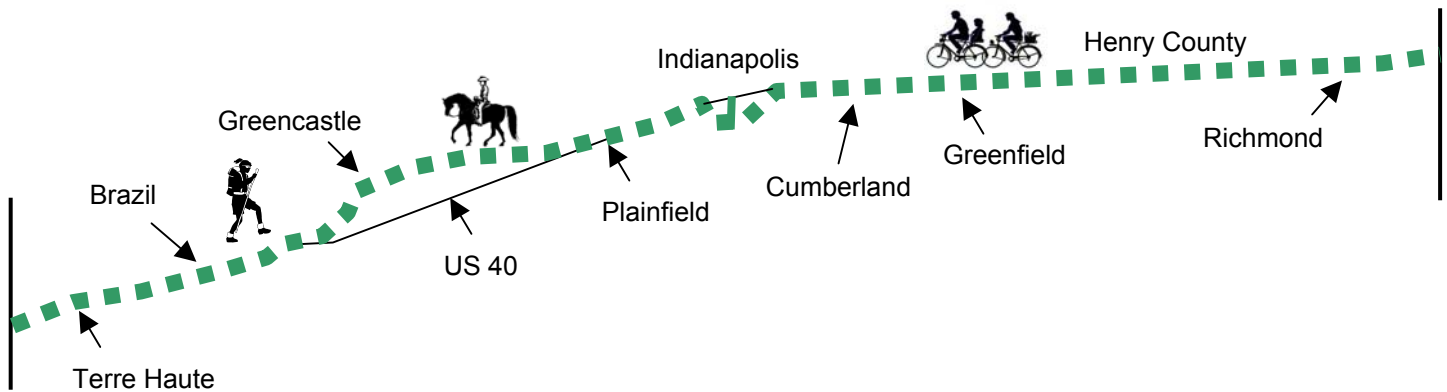




Connecting Communities Across Indiana

NRHT Concept Overview



150-mile continuous system of multi-use trails for non-motorized travel built along the former Pennsylvania, Vandalia, & electric interurban railroad corridors, where possible, from Terre Haute to Richmond closely following the historic National Road for most of its route. Designed for bicyclists and pedestrians and in many areas horseback riders.

Why?

- Economic development, tourism, transportation alternatives
- Public health, quality of life, historical & cultural preservation

Why this Route?

- Historic transportation corridor spanning several different epochs
- Nine communities are already developing trails on this route.
- Most of the former railroad beds are still physically intact.
- Passes through notable communities every 3-5 miles, except in the scenic Walnut Creek area of west central Indiana.
- High visibility route and name are valuable for marketing outside of the state.
- Possible expansion into Illinois and Ohio along National Road.

Why Coordinate the Effort?

- Few of the existing trails have plans to connect.
- Continuous system of trails magnifies the value of the individual trails.
- The context of the larger project strengthens the case for developing each of the individual segments.
- Sections of the corridor are slowly being converted for other use, in many cases only because the potential for a trail is not obvious locally.
- Perfect match for Indiana National Road Association goals – strengthen preservation, awareness, tourism of corridor.

Who is NRHT, Inc?

- National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. – an Indiana not-for-profit; a steering group and trail development organization; uses Indiana Trails Fund and local trails groups to earmark and disburse resources; no paid staff; broadly based board of directors & steering group
 - Greg Midgley – President (Indiana Trails Fund)
 - Jeff Ray – Vice President (Healthy Communities of Henry County)
 - Joe Jarzen – Director (Indiana National Road Association Exec. Dir.)
 - Stacy Riggs – Director (Indiana Trail Riders Association)
 - Joy Marley – Director (People Pathways - Putnam County)
 - Kevin Heber – PR Committee (ITF, Hoosier Rails-to-Trails Council)
 - Tom McCain – PR Committee, logo design (Greenways Foundation)
 - 9 additional steering group members from across the state
- Indiana Trails Fund – one of the 501(c)(3) fiscal agents for NRHT, Inc.; facilitates and develops trails around the state
- Indiana National Road Association – 501(c)(3) partner of NRHT to accomplish goals of National Road preservation, tourism, promotion; associated with Historic Landmarks Foundation of Indiana
- Indiana Trail Riders Association – 501(c)(3) promoting trail riding and related equine activities in Indiana and surrounding areas

Mission of NRHT, Inc.

- To develop and support a multi-use, off-road trail for non-motorized travel from Terre Haute to Richmond along or connected to the abandoned Pennsylvania/Vandalia rail corridor, the electric interurban corridor and/or the National Road
- To facilitate public-private partnerships
- To promote recreational and historical tourism and special events along the greenways and related greenspace of counties along the National Road corridor

What Have Other States Done?

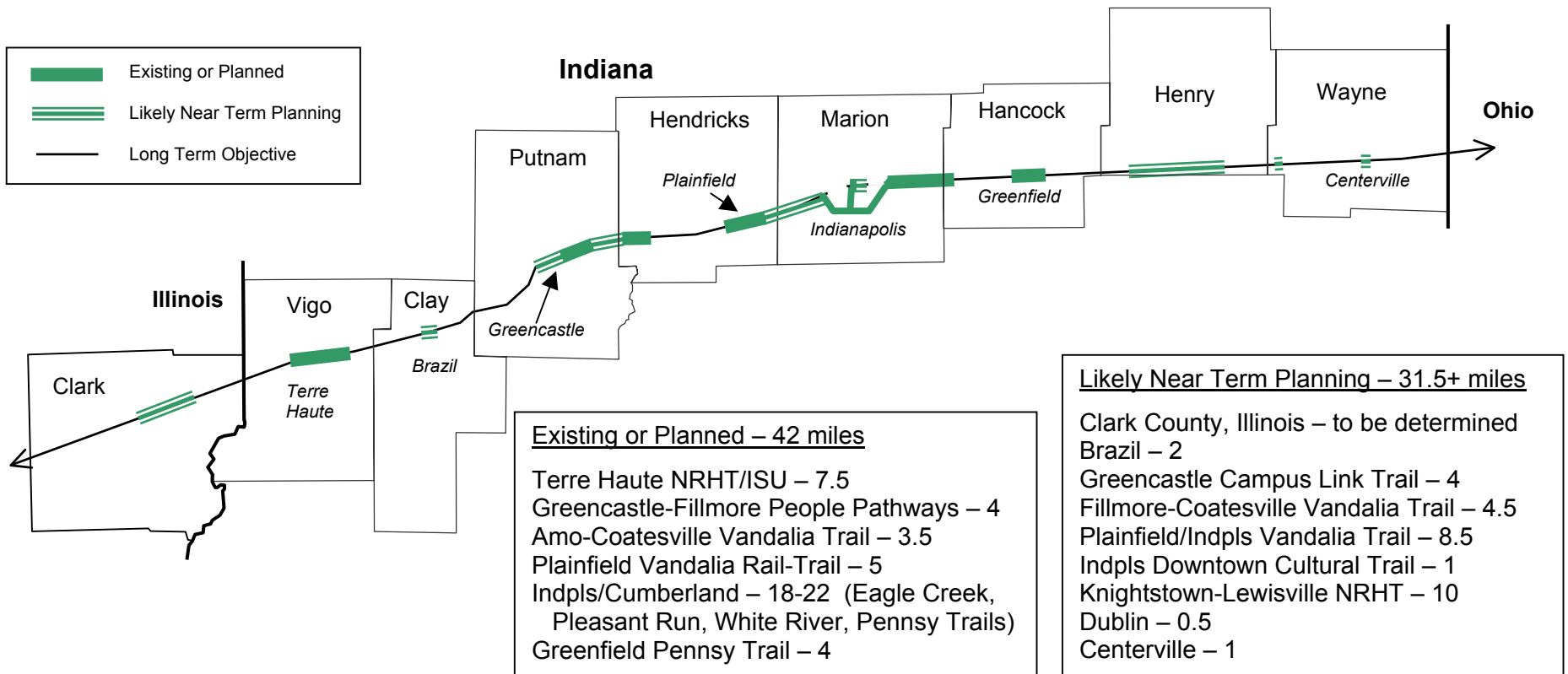
- Ohio's state trail masterplan shows 4 cross-state trails:
 - Ohio to Erie Trail (400+ miles)
 - North Tier Trail (150+ miles across northern Ohio)
 - North Country Trail (National Scenic Trail)
 - Buckeye Trail (mostly on-road)
 - OPRA staffs a dedicated greenways office
- Katy Trail (across Missouri – 225 miles, developed by MO-DNR)
- White Pine Trail (Michigan – 92 miles, developed by MI-DNR)
- Grand Illinois Trail (across Illinois)
- Great Allegheny Passage (Pittsburgh to Cumberland, MD)
- Florida, Nebraska, others have cross-state trails in the works

What is Being Done in Indiana?

- **NRHT Development Guide:** \$100k professional feasibility study and 9-volume final report funded by the Indiana Economic Development Corp - Office of Tourism Development with additional support from Efroymsen Fund (Central Indiana Community Foundation), Greenways Foundation, Central Indiana Bicycling Association Foundation, Wabash Valley Community Foundation (Vigo County), and private donations. NRHT, Inc and its 15-member steering group initiated and are directing this study which will be published at the end of 2005. It will be made available to all 8 counties and 30 communities along the proposed route in Indiana.
- **NRHT Local Components Under Development:** Nine communities across the state have already developed or are developing local trails that could form 42 miles of the NRHT. See the map on the next page for details.
- **Public Support:** 68 organizations and officials across Indiana and into Illinois have endorsed the NRHT. See the list at the end of this presentation.
- **NRHT in Illinois:** Inspired by Indiana, the first two counties in Illinois along the Historic National Road are developing greenways plans to connect with the Indiana NRHT, forming an interstate greenways network. Part of the planning is funded by the Illinois DNR and part is donated through a design project by a Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology senior engineering student team.

Status of Projects along National Road Heritage Trail

October 24, 2005



NRHT Detailed Presentation

Terre Haute

- 6 miles open along Pennsy RR corridor, side paths, farm perimeters.
- Features restored Twigg National Road rest area, Rose-Hulman, ISU
- Will connect to Wabash River; other trails in local network planned
- A Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology student design team provided a feasibility study for a 7-mile bike path to the Illinois state line to connect to an Illinois trails initiative.

Terre Haute – Greencastle

- Railbed physically intact for the most part, but with a few local incursions
- Details of corridor's fragmented ownership are now mostly catalogued.
- Runs close to US 40 right-of-way between Terre Haute and Brazil
- Local contacts initiated, especially among equestrian interests
- NRHT referenced in Brazil Parks 5-year master plan
- Harmony to Limesdale, including Big Walnut Creek, is especially scenic

Greencastle – Indy (Vandalia Trail)

- 35-mile section from Indianapolis to Greencastle proposed as "Vandalia Trail"
- Inspired by existing Vandalia Rail-Trail in the town of Plainfield
- Endorsed by all 6 town councils & boards of county commissioners in Hendricks & Putnam counties and by Indianapolis MPO & Greenways Development Committee
- Corridor's fragmented ownership in Putnam & Hendricks counties is catalogued

Greencastle

- 4 miles open – aggregate/asphalt "People Pathways" trail on east side goes to town of Fillmore along Pennsy corridor; equestrian to be added
- The city has a TE grant for a new 4-mile cross-town trail to connect to southwest side, to DePauw University, and to DePauw Nature Park.

Fillmore – Coatesville – Amo

- 8-mile trail supported by corridor owners and towns
- 3-mile rustic hiking trail open between Amo and Coatesville
- Two intact railroad bridges will enhance trail experience
- Amo to dedicate restored electric interurban depot July 4, 2006

Plainfield

- 4-5 mile Vandalia Rail-Trail to be completed in 2007; 1.5 miles currently open; part of Plainfield's extensive trail network
- Plainfield has restored electric interurban depot
- Extensions to Cartersburg and to Marion County are under consideration

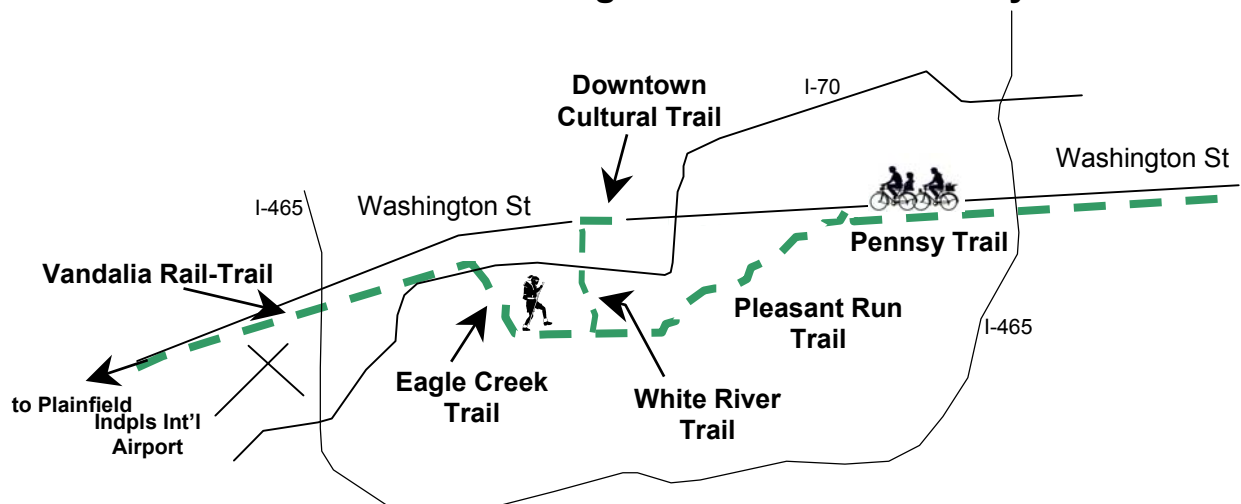
Western Indianapolis (Vandalia Rail-Trail)

- Indpls MPO & Greenways Development Committee endorsed the NRHT, including the Vandalia Rail-Trail connection to Hendricks County
- INDOT is considering a new, dedicated I-465 underpass for the Vandalia Rail-Trail.
- Indianapolis Airport Authority referenced connection to Vandalia Rail-Trail in its 2004 TE grant application for the East Fork White Lick Creek Trail
- Would provide southwest IG spoke to Plainfield's excellent trail system

Indianapolis & East

- Synergy with Cultural Trail – NRHT can use this as its hub
- Washington Street can serve as both expanded Cultural Trail and NRHT route
- 11 mile alternative route through central Marion County already built/planned, including Eagle Creek Trail, White River Trail, and Pleasant Run Trail
- Future 8-9 mile Pennsy Trail in eastern Marion County and Cumberland
- No solid plans to connect to Greenfield

National Road Heritage Trail – Marion County



Cumberland

- Town acquired funding for 3-mile Pennsy Trail
- Corridor acquisition and trail design underway

Greenfield

- 3 miles open; popular paved Pennsy Trail through town to eastern city limits
- 1 ½ mile extension west planned - next stop to the east is Knightstown
- Corridor's fragmented ownership in Hancock County is catalogued
- NRHT representative for Hancock County needed.

Knightstown / Henry County

- Healthy Communities of Henry County was awarded \$450,000 TE grant to purchase 10-20 miles of corridor from Knightstown to Lewisville and beyond
- Healthy Communities' immediate goals are to assure continued availability of the 120-acre portion owned by US RailVest, to assure availability of key parcels in Knightstown, and to raise local match for purchases
- Town councils and citizens' groups along this corridor endorse the trail concept
- Corridor's fragmented ownership in Henry County is catalogued

Knightstown

- Knightstown town council endorsed the concept but is not actively promoting it.
- Railroad corridor is very elevated and includes several existing bridges.
- Trail would pass through historic downtown area.

Lewisville

- Historic depot ready for acquisition or donation and renovation
- Town is supportive; potential for demonstration trail between depot & cemetery

Wayne Co. / Richmond

- No existing plans to develop the corridor but local trails group supports the concept, after completion of the Cardinal Greenway
- Endorsed by Richmond Parks plus town councils of Dublin, Cambridge City, & Centerville
- Local incursions and bridge removals will require some alternate routes
- Corridor's fragmented ownership in Wayne County is catalogued
- High potential for tourism – many historic features in this area
- Huddleston House in Cambridge City; historic Centerville downtown district; Madonna of the Trail in Richmond
- Can connect to scenic Whitewater River Gorge Trail and Cardinal Greenway in Richmond
- Only 20 miles to the east is an access to the Miami Valley Trail network, which connects to the Little Miami Scenic Trail, Cleveland, Columbus, and Cincinnati.
- NRHT representative for Wayne County needed.

Near Term Plans

- Expand board of directors to include representatives from all 8 counties.
- Enlist key contacts in Hancock and Wayne counties.
- Raise local match for Henry County TE grant and begin general fund raising for NRHT.
- Complete corridor acquisition in Henry County
- Upgrade 3-mile Amo-Coatesville Vandalia Trail to accommodate equestrians.
- Extend Vandalia Trail 5 miles west to Fillmore as a rustic trail.
- Complete presentations to 31 communities and 8 counties
- Organize volunteer base and enlist local trails groups.
- Complete NRHT Development Guide by the end of 2005.
- Promote addition of the NRHT to local master plans and comprehensive land use plans.
- Continue collaboration with greenways groups in Clark County, Illinois to connect with their trail at the state line.

Contact Information

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www.nrht.org
317-503-1101 or 317-295-0553

Endorsements for Cross-State National Road Heritage Trail (68 received as of 5/25/05)

Statewide/Out-of-State Organizations

Indiana Dept of Commerce, Office of
Tourism Development
Indiana Dept of Transportation:
Bicycle, Pedestrian & Byway Prog's
Indiana National Road Association
Hoosier Rails-to-Trails Council
Indiana Trails Fund
Indiana Horse Council
Indiana Trail Riders Assoc.
Indiana Governor's Council for Physical
Fitness and Sports
Clark County (Illinois) Trails Coalition
National Road Association of Illinois
National Road Alliance (6-state)

Vigo County

Wabash Valley Community Foundation
W. Central Indiana Econ. Devel't District
Vigo Co. Board of Co. Commissioners
Vigo County Parks Department
Vigo County Health Department
Mayor of Terre Haute
Terre Haute Parks Department
National Road Bicycle Club
Art Spaces: Wabash Valley Outdoor
Sculpture Collection

Clay County

Clay Co. Board of County Commissioners
Clay Community Parks Association
Brazil Common Council (city council)
Brazil Parks Board
Harmony Town Council

Putnam County

Putnam Co. Board of Co. Commissioners
People Pathways
Greencastle Board of Park
Commissioners
Greencastle City Council
Fillmore Town Council

Hendricks County

Hendricks Co. Board of Co. Commissioners
Hendricks County Trail Devel't Assoc.
Hendricks County Heritage Alliance
B&O Trail Association
Coatesville Town Council
Amo-Coatesville Sewer Conservancy

Hendricks County (cont'd)

Amo Town Council
Clayton Town Council
Plainfield Town Council

Marion County & Central Indiana

Greenways Foundation
Efroymsen Fund
Central Indiana Bicycling Assoc (CIBA)
Foundation
Indianapolis Metropolitan Planning
Organization
Indianapolis Greenways Development
Committee
40 West Professional & Business Club
Irvington Community Council
Cumberland Town Council
Central Indiana Community Foundation
Indianapolis Foundation

Hancock County

Hancock County Board of Commissioners
(assuming State Gov't leads NRHT)
Greenfield Parks & Recreation
State Senator Gard

Henry County

New Castle/Henry County Chamber of
Commerce
New Castle/Henry County Economic
Development Corp.
Henry County Board of County
Commissioners
Henry County Convention & Visitors
Bureau
Healthy Communities of Henry County
State Representative Saunders
Knightstown Town Council
Make a Difference Knightstown, Inc
Dunreith Town Council
South Henry Regional Waste District
Lewisville Town Council
Straughn Town Board

Wayne County

Dublin Town Council
Cambridge City Town Council
Centerville Town Council
Richmond Parks & Recreation