

**Date:** Wed, 10 Nov 2004 08:53:24 -0500  
**From:** "Dan Keifer" <dckeifer@comcast.net>  
**Subject:** [Clinton River Trail] Trail User Support Needed  
**To:** "Clinton River Trail" <clintonrivertrail@yahoogroups.com>

Dear Trail Users & Enthusiasts,

A lot has been accomplished this year on the Clinton River Trail, and I hope you've been out on the trail to see it and enjoy it. The work and activities planned for 2005 will amaze you even more, when you see how the trail is truly being transformed from an abandoned railroad bed to a safe, healthy, enjoyable trail that's connecting communities, neighborhoods and fun places to visit.

Trail progress like this doesn't happen on auto-pilot. In a world of limited budgets and competing priorities, trails happen through hard work, unbridled enthusiasm and support from trail users and enthusiasts like you. Elected officials, parks/recreation professionals and transportation decision-makers work on trails when they hear from the public and understand the priority of recreational trails and non-motorized transportation.

Let me tell you about two opportunities for your voice to be heard, where you can express your own support for trails and non-motorized transportation. AS SO MANY OF YOU HAVE DONE OVER THE EARLY LIFE OF THE CLINTON RIVER TRAIL, THIS IS A GOOD TIME TO PICK UP YOUR PEN OR THE TELEPHONE, OR TAP AWAY ON YOUR KEYBOARD.

1. The first is right here on the Clinton River Trail. One of our trail's remaining challenges is how to get trail users safely across Telegraph Road on the west side of Pontiac, where it will connect with Sylvan Lake's section of the trail and further on to the West Bloomfield Trail (maybe someday clear across the state!). The best solution would be to construct a pedestrian-only bridge to safely carry trail users over Telegraph's high traffic volume and speeds. The City of Pontiac is in the process of applying for a grant to the Greenways Initiative of the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan to fund an engineering study of doing this bridge.

Your voice of support as a trail user and enthusiast at this time would really assist with this grant application. The deadline is November 22. Please write or email a brief letter of support for a pedestrian-friendly crossing at Telegraph Road, and send it:

Madhu Oberoi  
Planning Department  
City of Pontiac  
47450 Woodward Avenue  
Pontiac MI 48342-2271  
MOberoi@pontiac.mi.us

2. The second opportunity is to show your support for trails and non-motorized transportation all across the state. The Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) is seeking comments from Michigan residents on its public involvement plan for statewide transportation planning. You can see the plan online at MDOT's website at [www.michigan.gov/mdot](http://www.michigan.gov/mdot) under the button for "Projects and Programs."

This is an opportunity for trail users and non-motorized advocates to learn how to get involved with MDOT's public input process, and thereby review and comment on the importance to you of seeing more trails and more non-motorized transportation as part of the state's overall transportation plan.

Please take a little time to look around MDOT's web page, and learn about its planning process and where you can get your two cents in about trails, bikes, walking. Trail users are being given a chance to SPEAK UP...let's take it!

The deadline for submitting comments on the public involvement plan is 12/15/2004, and you can do so via email to [mdot-publicinvolvementplan@michigan.gov](mailto:mdot-publicinvolvementplan@michigan.gov).

If you wish to comment on specific parts of MDOT's transportation plans, you can probably find further information on their website with some research time. If not, talk to your local cycling club officers, the Rails To Trails Conservancy office in Lansing, the Michigan Mountain Biking Association, or myself. I'd be happy to get you any contact information you need.

Please write a couple of letters of support between now and this weekend. I can ensure you a great return on your investment in tomorrow's trails and non-motorized transportation!

Best regards,

Dan Keifer

Friends of Clinton River Trail

248.652.1434