Strategies for Working With The POWERS THAT BE

Best practices to coordinate Land Managers – Environmental Agencies – PennDOT – Utilities – PUC – Railroads
Participants

Steve DiSciullo, PE
Michael Baker International

Bill Torr, PE
Michael Baker International

Chris Stanford, PE, PTOE, PMP
Michael Baker International

Mike Szilagyi
Michael Baker International

Jennifer Dougherty, AICP
SEPTA, Manager of Long-Range Planning

Fox Chase – Lorimer Trail, MBI
Audience Poll
Trail Project Stakeholders

- Who are they?
- What is their stake in the project?
- What is their role in the success of the project?
Key Stakeholders

- Land Managers
- PennDOT
- Environmental Agencies
- Utility Companies
- Pennsylvania Utility Commission
- Railroads
Key Stakeholders

- Stakeholders enforce local/state/federal laws and regulations.
- They represent the public interest: promoting safety, protecting the environment, etc.
- Their roles are crucial and a public service.
Typical PennDOT Project Delivery

PennDOT Delivery

- Construction Plans
  - Consultant PM
  - PennDOT Construction Unit
  - Client Review
  - Grant Administrator Review
  - PennDOT Environmental Unit (CEE)

- Environmental
  - Conservation District
  - DEP
  - Local Environmental Body (PWD)

- Utilities
  - PennDOT Utility Unit (D-419)
  - Utility Companies

- As Needed
  - PA Utility Commission
  - PennDOT Signals Unit
  - PennDOT Right-of-Way Unit
  - Local Solicitor / Administrators

- Bidding
  - Consultant PM and PennDOT Review
  - PennDOT ECMS
  - PennDOT Publication 408
  - PennDOT Standard Items / Special Provisions

2020 Eastern PA GREENWAYS and TRAILS SUMMIT
Typical Local Project Delivery

Local Project

- Construction Plans
  - Client Review
  - Grant Administrator Review
  - Local Environmental Body (PWD)

- Environmental
  - Conservation District
  - DEP

- Utilities
  - Utility Companies

- As Needed
  - PA Utility Commission
  - PennDOT Signals Unit
  - Local Solicitor/Administrators

- Bidding
  - Client Review
  - PennBID / Public Purchase / Direct Solicitation
  - PennDOT Publication 408 / Local Standards
Land Managers
Jordan Creek Greenway

Features

- Length: 1.8 Miles
- Surface: Paved
- 2 RRFB Crossings
- Ped-Scale Lighting
- Construction: 2021
Jordan Creek Greenway

Gordon Street Crossing, 1977

Source Unknown

PennDOT Delivery
City of Allentown
PennDO T
Saucon Rail Trail

Features

- Length: 0.5 Miles
- Surface: Gravel
- RRFB Crossing
- Trailhead Lot
- Construction: 2020
Saucon Rail Trail

Local Project
Coopersburg, Lehigh County
Environmental Agencies

2020 Eastern PA GREENWAYS and TRAILS SUMMIT
Neshaminy Connector Trail

Features

- Length: 0.5 mile
- Surface: Paved
- 57’ Ped Bridge
- In floodway of Nesh. & Cooks Creek
- Construction: 2017
Neshaminy Connector Trail

Local Project
New Britain & Doylestown
Green Ribbon Trail

Features

- Length: 2 Miles
- Surface: Paved
- Road & Utility Relocation
- Construction: 2007
Green Ribbon Trail
Green Ribbon Trail
Green Ribbon Trail,

W. Valley Green Rd/Cricket Rd.

2020 Eastern PA GREENWAYS and TRAILS SUMMIT
Pennsylvania Utility Commission
Newtown Rail Trail

Features

- Length: 2.5 Miles
- Surface: Gravel
- 2 Signalized Crossings
- Culvert Rehab
- Construction: 2020

Project Location

New Trail (By Others)
Newtown Rail Trail

PennDOT Delivery Bucks & Montgomery Counties
Railroads
Parkside Cynwyd Rail – WITH - Trail

City of Philadelphia

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
Construction cost in 1884:
$13,276,000.00
= $352,000,000.00 in 2020 dollars
1895 – Penna. RR Schuylkill Division in Whitemarsh Twp. Ted Xaras
same location today: Schuylkill River Trail
Cynwyd Heritage Trail

Welcome to the Cynwyd Heritage Trail

The Cynwyd Heritage Trail (formerly the Schuylkill Valley Division of the Pennsylvania Railroad) was developed during a public design process occurring between October 2009 and May 2010. The primary goal of the design process was to minimize potential conflicts between higher speed bike users and lower speed runners, pedestrians, and dog walkers and to also compensate for the short, steep, and deep rail alignment. This section of the former Schuylkill Valley Division contained some of the steepest grades in the entire Pennsylvania Railroad system and often required locomotives to push freight trains uphill to Cynwyd Station.

Recommended Trail Use

As far as we know, the Cynwyd Heritage Trail (CHT) is the first municipal trail system to address multi-use trail contacts by creating separate trails. Please enjoy yourself, and also please be aware that other people may be using the trail differently than you. Please follow the posted etiquette signs and follow these simple guidelines when using the trail:

- Pedestrians, runners, dog walkers, and children on bikes are encouraged to use this soft surface trail.
- Runners, bikers, skateboarders, and pops stickers are encouraged to use this hard surface trail.
- Have fun, be safe, and be friendly.

This trail includes two separate paths of different path is intended for different level of user.

Trail Etiquette

2020 Eastern PA GREENWAYS and TRAILS SUMMIT

Cynwyd Heritage Trail

MBI
The 2-mile long Cynwyd Heritage Trail ends at Cynwyd Station.
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Cynwyd Line second track was removed in 1982.

SEPTA has operated the Cynwyd Line as single track since.
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

• Is there precedent?
• Is there adequate space?
• SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?
• Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
  Railroad maintenance?
• Can it be done safely?
There is precedent.

161 Rails-with-Trails totaling 1397 miles in 41 states

2020 Eastern PA
GREENWAYS and TRAILS SUMMIT
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

- Is there precedent?
- Is there adequate space?
- SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?
- Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
- Railroad maintenance?
- Can it be done safely?
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

✓ • Is there precedent?
• Is there adequate space?
• SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?
• Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
  Railroad maintenance?
• Can it be done safely?
There is adequate space.
Bridges built for two and three tracks
Published guidelines

3m (10ft) to 30m (100 ft)

1.5m (5ft) high barrier within separation. Vegetation on the fence will buffer the visual impact of passing trains.

0.6m (2ft)

Distance between trail and railroad tracks

Source: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy

Maximum train speed

Source: Rails-to-Trails Conservancy
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

✓ • Is there precedent?

• Is there adequate space?

• SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?

• Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?

• Railroad maintenance?

• Can it be done safely?
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

✓ • Is there precedent?
✓ • Is there adequate space?
• SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?
• Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
• Railroad maintenance?
• Can it be done safely?
Wynnewood Station plan

ADA high platform: single track and Trail

SEPTA

2020 Eastern PA
GREENWAYS and TRAILS SUMMIT
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

- Is there precedent?
- Is there adequate space?
- SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?
- Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
- Railroad maintenance?
- Can it be done safely?
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

✓ • Is there precedent?
✓ • Is there adequate space?
✓ • SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?

• Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with
  Railroad operations?
  Railroad maintenance?

• Can it be done safely?
Continuous chain link fence with tight anti-climb mesh
Recently installed Positive Train Control cabinet
Tie replacement machines require adequate side clearance.
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

✓ • Is there precedent?
✓ • Is there adequate space?
✓ • SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?

• Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
  Railroad maintenance?

• Can it be done safely?
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

✓ • Is there precedent?
✓ • Is there adequate space?
✓ • SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?
✓ • Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
   Railroad maintenance?
  • Can it be done safely?
America’s Rails-with-Trails

A Resource for Planners, Agencies, and Communities to Consider Bicycle Access on Trails Along Active Railroad Corridors

2020 Eastern PA GREENWAYS and TRAILS SUMMIT
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

- Is there precedent?
- Is there adequate space?
- SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?
- Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
- Railroad maintenance?
- Can it be done safely?
Question: can the Cynwyd Heritage Trail be extended beyond Cynwyd Station, occupying the vacant track-bay?

Adjacent to an active railroad?

Considerations:

- Is there precedent?
- Is there adequate space?
- SEPTA will not need to reinstall second track for the foreseeable future?
- Can a trail be implemented in a way that does not interfere with Railroad operations?
- Railroad maintenance?
- Can it be done safely?
Proposed typical section, Parkside Cynwyd Trail
Resources:

U.S. Department of Transportation’s
*Rails-with-Trails: Lessons Learned*

Rails-to-Trail’s Conservancy’s
*America’s Rails with Trails: A Resource for Planners, Agencies and Advocates On Trails along Active Railroad Corridors*
General Best Practices for Project Success

- Communication
- Knowledge of design standards
- Understanding their priorities
- Patience
- Persistence
Strategies for Working With The POWERS THAT BE

Thank You! Questions?
Contact Information

Jennifer Dougherty, AICP
jdougherty@septa.org

Chris Stanford, PE, PTOE, PMP
cstanford@mbakerintl.com

Bill Torr, PE
william.torr@mbakerintl.com

Steve DiSciullo, PE
steven.disciullo@mbakerintl.com

Mike Szilagyi
michael.szilagyi@mbakerintl.com