



July 11, 2016

Re: Report to Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance

Debra Frawley – At-Large Board Member

Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition

The IHTC meeting is July 14, 2016 this time along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail in Franklin. The member corridors are concentrating on taking the next steps both as a coalition and in determining how to fill the gaps in the system. At the April quarterly meeting in Ohio, much of the discussion was about the vision of the coalition and the goals as a group. This week, that discussion will continue and also set up the structure, sessions and speaker suggestions for the big fall summit to be held on November 4, 2016. The IHTC Fall Summit will be for all trail groups along the major corridors plus local leaders, businesses and stakeholders. It will not be a “how to build trail” conference but a workshop to develop project partnerships and enable them to use the IHTC structure, vision and network to help fill gaps and continue their work.

IHTC will also be promoted at events along the major corridors this summer with staffed tents. New promotional brochures and banners are being created. The website has been updated: www.ihearttrails.org.

Many of the corridor groups are reporting new construction and new engineering projects this summer. The network is continuing to grow.

Go To Trails

The IHTC Project Support Team (PST) is developing the next step in the trail inventory and gap analysis. PST members will be contacting trail groups to get updated information on those gaps and existing trail segments that will be connected. This will help in decision making on what steps are needed to fill those gaps.

The Go To Trails website will be updated with this new information. It also will have a new Manage tab to enable trail groups to go into more planning detail to use for projects and grant applications.

Erie County Trails

Several groups and agencies in Erie are discussing trails and updating plans. I have been exploring existing and proposed trail segments to determine connections to the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail and the development of the Cleveland to Erie trail corridor.

East Branch Trail

The DCED Greenways, Trails & Recreation 2015 grant applications were announced July 1. The East Branch Trail – Corry to Spartansburg project was not funded. Since the announcement was delayed past the time of the 2016 application round, Impact Corry re-submitted the application on behalf of the trail project partners.

Allegheny River Trail

The Allegheny Valley Trails Association applied to the 2016 DCNR C2P2 round for a feasibility study to fill the gap between Parker and Upper Hillville.

EPT Signage Committee

The signage committee met in June and the guidelines are progressing. Please see the committee report provided by Toni Henry.

Pennsylvania Environmental Council

I am now officially a full time employee of PEC. My new email will be dfrawley@pecpa.org. I am a Program Coordinator – Trails and Recreation.