

Chessie Circle Trail Project Update

Summer, 2017



In 2011, 11 miles of CSX rail right-of-way was purchased, primarily with federal transportation funds (as designated in the 2005 SAFETEA-LU highway reauthorization bill), to preserve the rail corridor for future public use. The corridor begins near Bowman Park in Toledo, sweeping south to River Road, crossing the Maumee River, and then from River Road (State Route 65) east to WW Knight Preserve in Wood County.

The corridor is now owned by five entities who each assumed ownership of distinct sections of the trail (see map on reverse). The Toledo Metropolitan Area Council of Governments (TMACOG) is facilitating the trail project, but is not a property owner. TMACOG and the trail owners formed a Coordinating Committee to develop the corridor as a part of an interconnected network of bicycle and pedestrian facilities in Lucas and Wood Counties. Over time this major north/south connector will link schools, recreation areas, and other important locations.

Increasing Commuting and Healthy Lifestyle Options

- Because the corridor flows through a densely-populated area, it will help people commute between residential, retail, and industrial areas; and to education and health care facilities, and food centers.
- It increases opportunities for exercise and recreation and connects to several local and county parks. Walking and bicycling are proven methods to reduce health risks of obesity, diabetes, and cardiovascular disease.
- Trail sections that are separated from cars offer especially safe and comfortable travel options for people of all ages and abilities. Patrols by the trained professionals of the path owners, plus the added eyes and ears of trail users, serve to transform the abandoned, unmonitored corridor into a safe linear space for people to travel and recreate.

Enhancing Neighborhoods, Communities, and the Region

- Several studies show the positive economic impacts of regional trails. These linear parks, like other parklands, provide recreational opportunities, and are valued assets to the surrounding neighborhoods.
- Multi-use paths offer a new transportation corridor and can bring additional activity to nearby businesses and can support property values of adjacent land owners.
- They are community assets, contributing positively to the image of the region as a good place to live.
- The Chessie corridor adds to the vibrancy of neighborhoods and communities in the Toledo region by directly connecting to bike routes in Toledo, Perrysburg, and Perrysburg Township. The planned intersection with the University/Parks Trail promises even greater access to more parks and communities in the region.

Development Plans

- Acquiring the right-of-way was the first step in a long-term process to develop the abandoned corridor into a major, paved, multi-use path.
- It may take over 20 years to fully develop. In the meantime, recommended on-street routes serve to create a connection between the endpoints of Bowman Park and WW Knight Preserve.
- Metroparks Toledo paved a 1.4-mile section in 2017 using \$734,538 Transportation Alternatives Program funds plus \$183,634 in local matching funds. The City of Toledo will pave 3 miles from Bowman Park to University Hills Blvd in 2021-22 using \$1,418,400 Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Program Funds plus \$354,600 in local matching funds. A crushed stone base is already installed between Bowman Park and Monroe St.
- Other sections will be developed as plans are completed and funds secured. Norfolk Southern currently has an easement that allows it to operate trains in the middle section of the corridor, so the initial trail development will occur in the northerly and southerly reaches of the corridor.
- The comprehensive and detailed *Development Plan* ensures that the trail and trail heads will be maintained with high standards across the entire length of the trail, regardless of owner.
- Historical and interpretive displays at kiosks pay tribute to the rich railroad history of the region. Additional trail signage and maps help trail visitors find key destinations on and near the trail.
- Adjacent property owners may install any fence as permitted by local zoning, which may include a gate for easy access to the trail. The installation and maintenance of fencing is the responsibility of individual property owners.

Contact Info

Visit the Chessie Circle Trail webpage for more! www.tmacog.org/Transportation/ChessieCircle.htm

Please direct specific inquiries to the owner of the trail section involved.

For general inquiries or additional assistance contact TMACOG.

City of Toledo, David Dysard, 419.936.2693, david.dysard@toledo.oh.gov

University of Toledo, Doug Collins, 419.530.1018, douglas.collins@utoledo.edu

Metroparks Toledo, Jon Zvanovec, 419.407.9732, jon.zvanovec@Metroparkstoledo.com

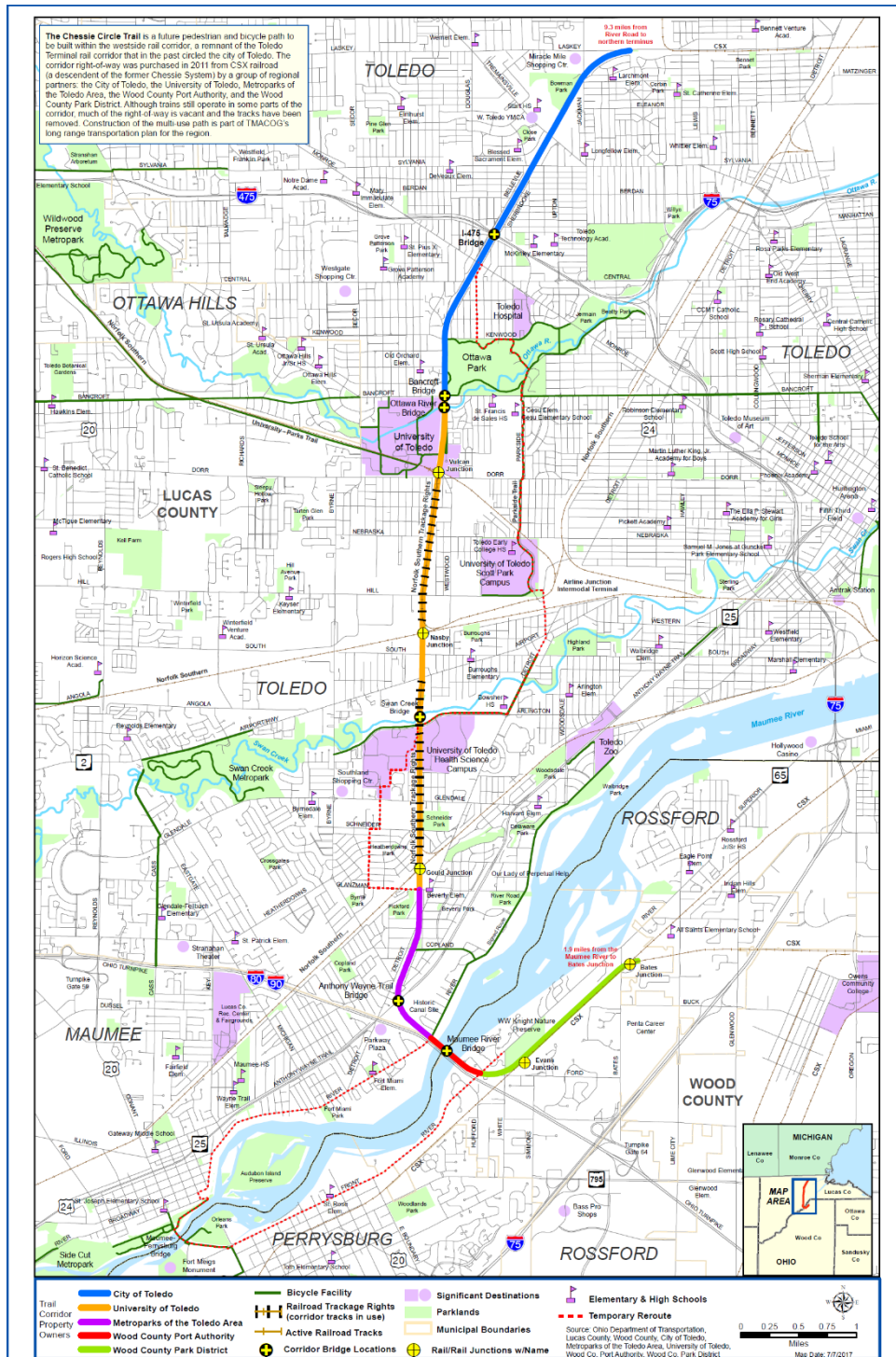
Wood County Port Authority, Rex Huffman, 419.666.7130, rhuffman@spitlerhuffmanlaw.com

Wood County Park District, Neil Munger, 419.353.1897, nmunger@wcparks.org

TMACOG, Christine Connell, 419.241.9155, ext 119, connell@tmacog.org

Portions of the trail are open during daylight hours for public use.

Visit the Chessie Circle Webpage (see link below) for more maps and information.



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