

Plan aims to make Sewickley Valley streets safe for cyclists

By LARISSA DUDKIEWICZ, Tribe LIVE

January 20, 2016 SEWICKLEY, PA —A Glen Osborne man continues his efforts to make Sewickley Valley communities safer for bicyclists. John Orndorff, of the Ohio River Greenway Trail, encouraged Sewickley Council members Monday night to participate in a multi-community plan to help create a “complete streets” program.

The complete streets program would offer a comprehensive plan connecting all of the involved communities with the same signage and other similarities along the planned bike trail.

“What needs to happen is for communities to explore an expanded vision of what a complete streets network can do,” he said.

Orndorff said the complete streets program would need to be a multi-community effort.

Sewickley is the first municipality to hear the plan, which Orndorff intends to take to other communities including Coraopolis, Moon, Glen Osborne, Edgeworth, Leetsdale and Ambridge.

The communities would need to hold workshops, which Orndorff said requires funding and participation.

Getting funding would be more successful with the cooperation of all the communities, Orndorff said.

Orndorff said he is exploring the possibility of continuing the bike trail from Sewickley along the north shore to Baden, Freedom and further down the river.

He has drafted a multimunicipal agreement, but said none of the communities have signed yet.

Council President Susan Aleshire said council will look at the agreement and get back to Orndorff.

The Beaver County-based Ohio River Trail Council last year had planned to begin work this year to extend the Montour Trail through Coraopolis to the Sewickley Bridge in Moon. The plan could cost \$1.5 million.

Phase two of the project would involve crossing the Ohio River and extending the trail from the Sewickley Bridge to Center, Beaver County. The plan calls for the route to use mostly municipal roads.

The trail council wants to connect the Sewickley Bridge to Sewickley and other local communities via a greenway trail, which would feature paved and well-marked bike lanes.

The trail would give cyclists a safer alternative to the heavily traveled Pennsylvania Bike Route A that runs along state Route 51.

Last year, Sewickley leaders said they didn't want a bike path coming through the borough's business district.

Since July 2013, two cyclists have been killed locally when vehicles collided with them.

Emily Jancart was 17 when the Moon resident was killed July 20, 2013, along Route 51, near the Sewickley Bridge, while biking to work at the Edgeworth Club.

On Oct. 31, 2013, Taylor Lee Banks, 23, was struck and killed while riding along Route 51 near the West Aliquippa Bridge in Aliquippa.

Source: <http://triblive.com/news/neighborhoods/sewickley/9820482-74/sewickley-trail-communities>