

**B**e a part of a new Planning Collaborative between Lake and Roscommon Townships to develop a multi-modal **TRAIL SYSTEM PLAN...**

**Thursday - July 25th, 2013**

**5:30- 7:00 pm**

**Lake Township Hall**

**Based on the Township's RECREATION Plans - This is a chance to put on your citizen planner hats and help us:**

**Discuss existing trail ideas - Do current trails help you recreate, commute, stay healthy, get you where you want to go ?**

**Discover the opportunities & limitations to develop and improve the trail system in and around the Southwest Houghton Lake area.**

**Help PRIORITIZE the trail projects! We hope you will help us plan and design them!**

**BIKE  
JOG  
RUN  
RIDE  
WALK  
SKATE  
COMMUTE  
GET HEALTHY !**

*Funded by a Grant from the  
Central Michigan District  
Health Department (CMDHD)*

*Public Facilitator:  
Gosling Czubak  
Engineering Sciences, Inc  
Landscape Architecture and  
Sustainable Site Design*

## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT & NEEDS ASSESSMENT

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COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.1 SUMMARY

Community Stakeholders

Based on efforts made in 2012 to engage the public in both Lake and Roscommon Townships for each communities respective recreation plan ning process, one of the first tasks of the trail planning project was to develop ways to reengage and expand public participation.

Key stakeholders to provide critical input to the planning/design team including feasibility, opportunities and constraints, routing, and partnerships will be necessary and are envisioned to participate in a Trail Working Group (TWG). The following agencies and individuals have been identified as key stakeholders be approached for their participation in the project:

- Lake Township Planning Commission
- Roscommon Township Planning Commission
- Lake Township Parks & Rec. Commission
- Roscommon Township Parks & Rec. Commission
- Mid-Michigan Health Park
- MDNR Parks & Recreation Division
- MDOT Gaylord TSC
- Roscommon County Road Commission (RCRC)
- Roscommon County EDC
- Houghton Lake Merchants Association

System and Environmental Change

This trail planning grant preparation process gave the respective communities momentum to move forward with trail planning and develop a set of common guiding principles Five (5) guiding principles.

The following guiding principles will help create opportunities for system and environmental changes in the townships in terms of trail advocacy, use and the health and quality of life benefits.

- To foster partnerships between the township governments, staffs and stakeholders
- To strengthen public advocacy, participation and use of recreational trails in the community
- To test feasibility and preference of proposed trail routes and segments
- To create phasing and funding action plans based on mutual prioritization
- To make chosen trail system physical improvements based on the adopted trail master plan

Kick-off Meeting (June 12th — 2013)

As a initial engagement for the planning project a kick-off meeting was held with the Lake Township Planning Commission and several interested citizens from the Houghton Lake Community Schools, and the Mid-Michigan Health Park. The discussion topics and action items were completed.

- Review Scope of Work and Timeline
- Discuss Trail Segments (“Windshield” survey w/ members)
- Discuss Stakeholder Input Process
  - Date and Venue (tie to other events near end of June)
  - Exercises and/or questionnaire
  - Mailing / Invite options
  - List of Stakeholder (Direct invites, Public notices & invites)
- Questions/Comments/ Next step (edit project timeline dates)

Project Timeline	
Task Description	Proposed Timeframe
File Application for Planning Grant	March 29, 2013
Obtain Planning Grant Approval	Early May
Topographic Survey / Develop Preliminary Trail Segment Plans and Matrices	May/June 2013
Form TWG and Refine Trail Planning Approach	May 2013
Trail Planning Notifications to Stakeholders	Early June 2013
Trail Planning Charrette and Focus Groups - (DESIGN DAY 1)	July 25th 2013
Refine Input from Charrette	August — 2013
Refinement of Trail Conceptual Plan	September 2013
Conceptual Plan Public Forum Presentation - (DESIGN DAY 2)	October 3, 2013
Development of Priorities, Phasing, and Construction Timetable	Oct.– Nov. 2013
Draft Recommendations Presentation Joint Meeting (PUBLIC MEETING #3)	November 11, 2013
Final Complete DRAFT Final Trail Plan	Jan—Feb 2014
Develop USDA RBEG and MDOT “Training Wheels” grant	February –June 2014
Houghton Lake Trail Planning Summit ( PUBLIC MEETING #4)	August 26, 2014
Respective Boards Approve Final Trail Master Plan	November 2014
Develop Implementation Grants App.(MDNR, MDOT, other agencies)	Nov 2014—March 2015



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 2.2 STAKEHOLDER INPUT — DESIGN DAY #1

The following is the prepared agenda and input mechanisms were utilized for the first public input engagement.

### Introduction Trail Systems Planning – 3 Case Studies (10 min.): (PowerPoint Presentation)

- 1) OATS Trails Master Plan (Oscoda County)
- 2) Leelanau Heritage Trail (NPS, Friends of the Sleeping Bear, NWMCOG)
- 3) Boardman Lake Trail Feasibility Study (TART, City, County, Garfield Twp.)

### Trails 101 – Steps to Create a Trail System (30 min.):

- Master Trail *Routing Plan* (based on current DRAFT of Rec. Plan)
  - Trail System Context in the State and Region
  - Plan review
  - Stakeholder / Public Input (repeats through steps 2 and 3)
  - Real Estate / Public Lands / Possible easements
  - Base mapping (aerials / digital data / ROW maps)
- Ground *“Truth-ing”*
  - Field work to verify ground conditions
  - Opportunities & constraints
  - Photo documentation
  - Alternative routes / Surfaces
  - Safety considerations
- Trail Master *Plan Refinement*
  - Trail Segments
  - Trail support systems (Trailheads, wayfinding system etc.)
  - Cost Projections
  - Phasing and Funding Plan (segments & priorities)
- Implementation Strategy / Recommendations*
  - Phasing and Funding Plan (segments & priorities)
  - Funding and Grant Writing
  - Trail Advocacy Group (By-laws / Establishment)
  - Public Information and Marketing Plan

### Group Exercises - Opportunities & Challenges

#### Exercise 1 (40 min.):

With our initial trail development list from the DRAFT recreation plan and grant applications (in groups to be determined) and the large maps, you will develop an initial trails map (**program**).

#### PROCESS and GROUND RULES (preparation before you start).

- Step 1.** Designate a table “presenter” and table “scribe”. These are different people.
- Step 2.** Review work materials. (*Maps, two boxes of color markers, pad, scales and pens*)
- Step 3.** Allow Presenter to read aloud the Task 1 objectives below.
- Step 4.** Ask questions of the room facilitators before starting your work.
- Step 5.** Utilize respective base maps to work on the three principle trail segments. Do not worry about jurisdictional boundaries but be aware of private property.
- Step 6.** Write (label), draw or trail segments as accurately as possible. Note rational/reasons.
- Step 7.** Work through each of the first three objectives as quickly as possible for each segment
- Step 8.** If time permits, go back and add details to segments for *objectives 4-7*.

*Please*, remember to **work together**, and let each person at your table participate.

#### OBJECTIVES – Trail Routing Plan.

Study the *base maps* which indicate a *color code key for 6 (six) principle proposed trail segments* (derived from the Lake and Roscommon Township Recreation Plans). Please use these color codes to draw the routes your group might create to provide the desired trail linkages in each trail segment area. Connecting one segment to the next. The goal is create a completed link from the Roscommon Township Heights Park area to the Lake Township North end of the Houghton Lake (State Forest Campground).

**ADD** - additional linkages that may connect public and private recreation facilities, buildings and resources. Keep that some connections might be added sidewalk, or paved bike path or even on-road bike lanes – that’s o.k.

**ADD** – indicate possible ROW acquisition/easement locations (property access that may be needed for the trail and may or may not currently in public hands)

**ADD** – possible trail heads / Key “wayfinding components” (*I.e. route signs or map locations*)

#### Exercise 2 (30 min.):

Once your table has developed an initial trails map (program). Again work together to prioritize the trail segments represented by the mapping you have created.

#### DETERMINE PRIORITIES

Prepare a *short rationale (opportunities and constraints) and components* to developing each segment. You will have at least three or you could break the tree into more segments of logical phases (*I.e. property ownership, safety, anticipated or unusual development costs*).

Now work as a group to discuss and *prioritize the trails segments* (I.e. 1,2, 3 and so on) you have developed.

Prepare a short written *rationale directed at other citizens / and decision makers / grant agencies* as to why/how your group prioritized trail segments as you did.

#### PRESENT YOUR IDEAS

Stand or come to the front with your maps.  
Allow your presenter to provide you with a brief summary of your work  
And present your Exercise 2 determinations.

### Closing Remarks – Klaus Heinert, RLA / Others

The following pages are the results of the table exercises conducted with the public. The plans developed and notations made are the exact representation of the information compiled, no design or planning input has been added. For evolution, validation and exploration of the ideas that came out of the stakeholder input refer to Section 3 and 4 of this plan.



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.3 STAKEHOLDER INPUT — DESIGN DAY #2

The information flyer below was prepared and set out to the growing TWG email list. TWG members were also asked to solicit and bring at least one other interested person that did not attend the previous meetings.

Opportunities were provided to participants to see and comment on six proposed trail segments and sub-options that were the subject of several months of field investigation, ground “truthing”, and planning. Participants discussed the opportunities and constraints they were aware of with respect to each segment as well as solutions posed in the form of DRAFT recommendations. Questions were posed an official from the Roscommon County Road Commission also on the TWG.

TRAIL PLAN

Project Update

C

ollaboration continues as new recreational trail DRAFT recommendations are presented and additional feedback sought from stakeholders on the multi-modal TRAIL SYSTEM...

Thursday - October 3, 2013

6:30- 7:00 pm

Lake Township Hall

Based on your previous input and field work conducted by us this summer, another opportunity is here to help plan your community trails system:

● Review evolution of trail ideas - Do proposed trails help you recreate, commute, stay healthy, get you where you want to go?

● Discuss the opportunities & limitations see factors and new ideas that were evaluated for each trail segment.

● Help us finalize PRIORITIES for future trail projects IMPLEMENTATION !

Gosling Czubak engineering sciences, inc.

Funded by a Grant from the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD)

Public Facilitator: Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences, Inc Landscape Architecture and Sustainable Site Design

BIKE

JOG

RUN

RIDE

WALK

SKATE

COMMUTE

GET HEALTHY !

News

Houghton Lake Resorter, October 10, 2013 • A5

Lake, Roscommon developing biking/walking trail plan

By Cheryl Holladay

A half-dozen residents of Lake Township and Roscommon Township met with Project Manager Klaus Heinert of Gosling Czubak, Traverse City, and Lake Township Supervisor Stan Christler Oct. 3 to develop plans for a biking/walking trail in the two townships.

Lake and Roscommon Townships received a \$17,500 planning grant from the Central Michigan District Health Department to create a system of trails that will encourage physical activity in those communities. Both townships already have recreation plans, Heinert said. Among the objectives are to create a north-south connecting pathway and to improve safety.

Heinert has been working on bike trail maps based on input from previous public meetings. He broke down his plan into six segments, placing large maps on the wall of the Lake Township Hall, where the meetings have been held. He provided an overview of some of the considerations of the plan such as on-road writing to direct bicyclists, signage on existing roads, bike lane development and off-road paths.

The segments he reviewed with residents started on the north side of Houghton Lake near the State Forest Campground and ended on the south shore of the lake in Roscommon Township.

Some of the trails proposed by the group and detailed by Heinert are Bradford Drive, North Harrison Road (Old 27), West Shore Drive, Heightsview Drive and connecting to the existing path on M-55 and each other in some locations.

Heinert said he considered the location of recreational opportunities such as resorts, the DNR boat launch, campgrounds and parks, provided major and minor trail heads and highlighted areas where there is a need for safe crossings.

He said the goal is to identify problems as well as opportunities. Some locations, may call for a boardwalk or a bridge.

The proposed two-township trail is about six miles long.

A joint meeting between the two townships will be held in the near future.

Heinert said he expects to present preliminary plans to the township boards in November or December and wrap up the planning stage by the end of year. After both townships approve the plan they may apply for construction grants in the spring (some matching money may be required).

Other municipalities in Roscommon County received the CMDHD development grants, including Markey Township and the Village of Roscommon.

In 2010, the University of Wisconsin's Population Health Institute's County Health Rankings scored the central Michigan counties among the lowest – or “unhealthiest” – in the state. The Central Michigan District Health Department launched the “Together We Can” initiative in response to the low rankings. The goal of the CMDHD initiative is to implement programs intended to reduce obesity, death and disability due to heart disease, stroke and tobacco use in its six counties, Roscommon, Arenac, Clare, Gladwin, Isabella and Osceola.

on is expected to (CHP)

nton

ission member Fred was an “unfortunate perty, but the board ints of the proposed ht best to table the d what there was to n, since no building

Denton Township aid the project could y” approved by the g she thought Wil-sified with the solu-

McLain said it would mission’s advantage ely. Member Joyce . Chairman Bill Oli-ks were met in the y is zoned commer-mmission’s job is to ip ordinance. (Mem-the audience during is affiliated with the

TRAIL PLANNING

Project Manager Klaus Heinert of Gosling Czubak, Traverse City, leads a group of residents in a grant planning meeting on a biking/walking trail Oct. 3 at the Lake Township Hall. Lake Township and Roscommon Township received a grant from the Central Michigan District Health Department to develop a trail to increase healthy lifestyles in the communities. (CHP)

EXHIBIT 2.1 - HLR COVERAGE OF THE MEETING

Recreational Trail Development and Implementation—Planning Collaborative

FINAL DRAFT 08-15-14

Community Engagement & Needs Assessment 2-4



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 2.3 STAKEHOLDER INPUT — DESIGN DAY #2 (Continued)

The TWG has made efforts to invite and engage the media to planning discussions and events and as a result—a online history is being established which adds to the public record, as well as building citizenry knowledge and connection to the project over time.



Stan Christler (supervisor) and Bruce Olson (planning & zoning) from Lake Township discuss trail options with Klaus Heinert



Lake and Roscommon Township officials get up close and personal with the trail development master plan process

### Lake & Roscommon Townships One Step Closer to Their “Ideal” Trail System

Posted By [Kevin Howe](#) On September 6, 2013 @ 8:05 pm In [Featured,Government](#) | [No Comments](#)



[1]

Last month, members of Lake and Roscommon Townships met with Klaus Heinert of the Gosling Czubak Engineering Sciences Firm of Traverse City to look at what community members wanted for a trail system. Members were broken into groups and given large maps of the townships to draw on, designing their ultimate trail system that would connect the townships.

On Wednesday, September 4th, Heinert returned to the Lake Township Hall building with updates of the community input. After the last meeting, Heinert took the maps that the groups drew on back to the office and started the investigation process. Heinert studied the maps and based on education and fieldwork came to some conclusions on certain areas. Some parts just will not happen due to low areas, wetlands, traffic and a number of other factors. Once the absolute no-goes were set aside, Heinert began looking at possibilities and options for the rest of the publically designed system.

Heinert entered this meeting armed with another set of maps, most of which have the new trail design laid out. It appears that the biggest obstacle will be crossing roads such as M-55 and Old US-27. According to Heinert, “The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is in the business of moving people. When it comes to anything dealing with their roads, they will study it to death, and then study it a little more. This is good most of the time, we want their input.” MDOT has very strict rules and regulations regarding curbs, access areas, crosswalks, traffic signals, etc. Future grant funding would come from MDOT and the federal level, so everything must be some to certain specifications and expectations.

The trail systems and/or so-called sidewalks that run sporadically around the townships are part of what is being looked at and rectified. The ultimate goal is to have a walking/biking trail system that will allow people to get in and out of neighborhoods and to the store, work or out into nature without the use of a motorized vehicle. This goal comes with difficulties, MDOT and the main roads that need to be crossed.

Heinert’s plan is to have the completed, publically designed trail system master plan by the end of the year. The final plans will adhere to all MDOT, local, state and federal regulations. This means curbs will be correct, crossings will be properly sized and so on. Once completed, the townships will then need to find future funding sources to make the dream a reality. Future grant funding will be more successful if everything is properly done.

(NOTE: The current planning stages are being provided by grant funding through the Central Michigan District Health Department as part of the grant program provided to get Roscommon County healthy.)

By Kevin Howe

### EXHIBIT 2.2 - ONLINE MEETING COVERAGE



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.4 JOINT DECISION MAKER MEETING

The meeting was held at the Roscommon Township Hall in the evening and specifically targeted members of the Lake and Roscommon Township Boards, Planning Commissions and Parks and Recreation Committees. The TWG also organized food and beverage for the longer event which included the following agenda:

TRAIL PLAN

Joint Township Discussion

Join us as collaboration continues on refinement of DRAFT non-motorized trail recommendations. Feedback is being sought from both Township's Boards and PC's for the TRAIL SYSTEM...

Thursday - November 21, 2013  
6:00- 7:30 pm  
Roscommon Township Hall

BIKE  
JOG  
RUN  
RIDE  
WALK  
SKATE  
COMMUTE  
GET HEALTHY !

Based on previous public input and field work conducted this summer/fall a roundtable discussion for township officials is next on the schedule:

Discuss evolution of trail ideas - Citizens envision new and improved trails to help recreate, commute, stay healthy!

Hear about opportunities & limitations see factors and new ideas that were evaluated for each trail segment.

Help us finalize PRIORITIES for future trail project IMPLEMENTATION !

Funded by a Grant from the Central Michigan District Health Department (CMDHD)

Public Facilitator:  
Gosling Czubak  
Engineering Sciences, Inc  
Landscape Architecture and Sustainable Site Design

Gosling Czubak

engineering sciences, inc.

Engineers • Surveyors  
Landscape Architecture  
Environmental Services

1280 Business Park D., Traverse City, MI 49686-8607  
231-941-1111 • 800-968-1062 • Fax: 231-941-4603

CLIENT Sign-In Please  
SUBJECT Joint Twp Board/PC Meeting

Roscommon Twp. Hall

JOB NUMBER \_\_\_\_\_  
SHEET \_\_\_\_\_ OF \_\_\_\_\_  
DATE 11-21-2013  
COMPUTED BY \_\_\_\_\_  
CHECKED \_\_\_\_\_

Roger Saxton  
Cheryl Holladay  
Kevin Sperry  
Bruce Olson  
Steve Nielsen  
Tammy Muckenthaler  
Tom Rose  
Barb Stevenson  
Carie Milburn  
Marika MacKenzie  
Bob Philo  
Gloria Burns  
Stan Christler  
Diane F Randall  
Beth Christler  
Kevin Rose  
John Branner  
ALAN BURNS  
Dick Pastula  
Norm Fullmer

Rosc. Twp.  
Houghton Lake Resorter  
the Heights  
Lake Twp.  
Rosc Twp  
Rosc. Twp.  
LAKE TWP.  
Rosc Twp.  
Lake Twp  
Rosc. Twp.  
Rosc Twp Parks  
Lake Twp.  
Roscommon Twp  
Lake Twp  
Roscommon Twp.  
Rosc. Twp  
Roscommon Twp  
markey Twp

A good representative cross section of township officials participated in the conversations and activities designed to look at common issues and opportunities, here each respective communities concerns and project priorities, and begin to refine recommendations that made sense for both communities.

Large format wall maps were used along with a detailed Power Pointe presentation that made a “virtual tour” of all areas of the six segments and sub-segments by means of on-site images combined with aerial imagery for contextual reference.

As a direct result of the meeting the following actions occurred:

1) The communities collectively decided that a key focal point for early implementation action was the common corridor of Harrison Rd. (Old US-27) and M-55—the “Crossroads” would be the epicenter of next step efforts.

2) A emerging grant opportunity to apply for on-site training for bicycle facility planning and design, called a “Training Wheels” grant would be applied for by the townships.

3) Lake Township would go to their board with the support of Roscommon Township to seek approval and matching funds to apply for a United States Agricultural Department grant called Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) - to obtain funding to pay for trail preliminary engineering for Segment 5.

5

Develop pocket park/rest point at Carlos Rd. end on Houghton Lake

Develop Major trailhead at MDNR W. Houghton Lake Boat Launch (in Cooperation with MDNR)

Develop 10' bike path in ROW from Segment 4 to M-55 (east side)

Develop 10' bike path in ROW from campground to M-55 (west side)

Develop 2014 MDNR Recreation trail Grant

Together We Can  
Build a healthier community

5 (continued)

Apply access management plan recommendations to eliminate/consolidate driveways

Conduct intersection evaluation and develop safe-crossing / accessibility upgrade recommendations with MDOT

Consider at-grade crossing to connect to campground on west side of Old-US-27

Design / Install wayfinding / bike route signs

Develop safe-crosswalks at Northway Dr. and Cloverleaf Lane to connect N-S

Together We Can  
Build a healthier community

EXHIBIT 2.3 - POWERPOINTE EXCERPTS

Recreational Trail Development and Implementation—Planning Collaborative

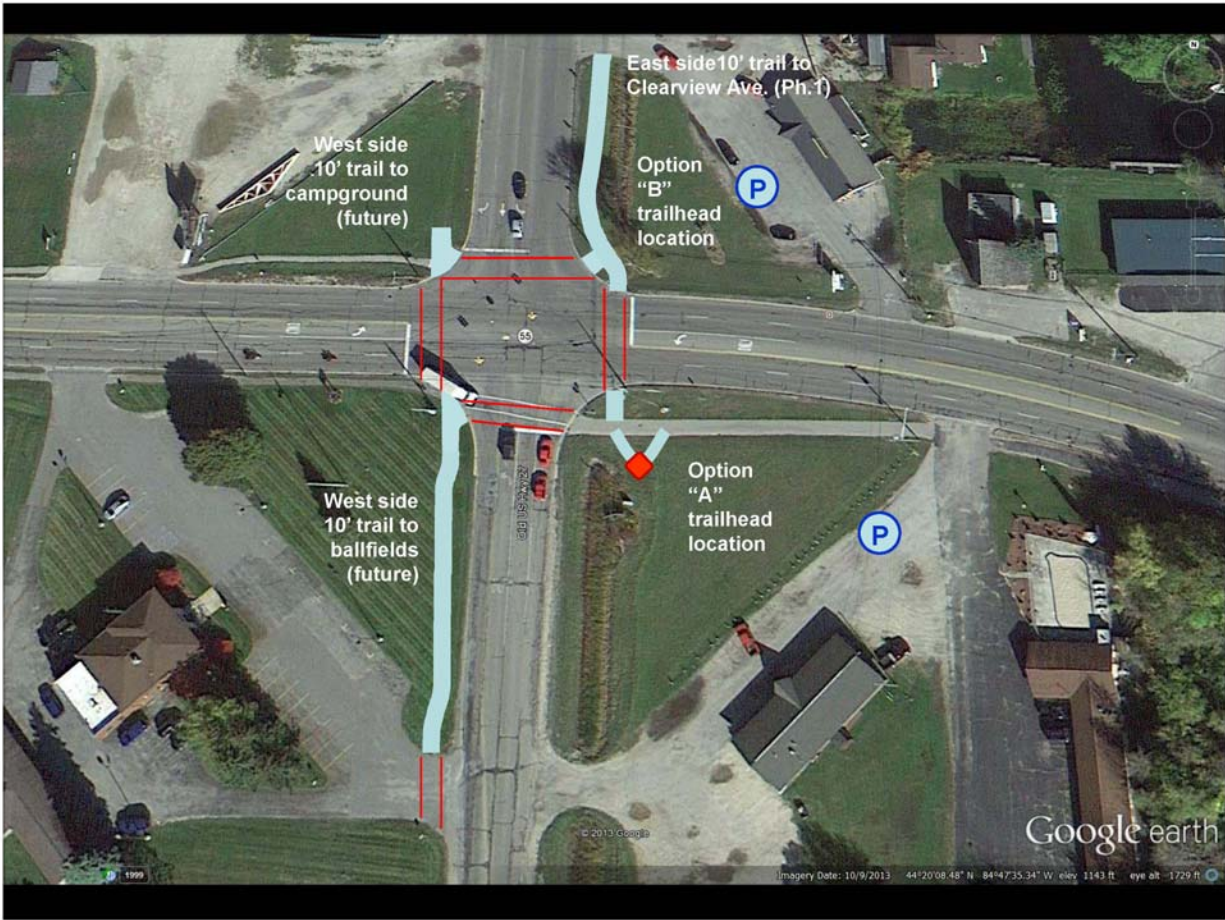
FINAL DRAFT 08-15-14

Community Engagement & Needs Assessment 2-6



COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

2.4 JOINT DECISION MAKER MEETING (CONTINUED)



The attendees at the joint meeting took the opportunity to discuss common goals and experiences which should be considered in the final design solutions for place like the “Crossroads” (above). Conceptual layout of opportunities to connect and create a major hub for the proposed trail system were considered. Participants from the RCRC were on hand to comment and questions were posed to vet with Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) officials at upcoming meetings and interactions.

It was identified that the MDOT would be planning and development of roadway improvements for the section of M-55 to the intersection in the near future and should be engaged in an effort to overlap and coordinate their efforts with those of the townships.



**COUSIN CONFERENCE WITH SANTA**  
Cousins Jasmine Rieger (left) and Ella Rieger, both 6, talk with Santa about their Christmas wishes at the annual Santa's Workshop Nov. 24, sponsored by the Houghton Lake Merchants Association. The event served as a kick-off to the Christmas season with the recent snowfall adding to the holiday atmosphere. For more on Santa's Workshop, see page B10. (Photo by Cheryl Holladay)

RAPS receives good audit report

By Thomas Reznich  
The Roscommon Area Public Schools Board of Education received a good report on the district's finances in their 2012-13 audit, presented to them at their regular monthly meeting by Duane Reyhl of Andrews, Hoopers and Pavlik, PLLC on Nov. 20.  
"You've done a good job of managing," said Reyhl, adding that the district's 19% fund balance is within the recommended level (between 15% and 20%). "Some districts don't have a good cushion" and are getting down to a 10% fund balance "where cash flow problems can occur."  
Reyhl told the board that having a fund balance within the recommended level "allows the district to be able to absorb unanticipated costs without borrowing." He noted that state aid and property tax levels can change.  
Board President Sonia Lake asked Reyhl if the 6% drop in fund balance level RAPS experienced during the 2012-13 school year "is a controlled slide," and he said that in his opinion it is. "You're in good shape," he told the board. The audit is available for the public to view on the district's website at www.rapsk12.net. (continued on page five)

Facts & Stats



Time to get cooking  
In case anyone is looking for recipes for Thanksgiving, the Resorter is publishing 21 recipes from Roscommon Elementary kindergartners. The culinary concoctions on page C1 are sure to add some flavor -- and smiles -- to your holiday meal.  
See page C1



South Pacific at HLHS...C7

Court news.....	A2
Obituaries.....	A3
Opinions.....	A4
Sports.....	A6
Classified.....	B1-4
Religion & Family.....	B4
Happenings.....	B5, B8-10 & C1-2
Education.....	B6-7, C3 & C7
Outdoors.....	C4-5
TV listings.....	C6
Buck Pride.....	C8

Weather Almanac

Week of November 20-25			
Precipitation.....	0.31		
Snowfall.....	2.50		
Annual			
Precipitation.....	28.32		
Snowfall (Seasonal).....	2.50		
Houghton Lake Legal Level.....	1137.60		
Lake level 11/26.....	1138.23		
Higgins Lake Legal Level.....	1153.61		
Lake level 11/26.....	1153.73		
Lake St. Helen Legal Level.....	1154.75		
Lake level 11/26.....	1155.16		
DATE	HIGH	LOW	
11/20	41	27	
11/21	41	33	
11/22	39	26	
11/23	30	13	

Biking trail plan develops as township boards meet

By Cheryl Holladay  
Board members from Lake Township and Roscommon Township, and their planning commissions met with Gosling Czubak Project Manager Klaus Heinert Nov. 21 to review plans for a biking-walking trail connecting the two townships.  
Heinert reviewed preliminary recommendations of proposed trails he developed using input he received from previous public meetings, as well as field and data assessments.  
"I see why you live here," he said at the joint meeting, commenting on the area's natural resources.  
He broke the plan down into six segments, which do not have to be developed in any particular order.  
The two townships received a \$17,500 "Together We Can" planning grant from the Central Michigan District Health Department to create a system of trails that will encourage physical activity among residents and visitors. The grant application was led by Lake Township and there is no matching grant required. The plan consists of about 10 miles of trails in the townships.  
Heinert said the plan is to be completed by the end of January, so he plans to bring his final recommendations to the boards sometime that month. Some of the details may change upon implementation, he said, adding he is providing the framework. After both townships approve the plan they may apply for trail development grants. Some matching money may be required for those grants.  
Heinert provided examples of existing trails, such as the TART (Traverse Area Recreation and Transportation) Trail and the multi-use trail in Oscoda County.  
Explaining the six segments, he said people may end up using part or all of the system. It may be used to get to places where people "want to go and be," such as commercial sites. It may be used for biking, walking or snowshoeing. The plan is broken down into three basic routes, the West Shore Trail, the shared "urban commercial" core and the South Shore trail in Roscommon Township.  
Some considerations for trail planning are the possible seasonal usage by ORVs and snowmobiles and whether the trail will be snowplowed.  
"These come up in discussion," he said.  
Other considerations for trail development, Heinert said, are highlighting key places on the maps where trips may originate, including some private recreation sites, and including safe crossings, parking spaces, water, bathrooms and resting places along the way. Mailboxes, utility poles and garbage can placement also must be taken into account.  
Among the recommendations for segments one through three: From the north, start the route from the Houghton Lake State Forest Campground toward the Muskegon River, a non-motorized bridge near the North Shore Lounge and creating trail heads at the Yeager Road crossing and the Lake Township Fire Hall (which may include a pocket park). Among the recommendations



**CONSIDERING THE TRAIL**  
Bob Philo and Gloria Burns, both of Roscommon Township, discuss the proposed biking/walking trail Lake Township and Roscommon Township officials are developing with the assistance of Klaus Heinert, project manager from Gosling Czubak, Traverse City (not pictured). Heinert reviewed the trail plan in segments at a joint meeting of the townships and their planning commissions Nov. 21. The trail planning is being funded by a Central Michigan District Health Department grant. (CHIP)  
for segments four through six: An Elevated boardwalk or some other connection from West Shore Drive to Old 27, a crossing to a private campground on the west side of Old 27, creating paths on both sides of Old 27 as it approaches M-55, making a safe connection across M-55 to the Graham/McDonald Sports Complex, providing a trailhead on one of the corners and creating a route along Heightsview Drive that connects to the existing path on M-55 and beyond, to Lakeview Park, as well as Skinner Park at the Roscommon Township Hall on Knapp Road.  
Heinert said each segment has about six to 12 recommendations. He said the phasing and funding process is used to help prioritize the segments. He will provide the townships with cost estimates.  
"It's a recipe you refer back to," he said of the plan.  
The route would be developed over a period of years, at the townships' direction, he said.  
Heinert said the final phasing and funding strategy and the final draft plan are expected to be available by the end of January. The segment recommendations by Gosling Czubak, complete with map legends, may be viewed at the Resorter's website, HoughtonLakeResorter.com.

Village passes \$1.1 million budget a month early

By Krista Tacey-Cater  
krista.tacey@houghtonlakeresorter.com  
The Village of Roscommon Council attributed its November budget passing to the diligence of Village Manager Allen Lowe through his budgeting schedule as the 2014 budget was passed at the Nov. 25 meeting.  
After holding a public hearing at the beginning of the meeting, the council passed a budget with revenues totaling \$1,141,213 and total expenses as \$1,641,750. A breakdown of the budget includes a general fund with \$409,500 in revenues and \$419,000 in expenses; the major streets fund with \$63,489 in revenues and \$139,500 in expenses; the local streets fund with \$32,934 in revenues and \$74,400 in expenses; the industrial park fund with \$40 in revenues; the sewer fund with \$324,400 in revenues and \$572,400 in expenses; the water fund with \$223,900 in revenues and \$360,200 in expenses and the equipment fund with \$76,950 in revenues and \$76,250 in expenses. (continued on page five)

Russ Graham dinner to be

EXHIBIT 2.4 - JOINT MEETING PRESS COVERAGE



# COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

## 2.5 MDOT ‘TRAINING WHEELS’ GRANT



In Spring of 2014 a formal invitation and call for grant applications was issued by MDOT. Lake Township in cooperation with Roscommon Township applied for and was selected to be a host site for the July 2014 training session. Township officials with the recommendation and assistance from Gosling Czubak developed an invitation, invitee list, and coordinated the development of the training day session held at the Lake Township Hall on July 7th, 2014.

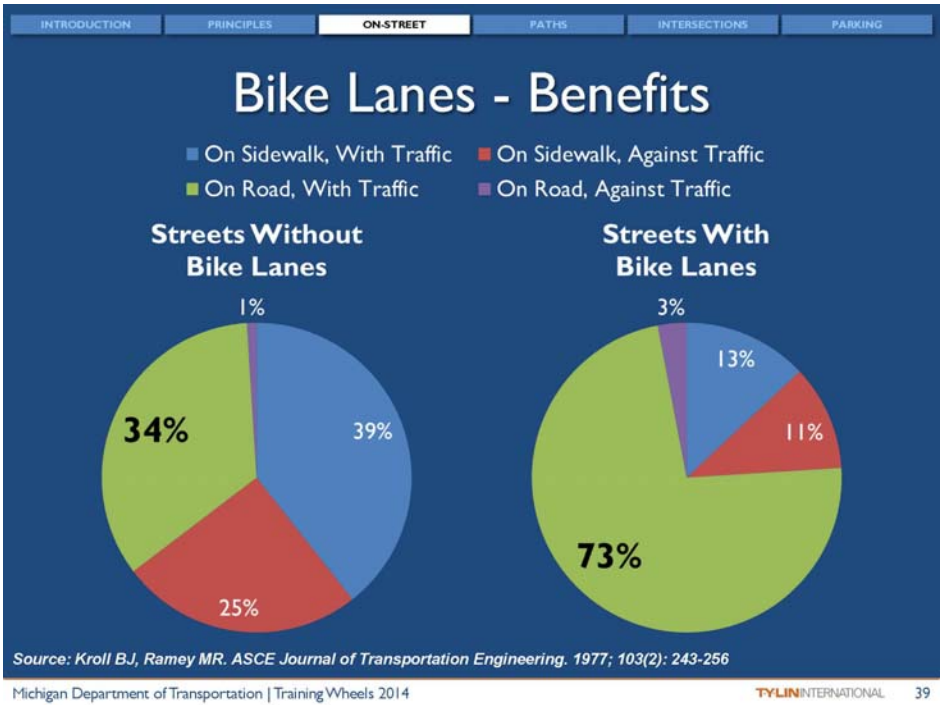
The sessions were led by TYLin International of Chicago with MDOT planning staff on hand. The Houghton Lake Area was well represented with participants from all four townships—Lake, Roscommon, Denton and Markey as well as Lake Township (Missaukee County) the Village of Roscommon, and RCRC and MDOT staff.

The training day consisted of a detailed in-house introduction and instructional media presentation, a field ride of the majority of the proposed trail route beginning at Lake View park in Roscommon Twp. (Segment 6b) and ending back at the Fire Hall in Lake Township (Segment 2). Participant rode the route experiencing all the typical cross-section and design challenges.

An afternoon session, brought participants back indoors to consider what was just experienced and apply learned information to some prepared “design challenges” of the system. The township and consultants worked with TYLin staff to identify locations and prepare the design challenge problem. A refinement of a portion of Segment 6 was done as a direct result of the sessions (See Exhibit 2.5—this page).

The township gained reference to a variety of the newest planning and design manuals, specifications, and case studies, as well as supporting data developed and presented by TYLin International.

Participants were able to gain a better working knowledge of design considerations, specifications, vocabulary and process for bicycle facility design and planning. These resources, such as the chart below depicting comparative facility benefit in a variety of conditions experienced in the planning area, will be useful tools as the communities move forward.



Township officials also benefited by the interaction and networking with other community trail designers and agency reps. Contact information was shared and MDOT officials were introduced to the ongoing planning efforts. These same agents will be helpful in seeking support for future funding and implementation of the trial segments.

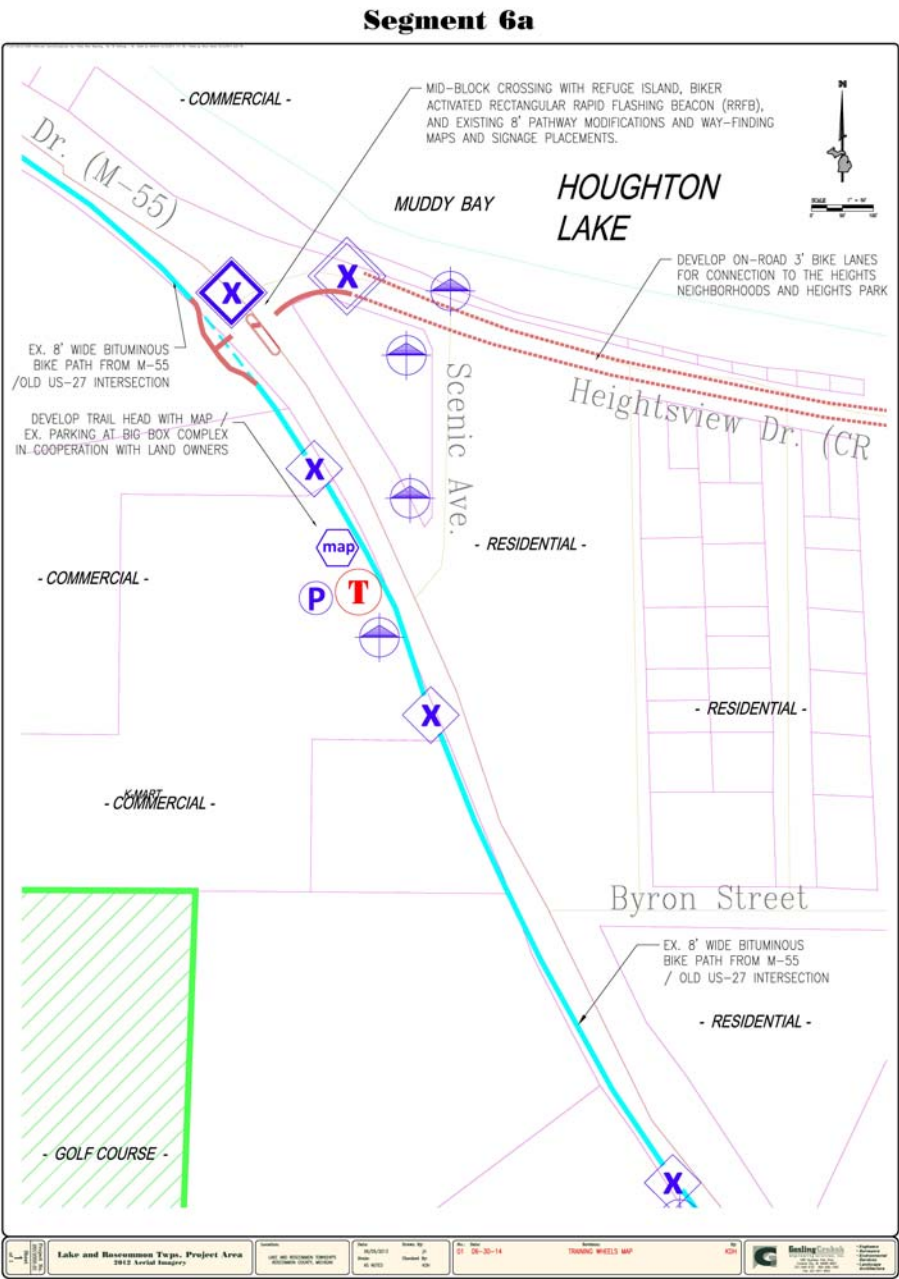


EXHIBIT 2.5 - ‘TRAINING WHEELS’ DESIGN CHALLENGE



NEEDS ASSESSMENT

2.4 SUMMARY

Community needs assessment for the trail planning project began with a literature review, including review of existing data from previous planning efforts including public input and surveys conducted in Lake and Roscommon Townships.

Data Collection and Literature Review

Initial data collection and review of the proposed trail planning proposal was done with the assistance of Mr. Stan Christler and Ms. Diane Randall – Supervisors of Lake and Roscommon Townships respectively. Base data and proposed trail planning areas of focus were derived from the *2012 Lake Township Recreation Plan, 2012 Roscommon – Parks, Recreation, Open Space and Greenways Plan (As amended 2013), and the M-55 Access Management Plan* completed by the Gaylord MDOT Transportation Service Center (TSC) in 2006.

Three principal trail routes were identified by these previous plans and are the focus of the trail master plan. Each proposed trail route will provide key trail linkages to and from existing recreational resources, township and public facilities and destinations and will provide mutual benefit for both residents and visitors to the area.

The planning process also advances trail conceptual design and evaluation for implementation. Each route may become a distinct project or set of projects that will help to expand both the local and regional trail network, are supported by previous public dialog as desirable for implementation. For a summary of the existing plan document review see Section 1.2.

Public Surveys and Opinion Poll Reviews

Lake Township (Excerpts from 2012 Recreation Plan)

- Trails and pathways that allow accessibility and connection of access to state parklands and public spaces.
- Improvements to these assets will likely draw more users which in turn increases the demand for safe passage between parks and public spaces.
- Despite influx of younger visitors during the summer, the older and aging population need and would make use of a safe trails for hiking and exercise
- Utilize underdeveloped lands that are prime locations for recreational uses including trailheads such as current Fire Hall Property and new township community hall site.

(Excerpts from Lake Township 2012 Rec. Plan continued)

- Work with the State of Michigan to develop a pathway in the state land near the end of Michelson Road that would attract hikers, bicyclists and others to enjoy the outdoors and provide the opportunity for exercise.
- Work on long-term projects for the township include developing the west shore trail system from the state boat launch on the southerly terminus to the Houghton Lake State Forest Campground on the north shore.
- Facilitate (non-motorized) traffic to state facilities and other public uses offering improved opportunity for outdoor activities and natural resource access
- Create trail links from other county and regional natural resource recreation, trails and parks where practical and warranted.

Roscommon Township (Excerpts from 2010 Parks, Recreation Open Space and Greenways Plan)

In November of 2010, a Park Survey was mailed out to all residents of the Township. Fifty Three (53) respondents were documented and provided the following prioritization of recreational activities (Top ten responses of 15):

Importance of Selected Recreation Options			
	Important	Neutral	Unimportant
Hiking / Biking Trails	36	11	3
Swimming Beach	35	9	13
Fishing Dock	34	12	4
Children’s Playground	34	13	3
Natural Waterfront	30	16	4
Ice Skating Rink	30	14	5
Picnic Facility	28	18	5
Swimming Pool	27	12	11
Fitness Trail	26	19	4
Open Space	18	22	7

In both cases for the number 1 and 9 activities in the survey, Hiking/ Biking and Fitness Trail respectively, 50% or better placed the highest level of importance on that recreational activity.

(Excerpts from 2012 Roscommon Twp. Rec. Plan continued)

The following goals from the 2012 plan focus on improving connectivity, accessibility and safety for non-motorized trail users.

- Establish community partnerships that promote efficient operation, public use, and community stewardship of area park and recreation and trail systems
- Work with the MI Department of Transportation and the Roscommon County Road Commission to maintain and improve public access points and safe crossing locations across M-55 and other major thoroughfares

Stakeholder Input Process

A series of public meetings hosted by the Trail Working Group (TWG) generated opportunities for dialog between stakeholders, citizens and trail planners. Roscommon County Road Commission (RCRC) and MDOT officials also provided participants a venue to vet ideas, technical questions and concerns with specific segment alignments and routing.

Throughout the trail planning process, stakeholders were provided with additional, and more detailed discovery regarding proposed trail routes and segments including field imagery, measurements and technical information on the real estate and Right-of-Way (ROW) available for possible solutions.

From this process six segments and numerous sub-segment options were introduced, discussed, refined and prioritized. Early DRAFT recommendations confirmed a collective desire to focus “next step” efforts on the center segments of the system—namely Segment 5. Two grant opportunities were introduced by the trail planning consultants and acted upon by Lake Township.

A United States Agricultural Department (USDA) - Rural Business Enterprise Grant (RBEG) grant was developed and submitted in February 2014, resulting in a \$25,000 matching grant to develop engineered plans and Construction Implementation grant application for Segment 5.

In July, a second grant applied for through the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) sponsored a unique opportunity for the community to receive instruction and training specific to design and planning of on-road biking facilities. “Training Wheels” in Lake Twp. —had twenty two participants from six Houghton Lake Area governmental units and road agencies for the all day event.