

Gap Committee Update

October 5, 2018

The EPTA Gap Committee has met with several local trail champions and visited gaps along the Erie to Pittsburgh Trail, this included Allegheny, Westmoreland, Armstrong, Clarion, Venango, Crawford, and Erie County. A quorum of Committee members also met in Morgantown, WV at the IHTC Summit.

The issues have been less concentrated on funding and has focused more on ownership, capacity, and experience. Negotiations are in the process and are confidential, delicate, and frustrating. Funding is always mentioned, but the stumbling blocks are ownership, capacity, and experience.

The committee members had discussions at the IHTC Summit in Morgantown with others that provided us with some guidelines for technical assistance, tools, documents, and funding. The committee is working to provide some priorities (urgencies) before the Winter EPTA meeting.

The committee is requesting an Action Item for the EPTA Board.

The EPTA Gap Committee requests that the EPTA Board approves a motion to ask organizations seeking EPTA support for grant applications to provide the EPTA and the Gap Committee with a summary description of the project in the application. This information will assist the Gap Committee to keep abreast of what is happening on the Gaps, and for the EPTA to provide letters of support and how the project relates to the work the Gap Committee continues working on. This would include a short narrative with the goals, scope of work and a tentative budget. Confidentiality will be respected. The summary description would be due prior to the EPTA meeting prior to the funding application due date.

I thank the committee members for their dedication and hours of service that included long distance traveling. I have a positive opinion that a continuously connected Erie to Pittsburgh Trail corridor is doable by March 31, 2026.

Respectfully submitted,

Ron Steffey
Chairman of the Gap Committee
Vice President of Trail Development