

Chester County Cycling Coalition –

Status Report on projects of interest for meeting on November 21, 2011

★ *General Interest*

Landscapes2, Chester County's Comprehensive Policy Plan

<http://www.landscapes2.org>

Chester County Bikeway Functional Classification Map Link

http://dsf.chesco.org/webapps/planning/map_gallery_maps/d-bikenetwork.pdf

Chester County Transportation Related Reports and Resources

<http://www.chesco.org/planning/transportation>

★ *Chester County Trail Projects*

Chester Valley Trail – Phase I (Valley Creek Blvd. to PA 29) 4 miles

Complete and open to the public!

Chester Valley Trail – Phase II (PA 29 to King of Prussia) 7 miles

MPMS 14675

Project is advertised for construction. Bids are due in mid-December. Construction anticipated to begin in Spring 2012 and take 18 – 24 months.

Chester Valley Trail – Phase III (Exton to Valley Creek Blvd.) 1.25 miles

Design is underway. A mid-block crossing of Business 30 is being designed, similar to the trail crossing at PA 401. The County was awarded \$500,000 for construction through the DVRPC/William Penn Regional Trails grant program. Additionally, the County has submitted an application for construction funding to DCNR. If funding is identified, construction will begin in 2012.

Schuylkill River Trail – Phase I (Cromby/Phoenixville to Parker's Ford) 5.75 miles

Complete and open to the public! A trail dedication ceremony was held in October.

Schuylkill River Trail – Phase II (Parker's Ford to 422 Crossing) 6 miles

MPMS 61885

Design and right-of-way acquisition is underway.

★ *PennDOT Projects*

US 202, Section 100 – Delaware State Line to Matlack St.

MPMS 15385

PennDOT is working with the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) to close the environmental process and is developing a technical report that will summarize the alternatives analysis and include an implementation plan for the improvements. A stakeholders meeting was held in mid-October to review the recent evaluation and representatives from the Cycling Coalition attended the meeting. The two priority projects identified include improvements to US 202/PA 926 and completion of the Loop Rd. at US 202/US 1. Bicycle and pedestrian facilities will be considered during the design phases of the two priority projects. Design and construction of the priority projects is dependent upon availability of federal and state funds.

US 322 Bridge over the Brandywine Creek – South of Downingtown

MPMS 69647

PennDOT is planning to maintain traffic on the bridge during construction. Construction is anticipated to begin in late 2012/early 2013.

★ *Central Chester County Bicycle and Pedestrian Circulation Plan*

PennDOT awarded Chester County \$85,000 to complete a bicycle and pedestrian multi-municipal plan for seven municipalities in the central part of the County. The study area includes West Chester, West Goshen, East Goshen, East Bradford, East Caln, Downingtown, and West Whiteland. The Planning Commission will kick-off the planning process with the first Plan Advisory Committee on December 1st. The planning process includes 4 public workshops and is anticipated to last 18 months. A more detailed DRAFT schedule is provided below.

Task	2011			2012												2013		
	O	N	D	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	J	F	M
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Introduction																		
Existing Conditions																		
Growth Centers																		
Regional Connections																		
Action Plan																		
Draft Plan																		
Final Plan																		
PAC Meetings			X	X	X		X		X		X		X	X	X	X		
Public Meetings						X		X		X		X					X	

★ *Funding Opportunities*

DVRPC Regional Trails Program – Phase II: Grant Round is Open

The application period DVRPC’s Regional Trails Program - Phase II grants is open. Approximately \$500,000 in funding is available for multi-use trail planning and feasibility studies throughout the Greater Philadelphia metropolitan region. The Request for Proposals (RFP) is posted on the DVRPC website at: <http://www.dvrpc.org/RegionalTrailsProgram/>. The RFP includes all relevant background information, program details, eligibility criteria, and instructions for submission of proposals. Maximum grant awards are \$60,000 with a 20 percent match required. Proposals are due in-hand to DVRPC by 5pm on Friday, December 16, 2011.

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) – Competitive Funding Round in 2012

DVRPC plans to announce a competitive round of Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (CMAQ) federal funding in early 2012. Below are some highlights about the CMAQ Program and the Chester County Planning Commission’s current expectations for the grant program:

- Eligible projects must provide an air quality benefit by reducing vehicle emissions.
- Types of projects previously funded include multi-use regional trails, bikeways, and signal improvements.
- Since this program utilizes federal transportation funds, all projects must meet applicable federal and state guidelines, eligibility, and regulations.
- DVRPC plans to issue a call for projects with specific program guidelines in February 2012.
- Applications will be due to DVRPC in April 2012 and projects will be selected in Summer 2012.
- \$8 million in federal funds will be available for the southeastern PA region.
- Local matching funds will be required.
- It is reimbursement program, so project sponsors must be able to pay for work and submit invoices to PennDOT for reimbursement.