

2019 EPTA Connections Committee 4th Quarter Update

- DCNR C2P2 Grant funding were made public and the committee will defer to the updates of the local trail champion team for the announcements.
- Most of the Connection Committee members attended DCNR Grant Workshops for 2020.
- Numerous discussions, negotiations, exchange of information with stakeholders, and disagreements are continuing from Erie to Pittsburgh with a steady drift towards positive trail actions.

Recommendation with Options

Several trail organizations lack staff that can attend EPTA Meetings on a regular basis. The Connection Committee is considering having regional meetings with Planning Organizations (Municipal, County and Regional), PennDOT Reps, DCNR Regional Advisors, Local Trail Advocates / Managers / Owners, and others to concentrate on strategies to position local EPT projects to be included in regional plans. We have discussed splitting the areas into the Southwest Planning Commission, the Northwest Planning Commission, the Erie County Planning, and New York. We also recognize that at times it will be appropriate to include counties outside the MPO/RPO to make the projects all-encompassing with state and federal agencies/programs.

An additional option of having the regional meetings replace one EPTA Quarterly Meeting was mentioned. We all have limited Volunteers and Staff time. Regional Meetings can encourage concentrating on specific projects, engaging local input/support, training, and assist trail organizations as identified in Key Issue #2 – Partner Organization Support of the EPTA 2018 Strategic Plan.

Submitted by Ron Steffey, Chairman EPTA Connections Committee

Approved by the Connections Committee

Put your efforts into getting the train to move. Once the train starts to move, others will hop onboard.