

Action Item for the EPTA Board of Directors

An Official Update on the “Missing Link” Status

Background: Oil Creek State Park is home to approximately 9.7 miles of multi-use trail that is part of the network of trails on the main spine of the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail. This section of trail connects on the north to the Queen City Trail that links to Titusville. The southern end of the Oil Creek State Park Trail ends in Petroleum Centre leaving a 3-mile gap between its end and the McClintock Trail. Local trail advocates have dubbed this section of trail the “Missing Link”. A feasibility study has been completed for this trail gap, and State Park representatives along with others have walked and looked for alternative routes. Each time, the most feasible route due to the terrain in the park is for the most part on the corridor with the active railroad. The corridor is owned by Venango County, which has given a long-term lease to a nonprofit to run the excursion train which also has an agreement with a short line railroad to operate on the line to move freight. The State Senator representing the region that includes the park called together a stakeholders meeting, including at the time a DCNR Deputy Secretary, a representative of the short line railroad, county representatives, DCED, state park regional and local staff, the State Representative for that region, and a number of other stakeholders. At this meeting, all agreed this trail project needed to be completed; however, the active short line railroad has backed down from their willingness to have a rail with trail. The Oil Region Alliance has been notified that state engineers are reviewing bike trail routes again, to see if there is a more feasible route.

Motion: Erie to Pittsburgh Trail Alliance prepare and issue to DCNR a request for an official update on the three-mile gap (“missing link”) from Petroleum Centre to the northern end of the McClintock Trail.