

RVTA Report January 17, 2018 EPTA Meeting

Work in Progress

1. Climax Tunnel – The lining in from both portals was completed mid-year followed by completion in November 2017 of guniting the ceiling in the center of the tunnel. Both projects were completed by local contractor Francis J. Palo Construction Co. of Clarion with TAP, CFA and DCNR funding. The tunnel is currently open. Bids are now being accepted for work to extend the tunnel at the eastern portal because of the serious potential for rockslides and the fall of overhanging rocks. Work yet to be done includes finishing the surfacing inside the tunnel and parking area improvements at the western portal during 2018.



2. Sligo Spur – A contract has been awarded to local contractor TR Excavating to improve 5 miles of the Sligo Spur from the northern terminus near Walker Farm Road to SR 861. Funding is provided by a Northwest Commission Greenways grant and Redbank Valley Trails Association. Mile 0 from the Lawsonham intersection to almost mile 1 has been completed by RVTA. A Trail Volunteer Fund grant is assisting the planned completion of 2 bridges at miles .92 and 1.02, weather and volunteer availability permitting. RVTA will try to help the Knox Kane Rail 66 volunteers learn how to build bridges with that project. A probation worker helped clean ditches along the spur as well as painting posts and weeding along the main trail.



3. Fairmount City AMD site - DEP awarded a contract to Snyder Co. to address AMD above and along the trail in Fairmount City behind M&S Meats. Work began in December and is expected to conclude in late Spring, weather permitting. The Contractor has until September 30, 2018 to complete the work. RVTA has documented the existing conditions with photographs for restoration purposes. The Contractor requires that the trail be closed between Middle Run and Fairmount Avenue while the work is in progress for safety concerns. SR28 is the on road bypass.

4. Fundraising - A 3rd annual December Challenge successfully raised money for work on the Middle Run ramps, equipment purchases, addition of historic and bridge markers and trail maintenance and improvements. RVTA will participate in the Day of Giving on May 10th, 2018. We continue to add Memorial shelters and benches along the trail.

5. Conveyance Study - A study is now underway as required by DCNR and funded by PRPS to advise DCNR on feasibility and document the conveyance of the Redbank Valley Trails to RVTA from AVLT as originally planned by the parties and approved by the Railroad. The grant is part of A Technical Assistance Program of the Pennsylvania Recreation and Park Society, supported

by a grant from the Environmental Stewardship Fund under the administration of the Pennsylvania Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Bureau of Recreation and Conservation.

6. Towns and Trails Initiative – New Bethlehem and East Brady have completed brochures and Ford City and Kittanning are working on theirs with the intent to have brochures advertising trail towns all along the Armstrong and Redbank Valley Trails. Redbank Renaissance completed a 16-minute promotional video to help businesses learn how they can prosper from the trail which is now on the Redbank Renaissance website (<http://redbankren.org/trail-town/> click on the first video), Redbank Valley Trails Association and other area websites or at https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=8&v=6moxD4xvSgA . It is being distributed via DVD to local businesses and shown at meetings. A committee is now working on raising funds to match a Benedum Foundation grant, financially managed by PEC, for TODS signage and town and trail kiosks.

7. Turntable Restoration – The foundation of an early 1900s turntable has been uncovered and is being cleaned up and restored by volunteers along SR 28 near mile 33 in Hawthorn with plans to place an historic marker, sculpture and add picnic tables and other improvements. A wheel assembly from a 1964 coal train derailment that was found during sewage line restoration work is also to be included in the site.



8. Eagle Scouts – Two Brookville troupe scouts are working on projects along the Jefferson County portion of the trail to include a shelter and picnic tables.

9. Annual Spring Cleanup – The 7th annual Clean Up as part of Great American Cleanup of PA is scheduled for April 21, 2018.