

Form Name:	Ped/Bike Special Solicitation Traditional Infrastructure Application
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## APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Type	City/Village
Primary Contact	Joel B. Day
Title	Mayor
Agency/Organization	City of New Philadelphia
Email	jday@newphilaoh.com
Phone	(330) 364-4491
Address	150 East High Avenue City of New Philadelphia, OH 44663
What MPO/RTPO Area?	OMEGA
ODOT District	11

## PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project description	The City of New Philadelphia, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail project would complete the 101-mile, multi-use recreational trail connecting the City with the existing trail in Stark, Summit and Cuyahoga counties. New Philadelphia would become the southern terminus of the Towpath Trail from Cleveland. The project would also create a connection between Canal Park in the neighboring city of Dover with New Philadelphia's Waterworks Park where the southern terminus is located. Segments 700, 800, and 900 will consist of buffered bike lanes and segment 1000 will be an off-road riverfront trail terminating at Waterworks Park along the Tuscarawas River.
Project Countermeasure Map	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279800">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279800</a>
Photo of Existing Condition	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279816">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279816</a>
Population of municipality / area impacted	17,677
Are K-12 students a major population impacted by the project?	Yes- project very much tied to student travel to school
Please list name of key school(s) and addresses.	West Elementary School 232 Tuscarawas Avenue NW New Philadelphia Ohio

<b>Total Funding Requested</b>	\$2,715,972.78
<b>Total Project Cost</b>	\$2,715,972.78
<b>Phases that the funds are requested for (select all that apply):</b>	PE -Environmental (includes, Feasibility Study, Stage 1, Stage 2, Right of Way Plans, and Environmental Document) PE- Detailed Design (includes Stage 3 Plans and Final Tracings) Construction
<b>Are you requesting ODOT task order consultant assistance with project design?</b>	No
<b>Certified Cost Estimate</b>	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279825">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279825</a>
<b>Budget Breakdown</b>	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279850">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279850</a>
<b>Optional Miscellaneous Project Attachment</b>	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279864">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279864</a>

## Questions

<b>How is this particular project developing a more complete network for walking and/or biking to destinations?</b>	The City of New Philadelphia, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail project is a key component of the 101-mile, multi-use recreational trail connecting the City of New Philadelphia with Stark, Summit, and Cuyahoga counties. Currently, there are 90-miles of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail completed, and the remaining 11-miles are located within Tuscarawas County. Completion of the City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail will enable residents and visitors to safely walk or bicycle on a dedicated path along the route of the Ohio & Erie Canal. The City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is part of the statewide, Ohio-To-Erie Trail, a 326-mile off-road trail linking Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. Finally, the City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is a key component of the Tuscarawas County Trail Plan, linking cities and villages with a safe, connected network for exercise, transportation and tourism.
<b>How will the proposed project address specific safety issues and/or improve safety for people walking or biking?</b>	The City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail project will greatly enhance and improve the safety of hikers and bicyclists within the City of New Philadelphia, as well as Tuscarawas County with a dedicated off-road trail network. Currently, hikers and bicyclists travel on city streets to navigate the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. With the completion of the City of New Philadelphia, Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail, residents and visitors will have a dedicated and separate off-road trail for hiking and bicycling.

**Why else will this project advance statewide ped/bike goals?**

Completion of the City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail will provide a safe transportation route to schools, libraries, and employment centers for those without access to public transportation or ride share services. Since this new facility passes through several disadvantaged census tracts, it will increase equity, livability, connectivity, and network utilization for lower-income and minority residents of New Philadelphia who are less likely to have a car. This project will fill critical gaps in the bicycle and pedestrian network locally, allowing households without a car a more complete route to safely travel to school, work, shopping, and other necessities. As described below, New Philadelphia has already invested in building out our active transportation network and plan to keep expanding east to Roswell and west along SR-39 as part of the larger I-77/US-250/SR-39 interchange reconfiguration, which includes bike and pedestrian ways to reach the west side of the City.

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**Why is this project of statewide significance?**

The City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is a critical component of the 101-mile congressionally designated Ohio & Erie Canalway National Heritage Area and part of the statewide, Ohio-To-Erie Trail, a 326-mile off-road trail linking Cleveland, Columbus and Cincinnati. Completion of the City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is essential to the 101-mile Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and the 2,500,000 hikers and bicyclists who utilize this multi-use recreational trail. Currently, residents of the City of New Philadelphia and Tuscarawas County have to travel to northern Tuscarawas County and Stark County to access the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

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**Why is funding from ODOT necessary for this project?**

Over the past 15 years, the City of New Philadelphia has been working with Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition on the planning, design and development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Currently, the City of New Philadelphia has 30% design and engineering documents for the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail and this is a priority for the residents of the City of New Philadelphia. The City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail project is ready for implementation and funding from ODOT will enable the City of New Philadelphia Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail to be completed right now.

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**What GEOID(s) is project located in?**

391570208011, 391570208021, 391570211001

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**Is project location in USDOT Disadvantaged Census Tract (USDOT)?**

Yes. Census Tract Numbers 020801, 020802, 021100

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<b>Why and how was this project prioritized?</b>	Over the past 15 years, the City of New Philadelphia has been working with Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition on the planning, design and development of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail. Therefore this project has been a top priority for New Philadelphia for over a decade. The importance of this project became even more apparent with the sustained boom in outdoor recreation that began during the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020 and 2021. In 2023, The City of New Philadelphia, City of Dover, Tuscarawas County Park Department and Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition submitted the remainder of the Towpath Trail as part of OMEGA's application to the Ohio Department of Development for the Appalachian Community Grant program. While this project was not selected for funding, The City of Dover, City of New Philadelphia, Tuscarawas County Park Department and Ohio & Erie Canalway Coalition remain committed to the completion of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.
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<b>Attach plan or portion of a plan outlining this project</b>	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279886">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279886</a>
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<b>Please identify who will be the local lead on the project and how much of their time will be dedicated to project implementation.</b>	City Service Director Ron McAbier. Between 70-120 hours
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<b>Describe the strengths of your agency in implementing this project</b>	The City of New Philadelphia has a Bicycle and Pedestrian Connectivity Plan it follows for construction of trails. This year construction was completed on a two-mile bicycle trail that connects the Kent State-Tuscarawas campus to downtown New Philadelphia. The City has partnered with the New Philadelphia City School District to construct the Crider Avenue Walking Trail and outdoor science lab. In 2025 the City plans to begin constructing the first phase of a four-mile walking and bicycling trail to the Village of Roswell using funding from an AMLER grant.
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<b>Why is this a good timing for your community to implement this project?</b>	New Philadelphia is the center of trails and bikeways in Tuscarawas County and has a proven track record implementing and maintaining active transportation projects, as described below in the response to the list of infrastructure projects question. Completion of the Towpath Trail not only completes the 101-mile statewide trail, but it will also create a critical North-South spine locally that will tie together with several other bicycle and pedestrian projects including a multi-use path and/or expanded sidewalks along West High Avenue, bike lanes and trails on the east side of the City connecting to Midvale and Uhrichsville, and the trail to Roswell that will head northeast out of the City. Note - this Roswell trail could eventually connect to the Conotton Creek Trail in Harrison County, creating an even longer regional facility.
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**Describe any infrastructure projects your community has undertaken in the last 10 years to improve walking or biking.**

The City of New Philadelphia partnered with the New Philadelphia City School District in 2017 to construct a one-mile walking trail and outdoor science classroom in a wooded area on Crider Avenue NW. The trail traverses the hilly terrain on a 14 acre tract that high school and middle school science teachers utilize in their class curriculums. Also in 2017 the City received an ODOT TAP grant to construct new sidewalks and curbs on Lakeview Avenue NW. Prior to the construction no sidewalks existed, so pedestrians and neighborhood children had to use the street for walking and play. Vehicle traffic on Lakeview Avenue can be heavy at times because it is adjacent to Woody Hayes Quaker Stadium and Tuscora Park. In 2018, in anticipation of construction of the Ohio and Erie Canal Towpath Trail in New Philadelphia, the City took ownership of an easement area from Gradall Industries that runs along the Tuscarawas River. The fence line around the Gradall plant was moved in 10 feet to make way for the trail's construction. In 2020, using State and local grant funding, the City constructed phase one of the Southside Community Park. The project included construction of a one-mile hiking trail that beings in a pollinator garden. The trail continues under a tree canopy that offers walkers welcome relief from summer heat and beautiful scenery in the fall. Two foot bridges and a vehicle/pedestrian bridge span Oldtown Valley Creek, which winds through the park. In 2024, the City of New Philadelphia is completed two-mile off-road bicycling trail on East High Avenue, to link the Kent State Tuscarawas campus with downtown New Philadelphia. The Kent State Connector Trail, as we call it, passes through a residential area with historic homes and connects with the City's historic Harry Clever Field municipal airport and Schoenbrunn Village, Ohio's first Christian settlement. The trail also connects with the walking trail that traverses the KSU-Tusc campus.

<b>Project Example</b>	<a href="https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279891">https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17353279891</a>
<b>Has your community been previously funded for a SRTS or TAP infrastructure project since 2020?</b>	Yes, the project is completed

## Final Checks

I confirm that the cost estimate includes inflation	Yes
I confirm that the community is prepared to fund project cost overages	Yes
I confirm that all information provided in this application is accurate	Yes

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joel Beahm Day". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line underlining the last name "Day".

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Print Name of Submitter

Joel Beahm Day, Mayor

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