses would probably not mingle well with the more urban areas to the east of the parcel. An equestrian staging area at this location would establish an eastern limit to the portion of the trail that may be accessible to equestrians. The City distributed aerials reflecting this.
- Potential equestrian staging area at Powell Road.
- West of the Powell Rd. staging area would need signage indicating no equestrians allowed.
- Get Road Commission traffic counts on website. Look to establish 90 degree crossings; can use County ROW if necessary to make crossings safe and accessible; asphalt at approaches to keep gravel off of County Roads.
- Progress Meetings need to be recommendations that are made to the Trail Commission for final approval.