

Impact Corry - Rails to Trails Committee report 3rd quarter

In July with the help of Deb Frawley, Impact Corry submitted a letter of intent to Peoples For Bikes to apply for a \$10,000 grant – *to improve the environment for bicycling in your community*. Connecting the East Branch trail to the Corry railroad property utilizing the Black Bridge was the focus for our letter of intent. In September we were notified our project was not selected to move onto the next application phase. It was an opportunity to get this project in front of another group and helped me with experience in the grant writing process.

On September 11th 2017, Amy Camp a consultant for the Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition conducted a Community Chat in Corry. The event was well attended, including representatives from PEC, ETPA, Erie county government, Clear Lake Authority, Tri-County Snowblazers, CCC, DBA, local residents, and the Chautauqua R2T. Officially 26 people signed in however all of the 30 chairs were filled. The Journal was presented and ran an article with pictures the next day. 20 Walking Assessments were completed and turned in. Results are attached.

After the chat Deb Frawley shared some good news. Carl Belke, railroad president indicated we will not have to conduct the Black Bridge assessment for any additional trail development. The bridge was designed to hold trains, converting to foot, bike, and snowmobile traffic will not need any additional assessment. He expects that the trail and bridge project will have engineers that can work on a design to meet their safety requirements. Re-decking the bridge will be our responsibility.

On Friday, September 15th Kathy Dahlkemper and ~ 30 bike riders meet at the Corry Junction trail head off Herford Road to trek 42 miles to the Erie County Court house. We stopped at the downtown mural where local business owners and employees welcomed the riders. We were able to give a brief history of Corry, noted our rails to trails work and soon to be purchased rail road property and buildings before taking off again. From there we traveled to the Black Bridge where Deb Frawley and Kim Harris met the riders noting the importance of connecting Corry to Sparty to complete this section of the Erie to Pittsburgh trail system. A few individuals expressed their interest in finding out how more about the process and how they could help Deb and Kim.

Link to video aired that night.

<http://newsvader.com/id/17360560276>

On September 20th Impact Corry closed on the railroad property. Our first order of business is to have the both buildings winterized to avoid any potential deterioration. The initial public meeting as a part of the Master Plan has been postponed till we can internally discuss the best course of action. We have added additional interested community members to the Railroad

sub-committee to explore potential uses for the buildings and property. Another group will be reaching out the RDA for their interest/thoughts on potential devolvement keeping the community interest in the plan. We don't expect any action to be taken till next spring.

On October 2nd Impact Corry R2T committee met with Erie County representatives and their consultants to discuss their undertaking a county wide parks, trails, and recreation plan. A planning process focused on identifying the County's role with other stakeholders developing an actionable plan being funded by a Greenways Grant. After the meeting we did a brief tour of Corry visiting the Junction trail head, newly purchased Railroad Property and the Black Bridge. They noted Corry has the only true rails to trail in the county making us a focal point in the planning process. Since Alta Planning is one of the consultants they recognized the importance of completing the Corry to Sparty section in the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail System and will follow up once they complete their county wide inventory. One potential low lying fruit discussed would be painting bike lanes from Route 6 into Mead Park and the downtown business section.

Southwest Airlines made "Wheels Up" their corporate mantra. Ours will be "Bike Wheels Rolling"