

August 5, 2005

Subject: NRHT Mid-Year Update



Dear Friends,

It has been another busy year for the cross-state National Road Heritage Trail initiative. Of the proposed 150 miles of trail, there are now over 40 miles either built or planned by local communities or by NRHT, Inc. and Indiana Trails Fund. Here is a mid year update on some of the key developments.

Vandalia Trail Open: The first section of trail created by this NRHT initiative was opened to the public on June 26. This 1.25-mile trail for hiking and horseback riding in southwest Hendricks County is the first phase of a 3.5-mile trail to connect the towns of Amo and Coatesville. Future plans also include a crushed limestone surface for bicycles.

Henry County Corridor Purchase: Healthy Communities (HC) of Henry County has made very good progress in cooperation with DNR and INDOT in preparations to purchase most of the 10-mile railroad corridor between Knightstown and Lewisville. HC may also be able to buy other parts of the 20-mile corridor across the county at this time.

NRHT Master Plan Progress: Storrow Kinsella Assoc (SKA) has documented trail route options across the state for the 150-mile NRHT. This included two site visits to each of the eight counties and input from local contacts throughout. SKA will complete the NRHT master plan this year. Primary funding was provided by the Indiana Economic Development Corp. Quality of Place Initiative with other grants from the Efroymsen Fund - Central Indiana Community Foundation, the Greenways Foundation, Central Indiana Bicycling Assoc Foundation, and the Wabash Valley Community Foundation – Vigo County.

Connection to Illinois: A design team of Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology engineering students performed a 9-week feasibility study of NRHT routes to connect the city of Terre Haute with a National Road greenway trail proposed in Illinois. Their final report was presented to NRHT, Inc, along with Vigo County, Indiana and Clark County, Illinois trails organizations. It will also be used in the NRHT master plan.

Please visit the NRHT web site or contact us directly for an update on all of the progress and upcoming activities. Thank you for the continuing support and input from all eight counties.

Sincerely,

Greg Midgley, President, NRHT

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