

T77T Minutes

August 8, 2012
Lake Shore City Hall

Committee Members Attending: Teri Hastings, Steve Sundstrom, John Poston, Perry Beaton, Susan Amacher, Ron Faust, Gayle Momchilovich, Don Hoger, John Ingleman
From SEH: Greg Kimman, Heidi Peper
Also attending: Allyn Dickie, Ryan Amacher, Jim Moe
Minutes of the July 18th meeting were approved.

Funding sources were discussed by Heidi Peper. Federal funding comes through the Transportation Enhancement Program with a four year grant cycle. State funding is done in two year cycles, with a grant cycle coming up at the end of September, 2012. Legacy funding has recently lifted the maximum limitation and match requirements. Projects in the seven county metro area are funded separately through another source. Local and regional trail connections and our area's suitability as a desirable destination, will be positives. Letters of support from local groups and businesses will be sought.

Yet the matter of any possible local match will have to be mentioned in grant applications; preliminary plans will be brought before City Council at it's next meeting on August 27th. While a range of percentages for a possible match have been mentioned, City Council members present felt a local match of any more than 20 to 25% would not be feasible. Yet the total cost of the project cannot be determined until more specifics are worked out on the plans for the trail. Cass County Fund 73 dollars could also be pursued to reduce the local match.

First phase of the project: If the focus is on the first phase of the trail, preliminary engineering studies and cost estimates can be done by the end of September. Because it will likely be the easiest, least expensive, and most beautiful section of the trail, the lower third (south from Sherwood Forest to Sandy Point Road) will be planned first. County land at the southern end can be used in the future for a trailhead parking lot and additional loop trails could be added in county land, then possibly funded by other sources.

Route planning: Input from the August 2nd public meeting will be summarized and answered as "Frequently Asked Questions". It was clear that the residents present who live along 77 would prefer the trail in front of their homes than behind them. The T77T will accept that input. The possibility of going behind certain parts of the route such as Cowboy's and Sherwood Forest was brought up. The owners of those two restaurants have already expressed a preference for the trail going behind their businesses. Although some might feel less security where the road is away from the highway, it was pointed out that large sections of the Paul Bunyan and other trails are very secluded and the lower noise level afforded by getting away from the highway in some sections would be nice. SEH will make new maps for the City web site and the newsletter.

The next meeting was set for Monday, August 27th at 10:00 AM.