

JOSANA Trail Feasibility Study

Scope of Work

A. Objective

This concept-level planning study will develop a conceptual trail layout and improvement plan with an exploration of alternatives and corresponding estimates for a rail-to-trail conversion and trail connections within the Charles House Neighbors In Action (CHNA)/Jay Orchard Street Neighborhood Association (JOSANA), Brown's Square, and High Falls neighborhoods of the City of Rochester.

B. Background

The Rochester region has a long and proud history of trail development for economic, transportation and recreational purposes. The City of Rochester has played a key role in this development with the Genesee Riverway Trail. The City has leveraged local, state and federal resources to develop the 26-mile long trail spanning the length of the Genesee River as it passes through the City from south to north. The Genesee Riverway Trail is a designated National Recreation Trail, a backbone of the GTC Regional Trails Initiative and the City's LWRP, and an established regional asset that connects a vast array of recreational, historical and cultural attractions, diverse neighborhoods and the Seaway Trail, Erie Canal Heritage Trail, Genesee Valley Greenway Trail, Lake Ontario State Parkway Trail, Irondequoit Lakeside Trail, El Camino Trail and, the Highland/Canalway Trail (in design).

With the majority of the trail in place, the City is continually looking to improve upon existing sections of the Genesee Riverway Trail, fill gaps in connectivity and provide linkages to other trails, neighborhoods, business centers and attractions. This project presents the opportunity to do all of the above.

The proposed **JOSANA Trail** presents a unique opportunity to establish a trail and significant connection previously un-imagined. This trail would establish an east/west connection between the City's Genesee Riverway and Trail at High Falls to the Brown's Square, Charles House Neighbors In Action (CHNA) and Jay Orchard Street Neighborhoods (JOSANA).

This project is directly related to two recently completed City plans/studies, the JOSANA Neighborhood Master Plan (2010) and the UPWP funded Brown's Square - Circulation, Accessibility, & Parking Study (2010). This rails-to-trail conversion project is a direct recommendation of the JOSANA study and while not specifically referenced in the Brown's Square study, it supports the study's general bicycle/pedestrian recommendations. The project is also consistent with the Lyell-Lake-State (LYLAKS) Brownfield Opportunity Area (BOA) Nomination Study.

In addition, the 2011 City of Rochester Bicycle Master Plan identified a significant hot-spot of incidents along the Lyell Avenue corridor between Murray Street and Dewey Avenue, parallel and directly north of the proposed rails-to-trails conversion. This trail would provide a safe transportation alternative directly adjacent to the Lyell Avenue corridor.

The City has recently learned that CSX may be preparing to abandon a section of inactive rail line between Oak Street and Hague Street, running south of and parallel to Lyell Avenue. Should this study provide a feasible trail alternative, and with neighborhood support, the City would be poised to capitalize on this unique opportunity, when and if it became available.

Study Area

The study area is located in the north-west quadrant of the City of Rochester and is bounded on the west by Hague Street, on the east by the Genesee River at High Falls, on the north by Lyell Avenue and, on the south by Route 490.

C. Tasks

1. Form an Advisory Committee consisting of relevant agencies (City of Rochester, GTC) and key stakeholders (including but not limited to: Charles Settlement House, Genesee Land Trust, Rochester Cycling Alliance, institutions, and property owners).
2. Engage a consultant with demonstrated experience in trail planning and design, especially in urban areas, and rails-to-trails conversions.
3. Create an accurate base map and conduct an inventory and analysis/data gathering to accurately depict the project area and inform understanding of problems, issues and opportunities.
4. Plan and facilitate a public participation workshop to present the initial findings and preliminary issues and opportunities, and solicit public input.
5. Develop preliminary concept level designs with alternatives, property acquisition/easement implications, and cost estimates based upon the inventory and analysis and public input.
6. Plan and facilitate a public meeting to present the design alternatives and solicit public input.
7. Document findings and recommendations, based upon agency/stakeholder/public input, in a Final Report and Executive Summary, complete with plans, details and estimates.
8. Present the Final Report and Executive Summary to the GTC Planning Committee for approval and acceptance.

D. Products

1. Preliminary findings, alternatives and recommendations;
2. Final Report documenting project process, findings, alternatives, and recommendations;
3. Executive Summary suitable for policy-makers;
4. Electronic files created for the project, including data, documents, presentations, maps, plans, etc.;
5. Meeting agenda, minutes and presentation materials for public meetings.

*Copies of all products shall be supplied in photocopy ready hard copy as well as digital format.

E. Public Participation Plan

An Advisory Committee will be established at the onset of the project and its involvement will be continuous throughout the project. It is anticipated that at a minimum, representatives from the following organizations will be invited to participate in the Advisory Committee: CHNA/JOSANA, Genesee Land Trust, Sector 3, City Department of Neighborhood and Business Development, City Planning Department.

It is envisioned that a minimum of two (2) Public Input Meetings will be conducted. An initial meeting will be held to explain the project and to solicit public input on the overall project goals and a second to discuss the conceptual recommendations and findings. The City will send direct invitations to neighbors

surrounding the trail corridor and will work with CHNA and the Sector to reach the larger neighborhood and impact area.

The City will create and host a dedicated web page where mapping, photography, display boards, schedules, meeting notices, and other pertinent project information will be posted. The City Project Manager’s name and contact information will be prominently provided for the public’s use. This project web page will be maintained and updated for the duration of the project and as the project advances toward reality in the future.

The City has met with CHNA/JOSANA and the Genesee Land Trust to discuss the project and received their enthusiastic support.

F. Schedule

The City will begin the consultant selection process following GTC approval of the project scope. It is anticipated that a Consultant will be selected by August 2013 with a Final Report being delivered September 2014.

G. Project Budget

| Sources of Funds | | Uses of Funds | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|---------------------|-----------------|
| | FY 2013-14 | | FY 2013-14 |
| <u>Federal Funds</u> | | <u>GTC</u> | |
| FHWA | \$50,000 | Staff | \$0 |
| FTA | 0 | Contractual | 0 |
| Subtotal | \$50,000 | Subtotal | \$0 |
| <u>Matching Funds</u> | | <u>Other Agency</u> | |
| State (In-kind) | \$0 | Staff | \$0 |
| Local (In-kind) | 0 | Contractual | 60,000 |
| Local (Cash) | 10,000 | In-kind Exp. | 0 |
| Subtotal | \$10,000 | Subtotal | \$60,000 |
| <u>Total</u> | <u>\$60,000</u> | <u>Total</u> | <u>\$60,000</u> |