TAP Funding & Partnering with Agencies

Partnering with other agencies to open up new funding opportunities
Presenters

• Michele Ford, P.E.
  – Washtenaw County Road Commission

• Roy Townsend, P.E.
  – Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission
• Overview of Border-to-Border Trail
• WCRC & WCPARC Partnership
• Funding
• Designing & Permitting
• Construction
  – Case Study: B2B D2
Popularity of Trails - Michigan

- Over 13,000 miles of state-designated trails
- More than 2,100 miles of multi-use trails
- Trails in nearly every county
• B2B – 55 miles with nearly 40 miles complete

• Some segments have 3,000 – 5,000 weekly users

• Trail network has over one million annual users
- Non-motorized, paved, ADA accessible trail

- Goals:
  - Connect people, parks, and destinations
  - Safety and access for all

- Partnership approach to projects led by the Washtenaw County Parks & Recreation Commission
Washtenaw County – B2B Partners

- **Agencies:**
  - MDOT, MDNR, Huron-Clinton Metroparks,
  - Washtenaw County Road Commission

- **Cities:**
  - Ann Arbor, Chelsea, Dexter, Ypsilanti

- **Townships:**
  - Ann Arbor, Lyndon, Lima, Scio, Sylvan, Ypsilanti

- **Non-Profit Organizations:**
  - Huron Waterloo Pathways Initiative (HWPI)
  - St. Joseph Mercy Health System
  - Eastern Michigan University
  - Washtenaw Community College
  - Huron River Watershed Council
Part of the Iron Belle Trail (IBT)

- **Within the County:**
  - Ypsilanti, Ann Arbor, Dexter, Chelsea
  - 55 miles (nearly 40 complete or under construction)

- **Regional Connections:**
  - Northwest to Stockbridge (IBT) then to Jackson
  - Southeast to Lower-Huron Metropark (IBT) then to Lake Erie
  - North to Lakelands Trail near Pinckney
WCRC & WCPARC Partnership

• 20-year history of collaboration
• First B2B segment in 2001
• Since 2016, 14+ miles of new construction

What happened in 2016???
2016: 4-year Washtenaw Co. Millage

- County-Wide Millage
  - 80% Roads
  - 20% Non-Motorized (WCPARC)

The pathways helped to sell the millage to residents.

Renewed in 2020 with 76% support!!
B2B Projects 2016 - 2020

Border-to-Border Trail:
Overview and Phasing

“The Huron River Greenway”
Ypsilanti - Ann Arbor - Dexter - Lakelands Trail
“The Huron Waterloo Loop”
Dexter - Chelsea - Stockbridge - Lakerlands Trail

September 2019 - Prepared by Washtenaw County Parks
B2B Projects 2021 - 2025
Why Partner? It’s all about $$

- Transportation Alternative Program (TAP)
  - Federal funds
  - Requires an ACT 51 Agency
  - Mutually beneficial

- Administered as an MDOT LAP project
Funding

- TAP Funds
  - MDOT
  - SEMCOG

- Local Match
  - Can include private funding or other grants

- Road Commission reimbursed for all costs

- Partner (WCPARC) is owner and performs all maintenance
WCRC TAP Projects with the WCPARC

- Huron Waterloo Loop, Phase 1 & 2 – Complete

- Border-to-Border Trail
  - Segment D2 – Complete
  - Segment D3 – Design – GI Submitted
  - Segment D4 – Design – Preliminary
  - Segment D5 – Planning
Don’t Be Fooled – These aren’t roads

Do not underestimate the complexity

- Public Outreach
- ROW Acquisition
- Permitting
- Design
- Stakeholder Involvement
Public Outreach – Partner Takes the Lead

The Road Commission takes a supporting role.
The Public LOVES Trails…

…until they’re in their backyard.

Be ready!
Right-of-Way Acquisition

- Know the rules!!!
- Must meet State/Federal requirements
- Don’t promise what you can’t deliver
- Go to MDOT LAP ROW with questions
Permitting

- SHPO
- NEPA
- EGLE
- T&E Species
- Other
  - Railroad
  - Natural Rivers
Wetlands

- Same requirements as roads
- Mitigation may be necessary for permanent impacts
Wetlands

• Boardwalks
  – Zero wetlands impact
  – Expensive

– Long-term maintenance issue
Wetlands - Mitigation

- Creating wetlands - impractical and expensive
- Wetlands bank - possible alternative to boardwalk
Get involved early
Designer with Trail experience is a MUST
Know MDOT packaging and bid process
Consider constructability in design
Learn from experience
• Ramps
  – Follow MDOT R-28-J

• Cross Slope
  – Max 2%

• Running Slope
  – ADA: Max 8.33%
  – AASHTO: <5% or need resting intervals

ADA vs. AASHTO Guidelines for Trails
Constructability vs. Means & Methods

- Must anticipate how it will be built
- Permit for worst-case scenario
How do we get over there?
- Barge
- Temporary Bridge

Probably going to touch the water and wetlands during construction.

Permit for everything.
B2B Segment D2 – Mussel Survey
B2B Segment D2 – Temporary Bridge
Be Flexible – Area on Peninsula

Changed from HMA to Concrete.

Allowed for later placement.

Better long-term maintenance.
Learn from the variety of techniques used to build the different segments of the trails.

• **Bridge 1:**
  – 200 feet long
  – Build, float with a barge, lift with two cranes.

• **Bridge 2:**
  – 225 feet long
  – Build and slide with rollers.
Construction – B2B Segment D2 Bridge 1

- Four segments
- Over 500 bolts per connection
Assembled on land, floated with a barge across the river
Construction – B2B Segment D2 Bridge 1

Lifted into place using two cranes
Construction – B2B Segment D2 Bridge 1
Construction – B2B Segment D2 Bridge 2

- Delivered with bridge decking
- Five segments assembled on temporary bridge
Built scaffolding to “slide” the bridge with rollers and a come-along tool
Construction – B2B Segment D2 Bridge 2
Construction – B2B Segment D2 Bridge 2

Shifted a nearly 100-ton bridge approx. 35 feet over 2+ hours
Construction – B2B Segment D2 Bridge 2
Finishing Touches
Popular Even During Construction
Need to Balance Popularity with Safety
Conclusion

• Popular – the proof is in the numbers
• “Good Press” for the road commission
• Challenging but FUN to work on
• Helped to pass WCRC road millage $$$!
QUESTIONS