



PUBLIC INFORMATION MEETING

for the

LENOX CANASTOTA TO WAMPSVILLE RAIL TRAIL PROJECT

TOWN OF LENOX

TOWN OF LENOX TOWN HALL
Canastota, New York 13032

November 9, 2017
5:00 pm to 7:00 pm



MEETING PURPOSE

The purpose of this informational meeting is to provide an opportunity for interested individuals to become acquainted with the proposed Lenox Canastota to Wampsville Rail Trail (LCWRT) project and express comments to the Town of Lenox. The meeting is an "Open House" format. Feel free to review the exhibits provided and to ask questions of the staff.

PROJECT LOCATION AND PROPOSED AMENITIES

The LCWRT is proposed to be constructed along existing abandoned railbeds from the Village of Canastota to the Village of Wampsville. The trail is a Transportation Alternative Project (TAP) funded 2.25 mile trail that will begin at South Peterboro Street (NYS Route 13) at the Lenox Skate Park, continue east to Donald Hicks Dew Drive and terminate at North Court Street in Wampsville. It will connect with the Oneida Rail Trail, which in turn connects to the Old Erie Canal Trail and the North Country National Scenic Trail. The trail will be used by residents of both communities for practical and recreational use, including a safer connection to Madison County government offices in Wampsville and to Town and Village offices in Canastota. The trail will consist of either a hot mix asphalt paved surface or a compacted fine stone top surface, over a crushed stone leveling base constructed on the remaining railroad ballast, ending at Donald Hicks Dew Drive. From Donald Hicks Dew Drive to North Court Street the trail will be on a paved roadway. "Sharrow" markings will be utilized for bicyclists and pedestrians will be accommodated on the shoulders. Planned improvements to become the focal and connecting points of the trail system include two railroad-themed structures and a parking area where the trail meets Donald Hicks Dew Drive. One structure will be at the halfway point and the other will overlook Dutch Settlement Creek, offering opportunities for trail users to observe wetland and stream wildlife. In addition, solar lights, wayfinding and destination signage will be placed along sections of the trail to increase its visibility, convenience, and usage.

This is a Locally Administered Federal Aid project. 80% of the project costs are reimbursed by Federal Government, 20% by Town of Lenox, much in the form of work done by the Town Highway Department, and donations.

Construction of the trail is planned for the summer of 2018.

NEED FOR THE PROJECT

The LCWRT will provide pedestrians, bicyclists, and special needs persons with a safer alternative for travel between the Wampsville and Canastota communities compared to using NYS Route 5, which is heavily traveled and lacks pedestrian accommodations. It will provide a direct link between the centers of each Village, and allows easy connection to other trails and services.

PROJECT OBJECTIVES

- Provide infrastructure to promote healthy activity alternatives for the community, by encouraging non-motorized travel off the busy roadways within and to the Villages of Wampsville and Canastota.
- The trail will provide a safer and more convenient transportation alternative particularly for people with special needs, and for those using battery-powered mobility scooters. Safety enhancements will include high visibility crosswalks and signage at North Court Street in Wampsville.
- Spur development for future improvements to the west end of the trail near the Lenox Skate Park, which could include an ice rink, bocce courts, a dog park, and other amenities.
- Increase the number of parking spaces available at the Lenox Skate Park for users of the Park, the trail, community events such as the Boxing Hall of Fame Parade, and for future improvements and facilities.
- Revitalize a long-dormant but important part of our local history. Where once the West Shore and New York Central Railroads passed through our community, recreational users will soon be able to traverse the same routes that the mighty trains did.
- Attract new users of the trail and visitors to our community, including "railfans," people who enjoy photographing and documenting rail transportation. The trail's proximity to the two sets of tracks that parallel the pathway offer excellent views and perspectives on rail traffic, while maintaining a safe distance away from the tracks.
- Provide a new opportunity for field trips for school children to explore and learn about the local railroad history on the trail and to observe wetland and stream wildlife up close.
- The trail will be available for use by non-motorized means year-round. In winter months snowshoeing and cross-country skiing will be available.

TRAIL OWNERSHIP AND MAINTENANCE

The LCWRT project will be built on abandoned railroad property currently owned by the Town of Lenox. Maintenance of the trail will be the responsibility of the Town. The trail will be inspected regularly to pick up trash and check on equipment, pavement, structures, and lighting.

BENEFITS OF THE PROJECT

The LCWRT will provide a common transportation corridor and public space that will link the Villages of Canastota and Wampsville. The easily accessible, shared-use trail will provide opportunities for users to increase their level of physical activity and improve their health and longevity. This trail will also encourage the use of non-motorized modes of transportation contributing to improving area congestion and air quality. It will also help spur future development of recreational facilities along the corridor.