

## **GOALS AND OBJECTIVES**

Throughout the conduct of the Study, these statements have been refined into a set of Goals and Objectives related to the Feasibility Study and the potential Rail-Trail itself. Simply stated, if deemed feasible, the Warwick-to-Ephrata Rail-Trail should achieve the following goals and supporting objectives:

### **1. Provide for a wide range of user types and skill levels.**

- Create a trail that will provide for non-motorized recreation (walking, running, biking, horseback riding, roller skating, and cross-country skiing); interpretation of heritage and cultural sites; and, if possible, alternative modes of transportation, primarily related to surrounding agricultural uses. Motorized access will be limited to agricultural equipment, police, and maintenance vehicles.
- Develop a trail that functions to serve a variety of skill levels (including those of the physically challenged), age groups, and user types (individual, families, and groups).
- Develop context-sensitive trail reaches; including paved trails in urbanized areas and non-paved trails in rural areas.
- Consider the amenities needed by various users of the trail; including rest rooms, trailhead parking, landscaping and fencing, site furniture, lighting in urban areas, and the like).
- Also recognize the varied needs of specific types of recreational participants; including but not limited to local families in search of recreation to out-of-town heritage tourists.

### **2. Address security, safety, environmental, and liability concerns.**

- Provide a trail that addresses the security concerns of neighboring residents and businesses, alike (including, but not limited to, privacy, trash, trespass, and vandalism).
- Provide a trail that is safe for its users, along the trail's entire length and at structures and crossings.
- Provide a trail that is compatible with the environment (including habitats, wetlands, floodplains, and vegetation) and the land uses neighboring the trail.
- Anticipate and account for the liability implications of the trail in terms of design, usage, and insurance.

- Provide trail design that promotes sustainability / environmental stewardship.
- In addition to physical improvements, provide access for police surveillance and enforcement of municipal ordinances and trail rules/regulations.

**3. Demonstrate the benefits of such a trail system.**

- In addition to the health and quality of life benefits of such a trail, develop a trail that is supportive of the local economy and heritage tourism efforts.
- Allow the trail to be used as an alternate route for agricultural-related travel (farm equipment and buggies) while, at the same time, educating the community to the importance of farming and agriculture.
- To the extent possible, promote the trail as a means of easing traffic congestion, especially in urbanized areas.

**4. Create meaningful linkages to intra-community and Countywide facilities, alike.**

- Realize the potential of connecting several communities in the County's north/northeast region, socially and economically.
- Provide connections to identified "attractors" and/or destinations within the region including existing and proposed places to live, work, learn, shop, recreate, and worship.
- Use the trail as a means to foster a local understanding of agriculture and farming practices.
- To the extent possible, provide a trail that supports Lancaster County's vision for regional biking and pedestrian facilities.

**5. Educate the community to the benefits of the trail and enhance trail users' stewardship of the trail corridor.**

- Enhance the trail by encouraging its safe and lawful use through partnerships at the County and local levels. This encouragement fosters the trail's sustainability as well as potential future expansion.
- Encourage the trail's appropriate use so as to address the concerns of neighboring landowners.

**6. Be flexible, adapt to changing conditions.**

- Develop a trail that can expand into surrounding areas and destinations beyond those currently identified.
  - Remain vigilant to changes and proactive to exploit the opportunities afforded by change.
7. **Leverage funding, through grants and partnerships, to yield improvements that are financially achievable, affordable and sustainable, in terms of first- and long-term costs.**
- The participating municipalities should continue to work together to achieve common goals and visions for the trail.
  - Identify various sources of grant funding that can help offset the financial impact of any improvements that are undertaken and, when appropriate, aggressively apply for applicable funding.
  - Tap into the residents, civic organizations, and business leaders of the community to build, maintain, and encourage the use of the trail.
  - Work toward a financially and environmentally sustainable trail design.