Ontwa Township Trails

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INTRODUCTIONS

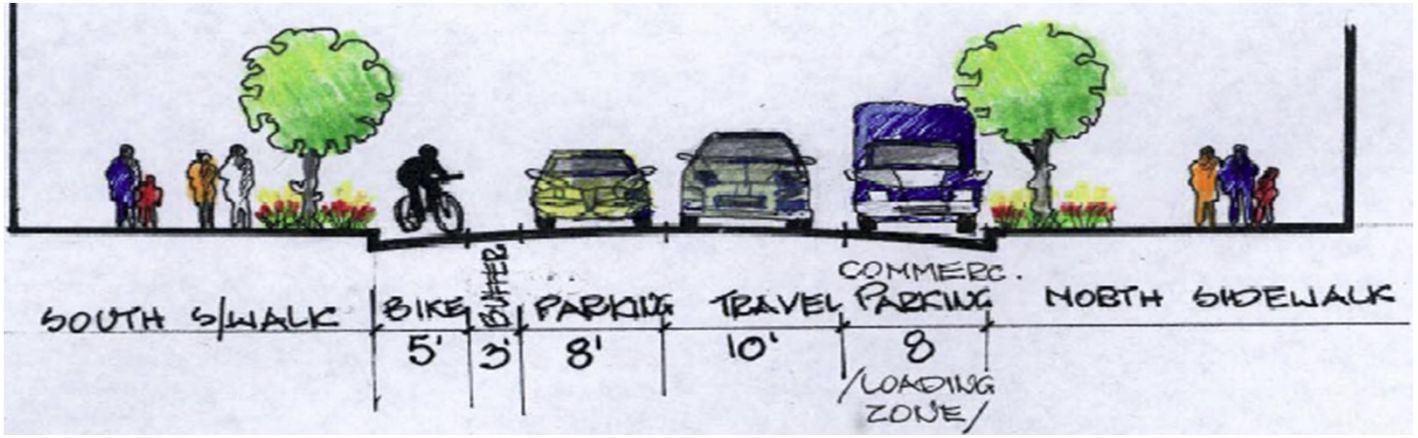
* Don DeLong – Planning Commission
* John Bossler – Township Supervisor
* Joe Bellina - Cass County Road Commission
* Sandra Seanor – Planning Commission
* Margie Allen – Trails Team
* Gautam Mani- Southwest Planning Commission

OVERVIEW

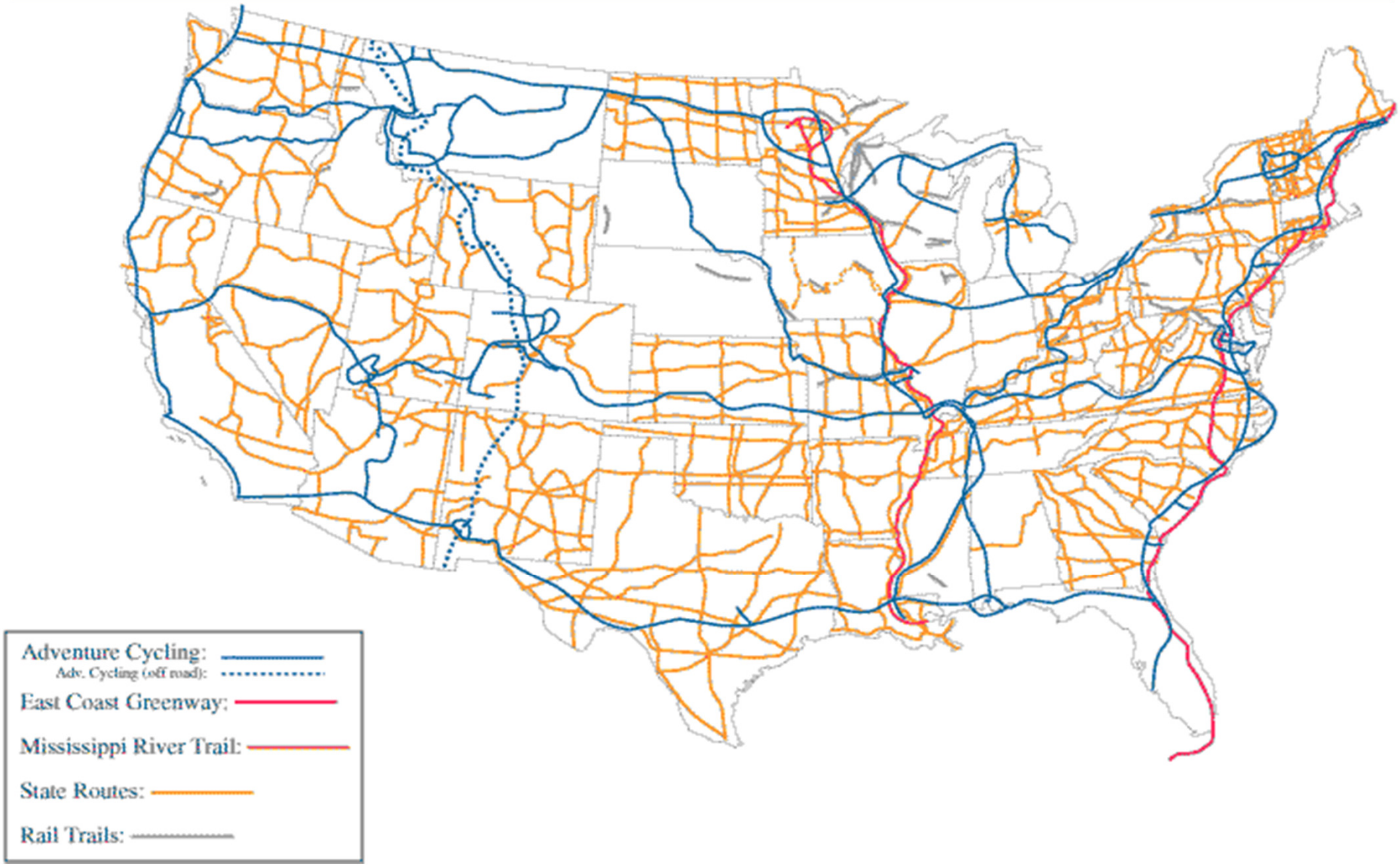
* Multi-Use trails for any non-motorized transportation. This would provide safe paths between dense residential locations to the commercial businesses, churches, schools, the village, parks and other residential areas.
* There are three types of paths : a shared road, the shoulder of the road, or a ten foot wide path along side of the existing road.
* Nation-wide movement to reduce our carbon footprint and bring communities together.

Complete Streets Initiative

* Nationwide program to make communities safer for non-motorized travel.
* Michigan governor led this Planning Enabling Act initiative in 2010.
* A standard for streets, trails and paths.
* A Resolution by the Township Board is needed to institute



National Trails



FIRST STEPS

* Review Master Plan and Community Survey
* Partner with Road Commission, Village, SWMPC, MDOT, neighboring communities and other parties with vested interests
* Share Design
* Secure Right-of-Way
* Timetable
* Develop Pricing
* Secure Funding

PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

* Advertise public meeting
* Share plan of Ontwa Trails
* Answer questions
* Revise Plan
* Provide Progress Updates
* Share with neighboring communities

FUNDING

* Southwest Michigan Planning Commission (SWMPC) support – Gautam Mani
* Ontwa Township commitment of long term funding of at least $15,000 annually
* Village of Edwardsburg Funding??
* Apply for Grants
* Grants to provide 80% of the annual funding
* Sponsors of the Trail
* Donations of services and funding
* Partnerships

Federal Funding Sources

Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality (CMAQ)- about $200,000 annually available in Cass County

Transportation Alternatives Program (TAP)- about $43,000 available through NATS, about $16 million statewide

Safe Routes to School (SR2S)

Surface Transportation Program (STP)– both rural and urban. This is where you can tack on money to an existing resurfacing or reconstruction project!

State Funding Sources

* **Transportation Economic Development Fund (TEDF)**
* **DNR Land and Water Conservation Fund (Trail Development)**
* **DNR Natural Resources Trust Fund (for acquisition)**

What can and can't SWMPC do to help you build trails and paths?

* CAN assist you with convening stakeholder meetings that involve employees of the DNR and MDOT
* CAN assist with mapping needs and provide data to help make the case for investments.
* CAN assist in filling out applications and making sure that project application continues to move forward.
* CANNOT provide engineering work or design.

Estimated Costs

* 10’ separated concrete path - $285,000 per mile
* 10’ separated asphalt path - $230,000 per mile
* 4’ adjacent asphalt path (both sides) - $185,000 per mile
* Paint line separation (6” polyuria line, both sides) $9,000 per mile
* Signs are a complex issue based on intersections etc.., but assume $200 per sign.
* Additional cost for grade adjustment, tree removal, right-of-way acquisition.

DESIGN, ENGINEERING & CONSTRUCTION

* Once a projected is approved for funding and included in the Transportation Improvement Plan (TIP) and State TIP
* Preliminary Engineering and Design (PE) may be funded with 80% federal funds. An engineering design consultant will be selected through a competitive process.
* The PE phase (2) defines the right of way (RW) or parcels/property needed to be acquired for the project.
* Once the right of way is acquired the construction contract will be bid out to a construction firm by MDOT
* Completing projects may take 3- 5 years.

NEXT STAGES

* Move on to phases 2, 3, 4 etc…. as funding permits
* Modify plan as needed
* Maintenance Plan

QUESTIONS?

Thanks!

Sources

* Cass County Road Commission
* Southwest Michigan Planning Commission
* Michigan Department of Transportation
* Ontwa Township Master Plan
* Ontwa Township Board
* Milton Township Supervisor
* Economic Development of Michigan