

Chester County Cycling Coalition Meeting Summary

11/17/2008

Pughtown Road Bridge over French Creek (Steel Grate Bridge)

PennDOT did inspect the bridge and determined that it is feasible to install two four-foot wide concrete strips, one for each direction of travel. The estimated cost to install the strips is \$250,000. To quote PennDOT's response, "Unfortunately, PennDOT will not be able to install the requested concrete riding strips to both sides of the bridge deck at this time due to a continual backlog of high priority repairs needed to State Structurally Deficient bridges throughout the District."

On the southbound approach (from the north) to the bridge, PennDOT did install the requested informational signs to alert cyclists of the Open Grate Bridge and this is truly appreciated.

The Hares Hill Road Bridge over French Creek (Steel Grate Bridge)

This bridge is scheduled for rehabilitation soon does include in the design plan a single four foot wide concrete strip down the middle of the bridge. Final approvals are pending from PennDOT and the Pennsylvania Historic and Museum Commission. Construction is slated to begin in 2009 dependent upon the necessary approvals.

Betzwood Bridge

There are still plans to construct a bridge connecting Valley Forge National Park with Betzwood in the location where the old bridge was removed. The bridge would include a 12 foot wide barrier separated path for bicyclists and pedestrians. Currently no funds exist to build the bridge.

Chester Valley Trail

This \$24.7 million project is moving forward. Construction of the trail, particularly the section west of PA 29 is anticipated to begin in 2009.

A temporary trail closure of the section between Bacton Hill Road and Valley Creek Blvd is expected to last until 12/24/2008 while a private developer is doing utility work for Whiteland Village LLC.

Valley Creek Road Twin Tunnels

The Chester County Cycling Coalition will start investigating lighting for the twin tunnels. Since Valley Creek Road is a state road located on township property and one tunnel is owned by Amtrak and the other by Norfolk Southern, this promises to be an extended battle. It may be easier if cyclists install Tiki Torches and light them on the weekends.

Chip & Seal of Area Roads

Much discussion was had on this subject. The bottom line is that PennDOT will be more sensitive to the needs of the cycling community. This includes revisions to how the Oil & Chips are applied and notifying the cycling community of the roads that are scheduled.

Route 322 “L” Bicycle Route During Bridge Replacement

Engineers from the engineering firm working on the replacement of the steel grate bridge on Route 322 just south of Downingtown were on hand to talk with the coalition to get our input on re-routing the “L” Bicycle Route while the bridge is being replaced. Several routes were discussed. We voiced our support for using Valley Creek Road stating that cyclists routinely use that road since Route 322 really isn’t bike friendly. Secondly, we strongly requested that PennDOT do not use Valley Creek Road for the traffic detour. We were assured that PennDOT would be using other routes for the detour. The bridge replacement should be a two year project starting in 2011.

Chester County Bicycle and Walk Advisory

Volunteers were sought to form a committee to work with the county on enhancing the master plan. This plan would include route suggestions to walking paths and cycling routes.

Coatesville Community Bike Works

Doug Franz announced the 2008 Biker Santa Day to be held on Saturday, December 6 from 2 to 5 PM at the Franz’. Please join them as they fix up donated bikes for girls and boys in Chester County.

New Chair Elected for CCCC

Mary LaSota was elected Chair of the Chester County Cycling Coalition for 2009, replacing Fred Rothman. Mary is a member of the West Chester Cycling Club. She can be reached at mlasota@kleinhead.com