

Corry - Sparty Connection Update October 2019

The Erie to Pittsburgh Information Kiosk and Bike Repair Station project was completed in late September. A local graphic designer with input organizations that included ETP, PEC, the Corry Historical Society and local history buffs created a three-panel kiosk. The first panel promoted the ETP trail highlighting the start and end points with the local communities along the Corry and Sparty Connection with pictures and brief descriptions. We were able to insert the 90 by 90 promotion into this panel. The middle picture collage focused on Corry's railroad heritage supporting the oil boom, Corry was the closest railroad with tracks running north to south and east to west. A spur was built to Titusville allowing oil to be transported more efficiently. The third panel showcases present day Corry. Visitors can scan this panel and pull up an update map and directory. This feature avoids a static map & directory becoming obsolete after a short period of time.

On Friday October 4th we had the Grand Reveal that included a Slow Roll Bike, Walk - Jog from Mead Park to the kiosk followed by a ribbon cutting ceremony and brief talks county – city – trail advocates and supporters of the work being done in Corry. The BZ project team passed out children's bike helmets at the start and had water and snacks at the kiosk. We had over 30 people ranging in age from 5 to 70 participating in the slow roll. Originally Kathy Dahlkemper (Erie County Executive) was to lead the slow roll but a recent injury prevented her from biking however she did attend sending off the group and later helped us cut the ribbon and spoke about her vision for bike trails in Erie County. Chuck Gray the new Corry Development Coordinator filled in for Kathy and lead the group.

Attached a link to Donnie Rosie's Facebook page capturing the event.

<https://www.facebook.com/RosieMarketing/photos/fpp.162242943812589/2462993537070840/?type=3&theate>

Three trail counters have been collecting raw data since July along the Corry Junction Trail. Once the software is purchased, we can look at the reports. The raw data indicates this trail is being used and time on the trail indicates multiple different users.

Future Projects. The local trail advocates are working with the city and Penn DOT officials on creating a resurfacing plan for Route 426 that will include bike lanes from the current Corry Junction Greenway trail head to the kiosk. This will add ~ 1.2 miles of trail on the ground in 2021.

We are also working with Ron Steffey and the EPTA Connections Committee to close the multiple gaps between Corry and Sparty.

Short term we are looking to create a drainage plan to improve trail conditions so additional limestone can be laid between Hereford and Simmons roads, highest number of hits so far.