

Indiana County

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For Immediate Release:

The Indiana Multimodal Corridor- Hoodlebug Trail Extension Project in 2013 as a 2.5 mile concept aimed at meaningfully and thoughtfully connecting what was the terminus of the Hoodlebug Trail to downtown Indiana Borough, continuing on through town and ultimately reaching the White Township Recreation Complex along East Pike Road. We had developed funding plan that consisted of 2 grant sources and our local match component. We unfortunately ended up losing the primary grant funding contribution to somewhere else in the Southwestern Pennsylvania region as we were awaiting an announcement regarding the second grant opportunity. We did end up receiving that funding which was a \$280,000 grant from the Commonwealth Financing Authority (CFA) that was matched by our local contribution of \$120,000 from our project partners for a total project cost of around \$400,000. Partners contributing financially to the local match included IUP, Indiana Borough, and the Indiana County Commissioners. White Township, as a project partner, contributed directly to the project by acquiring a highway occupancy permit through PennDOT to take us across rose street and they continued improvements through the old right of way for 13th street and we then picked up the project at the pathway to Robertshaw, an IUP owned facility that connects with the existing s. 13th street. As a project team we did reach a point where we needed to make a critical decision. We had planned the monies from the CFA to be used for preconstruction activities for the 2.5 mile concept, and the money that we ended up losing has been planned for construction of the project. We could either move forward as planned and looked for the construction dollars someplace else, or make the decision to rescope and rescale our project as long as we could still accomplish some or all of the goals that we had initially set out to achieve. We chose to rescope and rescale.

This project has accomplished a number of key objectives.

1. Providing greater connectivity and between and through our communities of White Township and Indiana Borough and the IUP Campus.
2. Providing safer and more accessible multimodal transportation opportunities.
3. Great for local recreation and eco-tourism and economic development that we keenly promote here in Indiana County, building upon what we have already been pursuing and what already exists here.
4. Adding additional mileage to an expansive regional trail network known as the Trans Allegheny Trails. You will be able to ride/walk/run from Downtown Indiana to Downtown Ebensburg with the completion of this project.
5. Provides a direct route for folks from the campus and community looking to navigate to Indiana Borough and the downtown area. Before the route was nebulous and now folks will be directed how to get there.

6. Inspired continued efforts to capitalize on opportunities related to Active Transportation amongst the project partners. Since the initial construction of the project, Indiana Borough and Indiana County have both adopted Active Transportation Plans and White Township has adopted a Complete Streets Policy.

We are proud of the planning and the partnership that developed and carried this project through to fruition. We have been able to work together to achieve goals that were included in our respective comprehensive and master planning efforts. COVID 19 impacted the programming and interactive activities that were planned with the initial completion of the project, but now we can celebrate the project once again, as we have completed the mapping and resource information components to be included at the 8th Street Trailhead, located at the intersection of 8th and Church Streets in Indiana Borough. We, again, worked as partners to develop the mapping for the sign and we are collectively building out the information located at the resource page to be accessed by a QR code on the sign. The resource page will include links to important relevant Active Transportation information, maps and other resources.

In light of these recent project developments, we, as project partners, will be hosting a grand re-opening of the Indiana Multimodal Corridor- Hoodlebug Trail Extension. The event will take place at 10:00am on Saturday, July 22. We will celebrate the accomplishments of the project partners and we will offer folks the opportunity to participate in a Hoodlebug Trail Appreciation and Awareness Ride down the length of the project corridor and out into White Township to a turn around point just beyond Indian Springs Road. Participants may then decide to stop at Levity or somewhere else along or near the trail/corridor for a bite or a beverage prior to riding back to town or home. All are invited to this free event. Questions may be directed to Josh Krug, Deputy Director, Planning, Indiana County Office of Planning & Development. Phone: 724-465-3877 Email: jkrug@ceo.co.indiana.pa.us. Thank you.