

Plan for bike lanes on Neville Island draws favorable reaction

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December 18, 2015 NEVILLE TOWNSHIP, PA — Reaction to Allegheny County’s plan to place bike lanes along Neville Road and Grand Avenue in Neville Township was mostly positive Thursday night, with about 30 residents and area bicycling enthusiasts providing input and asking questions about the project proposed for 2016.

The shared and dedicated bicycle lanes will ultimately connect to Downtown Pittsburgh; to the 46-mile long Montour Trail using a 0.8-mile extension through the county’s 78-acre Sports & Athletic Complex at Montour Junction; and with the Ohio River Trail, which will extend to the Ohio state line and beyond.

“We have a ton of bikers, a lot of professional bikers, it will be nice to see them safer,” said resident Marisa Haney, who came to the meeting because she was worried her on-street parking would be affected. “My biggest concern, because I live on Grand, was were they taking my parking. I’m happy to say, no, they are not.”

Bikers who already travel through the industrial area making up much of Neville Road were worried that gravel-littered roadways would remain a hazard.

Michael J. Dillon, deputy director of engineering with Allegheny County, said he understands the need for maintaining roads where bicyclists regularly travel, noting the more than 5 miles of bike lanes planned through Neville Island are one of the first of its size for the county, which maintains 400 miles of roadways. The county also has bicycle routes on the Roberto Clemente Bridge and in North Park.

The project is estimated to cost \$400,000 with 80 percent of the money coming from the Southwest Pennsylvania Commission through a grant from the Livability with Smart Transportation Program and 20 percent from the county.

Plans for the lanes and for creating a dedicated bicycle route to Pittsburgh using roadways in Stowe, McKees Rocks and along Carson Street were first introduced in 2012.

The county and CSX Corp. are looking into revisiting proposals for this bike trail in the spring, with the potential plan to move the Stowe portion of the route to run through the railroad’s intermodal terminal being built on 70 acres between the Ohio River and Route 51, also known as Island Avenue. Original plans proposed bike lanes run alongside motorist lanes on Island Avenue. The railroad broke ground on the more than \$60 million project earlier this month.

Bicyclist will enter and exit Neville Island using the Fleming Park and Coraopolis bridges. Lane configuration on the Fleming Park bridge will be reduced to one lane in each direction to allow for a dedicated bike lane and buffer area.

Source: <http://www.post-gazette.com/local/west/2015/12/18/Plan-for-bike-lanes-on-Neville-Island-draws-favorable-reaction/stories/201512180213>

