

Form Name:	Ped/Bike Special Solicitation Non-Infrastructure Application
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APPLICANT INFORMATION

Applicant Type	Park District
Primary Contact	Mr. Russell Edgington
Title	Executive Director
Agency/Organization	Muskingum Valley Park District
Email	rbedgington@muskingumcounty.org
Phone	(740) 455-8237
Address	415 Hunter Avenue Zanesville, OH 43701
What MPO/RTPO Area?	OMEGA
ODOT District	5

PROJECT OVERVIEW

Project Type	Plan/Study
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Project description

The Feasibility Study will evaluate a designated Loop Trail inside the city of Zanesville.

- Starting at the north end, the loop trail will begin at Straker Landing. See the planning map for the location and details. Straker Landing is owned by the Muskingum Valley Park District (MVPD) and is in the planning stage to bring 6.7 acres along the west side of the Muskingum River back to life. The redevelopment will include trails, covered pavilions, picnic amenities, an access road, parking, an improved public boat ramp, and most notably, a new pedestrian and bicycle bridge across the Muskingum River connecting Straker Landing to the city's existing Riverside Park.
- Traveling south, the loop trail will connect to the former Lear property, now owned by the city. The development of the Lear property is in the planning stages, and the city is looking to add 20 acres of ballfields and housing to the riverfront site.
- The feasibility study will evaluate the safest path to continue south towards the Y-bridge in the heart of Zanesville. The study will coordinate with local stakeholders and the public to determine the most feasible location of the loop trail, while investigating the use of public property where it makes sense. Near the Y-bridge the city has made great strides in acquiring property along the Licking River with plans to develop public parks and water access. The loop trail will further advance this effort by safely bringing alternative modes of transportation to these sites.
- The MVPD recently completed the construction of the Putnam Greenway Trail along the Muskingum River just south of the 6th Street bridge and Y-Bridge. The MVPD is evaluating the feasibility of extending the Putnam Greenway Trail to South Zanesville and into Perry County. This facility will be easily accessible to the proposed loop trail.
- The loop trail will cross the Y-Bridge using the existing sidewalk and connect to the MVPD's Canal Park Trail, which is funded by the State of Ohio's Appalachian Community Grant Program and will be constructed in 2026.
- Once across the Y-Bridge, the loop trail will follow East Main Street to 3rd Street and then west on Market Street ending at Zane's Landing Park. Zane's Landing is an existing park located along the east side of the Muskingum River and home to the historic Lorena Sternwheeler.
- From Zane's Landing, the loop trail will connect to the existing Zane's Landing Trail along the east side of the Muskingum River to Riverside Park. Riverside Park is "Southeastern Ohio's Finest Sports Complex," boasting multiple softball, baseball, and soccer fields, tennis courts, disc golf, the Kidzville playground, multiple picnic shelters that can be reserved for private events, boat access, and ample parking.

The MVPD is evaluating the extension of the Zane's Landing Trail to the north. Beginning at the northern terminus, it will extend

north along the abandoned railroad bed owned by the MVPD to the existing trail at Ellis Dam. This trail is known as the Muskingum Recreational Trail (MRT) and will connect the Village of Dresden to Zanesville and the proposed loop trail. Plus, the Village of Dresden is connected to State Bike Route US 50, which connects Ohio to West Virginia and Indiana.

- A proposed pedestrian bridge across the Muskingum River will close the loop trail connecting Straker Landing to Riverside Park.

Population of municipality / area impacted	24,765 (City of Zanesville) 86,400 (Population of Muskingum Co.) as of the 2020 census
Are K-12 students a major population impacted by the project?	Maybe- some students may be impacted
Total Funding Requested	\$131,372.67
Total Project Cost	\$131,372.67
Are you requesting ODOT task order consultant assistance?	No
Detailed Project Budget	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17946228585
Budget Breakdown	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17946228586
Optional Miscellaneous Project Attachment	https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17946228587

Questions

How will this project support active transportation?	The loop trail will provide connectivity east and west of the Muskingum River for bicycles and pedestrians. To the north, the next pedestrian and bike-friendly river crossing is at the MVPD's railroad bridge just south of Ellis Dam and approximately 6 miles upriver from the proposed Straker Landing bridge. The loop trail will connect and provide access to multiple MVPD and city park destinations.
How will the proposed project improve safety for people walking or biking?	The feasibility study will evaluate multiple alternatives to achieve a route that is safe and comfortable for all users. A separated shared-use path is the top priority. In locations where this cannot be achieved, alternatives will be assessed that accommodate all trail users.

How will this project advance other statewide ped/bike goals?

The goals of walking and biking in Ohio are Equity, Network Utilization, Connectivity, Safety, Livability, and Preservation.

The loop trail feasibility study will address and advance each of these goals. The loop trail will accommodate users of all ages, abilities, and incomes for users in urban, suburban, and rural areas. The trail will promote comfortable and continuous bicycle and pedestrian facilities that safely connect people to destinations. The quality of life for all Ohioans is improved by providing active environments with safe, connected, accessible facilities that encourage walking and bicycling.

Why is funding from ODOT necessary for this project?

The MVPD owns and maintains hundreds of acres of open space and park lands, and nearly 10 miles of paved multi-use recreational trails in Muskingum County. MVPD has an operating levy, but funds are limited, and grant dollars are needed to grow and develop new facilities.

List the Census Tract(s) that the project is located in.

39119911601, 39119911800, 39119911900

Is the project location in a USDOT Disadvantaged Census Tract (USDOT)?

No

Why and how was this project prioritized?

The MVPD performed a statistically valid survey, and the development and construction of recreational trails connecting communities ranked very high. The loop trail speaks directly to the survey results from the Muskingum County and City of Zanesville residents. Also, the MVPD has been tracking the Straker Landing property for years as a potential pedestrian and bicycle bridge crossing, riverfront park, and boat dock. The opportunity to purchase the property recently presented itself, and the MVPD partnered with the Straker Foundation to purchase the land. This purchase moved the loop trail to the top of the MVPD's project list. The community is excited for the development of Straker Landing and the connectivity along the Muskingum River with the loop trail and beyond to the Village of Dresden and USBR 50.

Option to attach plan or portion of a plan outlining this project

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17946228595>

Please identify who will be the local lead on the project and how much of their time will be dedicated to project implementation.

Mr. Russell Edgington, Executive Director of the Muskingum Valley Park District As much time as needed to successfully execute the project. An engineering consulting firm will perform the feasibility study and meet with Mr. Edgington on a bi-weekly basis to discuss the project progress and any red flags. Early and continued communication will keep the project on schedule and ensure deadlines are met.

Describe the strengths of your agency in implementing this project

The MVPD owns hundreds of acres of open space and park lands, and nearly 10 miles of paved multi-use recreational trails in Muskingum County. The executive director, along with staff and volunteers, has years of experience planning and building trails.

Why is this a good timing for your community to implement this project?

The MVPD was successful in securing \$1,170,000 from the State of Ohio's Appalachian Community Grant Program for the Canal Park Trail project. This project will be built in 2026, and the proposed loop trail will connect to this historically significant destination. The Canal Park Trail will improve access along the dam between the canal and the Muskingum River, just south of the Y-Bridge. Canal Park Trail will include education signs and kiosks describing Zanesville and Muskingum County's rich history along the river, including the Lock tender's house and ODNR's recently improved and fully operational Lock #10. The City of Zanesville is also improving one of its legacy parks, Putnam Landing Park, with ODNR AMLER funds. Putnam Landing Park is directly across the Muskingum River from Canal Park and can be accessed via the Canal Park Trail and the proposed loop trail.

Are there currently any programs, initiatives, or activities your organization currently works on to support walking and biking?

The MVPD actively works to develop and implement new active transportation projects, and they hold community events at their trails, such as Joe's Run Recreational Trail. They also host the yearly Zanesville - Muskingum Riverfest in August and promote fishing, hiking and biking on one of the many local trails, boating, and have numerous activities for the kids. Some of their recent trail projects include. Putnam Greenway Recreational Trail The Putnam Greenway Recreational Trail is a .5-mile paved recreational trail located in the Putnam Historic District in Zanesville, Ohio. The recently constructed trail connects the Zanesville Community High School with the City of Zanesville's Putnam Landing Park. The Putnam Greenway Recreational Trail will connect with the Canal Park Trail via the 6th Street bridge. Canal Park Trail The Canal Park Trail is an Appalachian Community Grant funded project and will be constructed in 2026. The project will connect to East Main Street just east of the Y-Bridge and extend along the dam between the Canal and the Muskingum River to historic Lock #10 and the Lock Tenders house. The project will include a stone seating area overlooking the Muskingum River, constructed from the Philo and Gaysport bridge sandstone abutment blocks. The project will also include a kayak dock. The proposed Loop Trail will connect to the Canal Park Trail and Zane's Landing Trail. Muskingum Recreational Trail Rock Cut Road Extension The Muskingum Recreational Trail Rock Cut Road Extension is a .31-mile paved recreational trail funded through the Federal Highway Administration's Transportation Alternatives Program. Completed in December of 2023, the construction of the trail resulted in a 6.1 mile continuously paved recreational trail stretching from the Village of Dresden in the north to Ellis Dam in the south. Joe's Run Recreational Trail The Joe's Run Recreational Trail is a 1.25-mile paved trail connecting Zanesville City School's Middle and High Schools to the Ohio University Zanesville-Zanes State College campus. The trail was constructed utilizing a Clean Ohio Conservation Fund grant and opened to the public in the fall of 2020.

Program/Initiatives Example

<https://www.formstack.com/admin/download/file/17946228602>

Has your community been previously funded for a SRTS or TAP project since 2020?

Yes, the project is completed

Final Checks

I confirm that the project can be completed by July 2027.

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 "Russell Edgington". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'R' and 'E'.

Print Name of Submitter

Russell Edgington