



"Celebrating Outdoor Murrysville" www.murrysvilletrails.org

Murrysville Comprehensive Plan Update Committee

May 29, 2013

Reference: Comprehensive Plan

The Murrysville Trail Alliance (MTA) endorses the Comprehensive Plan considerations relating to Circulation and Recreation and Open Space.

Recommended Action #9A is:

"Design and implement a formal pedestrian and bike crossing at Vincent Hall Road/Route 22."

The MTA notes that intersections at Branthoover Cutoff and School Road are also worth considering for well situated future pedestrian and bike crossing at low cost to the municipality. These are identified in the Proposed Trail Plan that was presented to the municipality in April 2012.

Recommended Action #9D is:

"Pursue implementation of other portions of the community's expanding pedestrian network as resources allow."

The MTA also suggests consideration of a related recommendation, to consider adoption of the Trail Plan, to support securing of *trail easements*. This will give legal strength to Murrysville's discussions with developers during residential land development, and will also prompt communication of parks and open space considerations early in the planning process for land development, to best support good planning.

Trail & Path Planning; A Guide for Municipalities recommends adoption of a "Trail Master Plan":

"Once completed, parts or all of the master plan can be adopted as part of the comprehensive plan. This approach gives the study more legal standing and indicates a high level of support by local elected officials."

The Proposed Trail Plan was carefully developed over several years to support an integrated and holistic approach to planning for pedestrian and bicycle accommodation in Murrysville, and to support optimal planning for open space and trail easements in future residential developments.

The MTA, whose vision is that "Murrysville will be recognized for the exceptional quality of its outdoor spaces and the trails that travel through them", appreciates the opportunity to comment.

Betsy Aiken
Chair, Murrysville Trail Alliance