



# ALLEGHENY COUNTY

ALWAYS INSPIRING

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 18, 2022

**Contact:** Ann M. Ogoreuc, AICP  
412-350-4549 (office)  
412-865-8181 (cell)  
[ann.ogoreuc@alleghenycounty.us](mailto:ann.ogoreuc@alleghenycounty.us)

## County Publishes Turtle Creek Connector Trail Feasibility Study Report

**PITTSBURGH** – A feasibility study report for the Turtle Creek Connector Trail project has been published on the county website. The project proposes a nine-mile link between the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP) and the Westmoreland Heritage Trail (WHT), further connecting the Turtle Creek Valley and surrounding communities to commercial areas and regional attractions. The report will serve as a guide to advancing the project into design and construction. The report is available online at <http://alleghenycounty.us/TurtleCreekTrailStudy>.

“Completing this study was a critical first step in creating a trail that could be transformative for the Turtle Creek valley communities that need additional growth and investment,” said County Executive Rich Fitzgerald. “We know that trails can provide enormous economic, health, and mobility benefits for the municipalities in which they are located. Having a roadmap for this effort is an important part of securing funding, and with support at the federal, state, and local levels, I’m confident we can get this important project done and improve the quality of life for residents in and around the Turtle Creek Valley.”

The feasibility study report contains preliminary design proposals for providing an on- and off-road trail in Braddock, East Pittsburgh, Monroeville, North Braddock, Pitcairn, Rankin, Trafford, Turtle Creek, and Wilmerding. The proposed trail would also pass closely to East McKeesport, North Versailles, and Wall. It identifies multiple potential trail alignments through each community along with benefits, constraints, and costs.

The selection of the final alignment will occur during upcoming engineering stages of the project. The cost of creating the trail would be between \$9 million and \$25 million, depending on the alignment chosen. Construction of the trail likely would occur in phases due to the project’s complexity, cost, and needed coordination with road, railroad, and private property owners within the area.

The trail feasibility study, which was done by WSP, began in January 2020 and took two years to complete. It included field views as well as analysis of the study area’s history and topography, traffic and transportation network characteristics, public transportation services, and demographics.

Along with WSP, project team members, including the county, Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT), Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission (SPC), and Friends of the Riverfront, collaborated to gather input from the public and affected communities. That outreach included a virtual public meeting and in-person open house events in Pitcairn and Braddock last year.

“We applaud Allegheny County for its continued dedication to trails and equitable trail access,” said Courtney Mahronich Vita, Friends of the Riverfront Director of Trail Development. “The Turtle Creek Connector will provide affordable recreation and multimodal transportation options to the residents of the Turtle Creek Valley, and the study spurred enthusiasm. We look forward to continuing that momentum by working with the county and the communities to make this trail a reality and connect it to our local regional assets.”

The \$195,116 study was funded by the county and the Livability through Smart Transportation (SMART) Program, which utilizes federal money. The SMART funding was awarded by the SPC and overseen by PennDOT.

###

Lance Chimka, Director

**Allegheny County Economic Development**

One Chatham Center, Suite 900 | 112 Washington Place | Pittsburgh, PA 15219

Phone: 412-350-1000 | [www.alleghenycounty.us/economic/](http://www.alleghenycounty.us/economic/)

---

**Follow us:** [allegheny alerts](#) | [facebook](#) | [instagram](#) | [linkedin](#) | [nextdoor](#) | [twitter](#) | [youtube](#)