

Saranac River Trail Greenway

Blue Trails Project

Action Plan for Construction [DRAFT]

3/17/2017

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INTRODUCTION:

Clinton County (County) has received Regional Waterfront Program Key Project funds to design the next segment of the Saranac River Trail Greenway in the City and Town of Plattsburgh.

The trail will extend from the current westward terminus at George Angell Drive in the City of Plattsburgh to a point approximately 2.15 miles to the west at Reeves Lane in the Town of Plattsburgh. This section of the trail is ready for advancement since it will be constructed on public sector property, extending through the Plattsburgh City School District High School property, the SUNY Plattsburgh Field House and sports complex and westward across City of Plattsburgh property to Reeves Lane. With the views of the river and especially the imperial dam, there is a desire to keep the trail near the river.

This project is supported by funding from the Environmental Protection Fund through the New York State Department of State (DOS) Local Waterfront Revitalization Program.

Since the current design project scope accomplishes only schematic design, this Action Plan is intended to explain how final design and ultimately construction of the Blue Trails section of the Saranac River Trail Greenway will be accomplished.

PART 1:

1a. Responsible parties for funding acquisition and administration:

Pending approval from the Clinton County Legislature, it is anticipated that the Clinton County Planning Department will pursue grant applications to acquire funding for final design and construction of the Blue Trails. The preferred approach would be to apply for NYSDOT TAP funding to accomplish both the final design and the construction of the Blue Trails. The amount of funding requested in the application would be based on the construction cost estimate produced by MJ Engineering and Land Surveying PC which is the consultant working towards completion of the schematic design of the Blue Trails. Administration of this grant would be by Clinton County, either through the Planning Department or the Highway Department.

1b. Responsible parties for construction oversight:

Construction oversight will be performed by the engineering firm chosen as the consultant to produce the final design.

1c. Ownership:

The ownership of the trail is expected to change as it crosses jurisdictions, however, ownership of the trail segments will be a public agency. SUNY Plattsburgh will own those portions of the trail which exist within the campus properties. The

City of Plattsburgh will own those portions of the trail which exist within the City of Plattsburgh other than those portions owned by SUNY Plattsburgh. The Towns of Plattsburgh, Schuyler Falls, and Saranac will own those portions of the trail which exist within their jurisdictions. This ownership pattern will allow for public use of the trail and facilitate the maintenance of the trail by the City and Towns. There may be portions of the trail that fall within the right-of-way of a County Road and may be the responsibility of Clinton County. The County may take a more active role in the ownership and maintenance of the trail since it will cross multiple jurisdictions and maintenance may be accomplished through shared services.

1d. Operations and Maintenance:

The operations of the trail may vary to correspond with ownership, but generally, the entire length of the trail will be open to the public for a wide range of trail uses. SUNY Plattsburgh closes the on-campus portion of the trail after dark. It is likely that in most jurisdictions the trail will not be kept clear of snow in the winter, but rather will be a seasonal snowshoeing trail. Most of the use of the trail is expected to be informal, though municipal recreation departments have in the past and will continue to host fun runs for kids and similar events.

As was seen when a portion of the existing Saranac River Trail washed out on the SUNY Plattsburgh campus after a flooding event, major maintenance such as repaving will be performed by the City and Towns for those portions of the trail within their respective jurisdictions. Mowing and brush clearing will also be required from time to time and the municipalities are better equipped through their Highway/Public Works departments to be able to address those needs than volunteers would be. "Friends of the Trail" type groups will handle litter clean-up and similar light maintenance. If the County becomes the owner of some sections of the trail, it may perform major maintenance through its Highway department or by way of shared services agreements with the other municipalities.

PART 2:

Identification and acquisition of funding for design and construction of the Blue Trail portion of the SRTG.

Please see section "1a." above. The deadline for the previous round of TAP applications was October 21st, 2016. It is anticipated that the next round of applications will be due around the same time in 2017. The cost estimate being produced as part of the schematic design should be available well within time for a 2017 TAP application.