

Trails Corridors Subcommittee Meeting

August 8, 2018 1:00 PM EST

Conference Room #2

Indiana Government Center – South

300 West Washington Street

Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Bicycle Trails Task Force Members:

Mitch Barloga
Rep. Wes Culver*
Andrew Forrester*
Pete Fritz
Paul Grayson
Rep. Carey Hamilton
Amy Marisavljevic
Jeff Smallwood
Justin Schneider
Noelle Szydlyk

Guests:

Allen Hurst, DNR
Tim Maloney, HEC
Nathaniel Simmons, DNR
Bob Weaver, HEC

Welcome & Introductions

Mitch Barloga called the meeting to order at 1:05 PM. All subcommittee members introduced each other.

Review Trail Corridor Subcommittee Deliverables

Barloga presented on a methodology of expanding the Visionary Trail Network in Indiana. This was based on feedback from the May meeting. A handout on this proposal was distributed, and is attached to these minutes.

The handout includes an explanation of a revamped priority system, which would include another category as “Proposed Visionary Trails.” These corridors would be included to help connect both Priority and Secondary Visionary Trail routes already defined by the DNR. A series of criteria is presented as a guide for determining these routes.

A map of how these Proposed Visionary Trail may look on a revamped statewide map is also on the handout. This was prepared to give the Committee a better understanding of how these new routes would relate to the existing ones.

Barloga emphasized that the DNR would be the chief authority responsible for establishing the Proposed Visionary Trails. This would be accomplished by researching potential trails that could link the Visionary Network using criteria as set forth in the report.

Discussion of Next Steps

After his presentation, Barloga opened up the floor to the subcommittee members for feedback on the proposal. The proposal met with a positive consensus, with a number of minor recommendations to be considered.

One of the primary suggestions was to use the word “Potential” instead of “Proposed” as a correct descriptor of these routes. Other ideas involved criteria for these routes such as connecting to state park facilities, and identifying the United States Bicycle Routes on the map as well for possible connection opportunities.

The idea of the DNR to facilitate the development of these new routes was met with overall approval, but with the realization that extra staff resources would be needed to adequately accomplish this goal. Another idea to have the DNR maintain a number of Visionary Corridors was also met with similar concern.

Paul Grayson added that this effort should be combined with a potential “moon shot” ask of \$100 million per year for five years to finish the remaining 500 or so miles of the Visionary Network. The subcommittee found general favor with this bold approach.

Next Subcommittee Meeting

Members present agreed another meeting would be needed to hash out remaining issues. This was tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, October 10th. Time and location TBA.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 2:50 PM

Visionary Trails System Selection Criteria

This Visionary Trails System (*or another name*) was created using input from trail providers, community planners and trail users. Corridors that qualify must cross two or more counties and/or connect two visionary trails. These corridors only include those accessible for hiking and bicycling, excluding water trails and those open for use by motorized vehicles.

Three types of corridors are identified under the Visionary Trails System:

Priority Visionary Trails include trails that are completed, being developed and/or are formally designated and planned with a higher degree of certainty of being completed.

Secondary Visionary Trails have a lesser degree of public planning and support but show some promise of rising to the level of priority visionary trail and of ultimately being completed.

Proposed Visionary Trails are those corridors that should exist which connect major destinations. These routes will be determined by DNR staff. Further advancement of the corridor to Secondary Visionary status will involve public and private stakeholder discussions.

The system is not a construction plan or a system the State of Indiana is unilaterally building. Rather, it encourages all levels of government, other trail providers, and private stakeholders to work together to build trails along the corridors or connect to them. It is even possible for new trail groups to come together with a goal to build sections of trail with high priority. Some trail-funding programs encourage development of the Visionary Trail System by emphasizing it in applications for funding.

Criteria for Proposed Visionary Trails

DNR staff will determine the location of Proposed Visionary Trails corridors based on the following criteria:

- Corridor connects two or more counties
- Corridor connects other Visionary Trails
- Corridor connects cities and towns
- Corridor connects to state parks or cultural destinations
- Corridor follows, to the greatest extent possible, abandoned railroad routes, utility corridors and rivers/streams

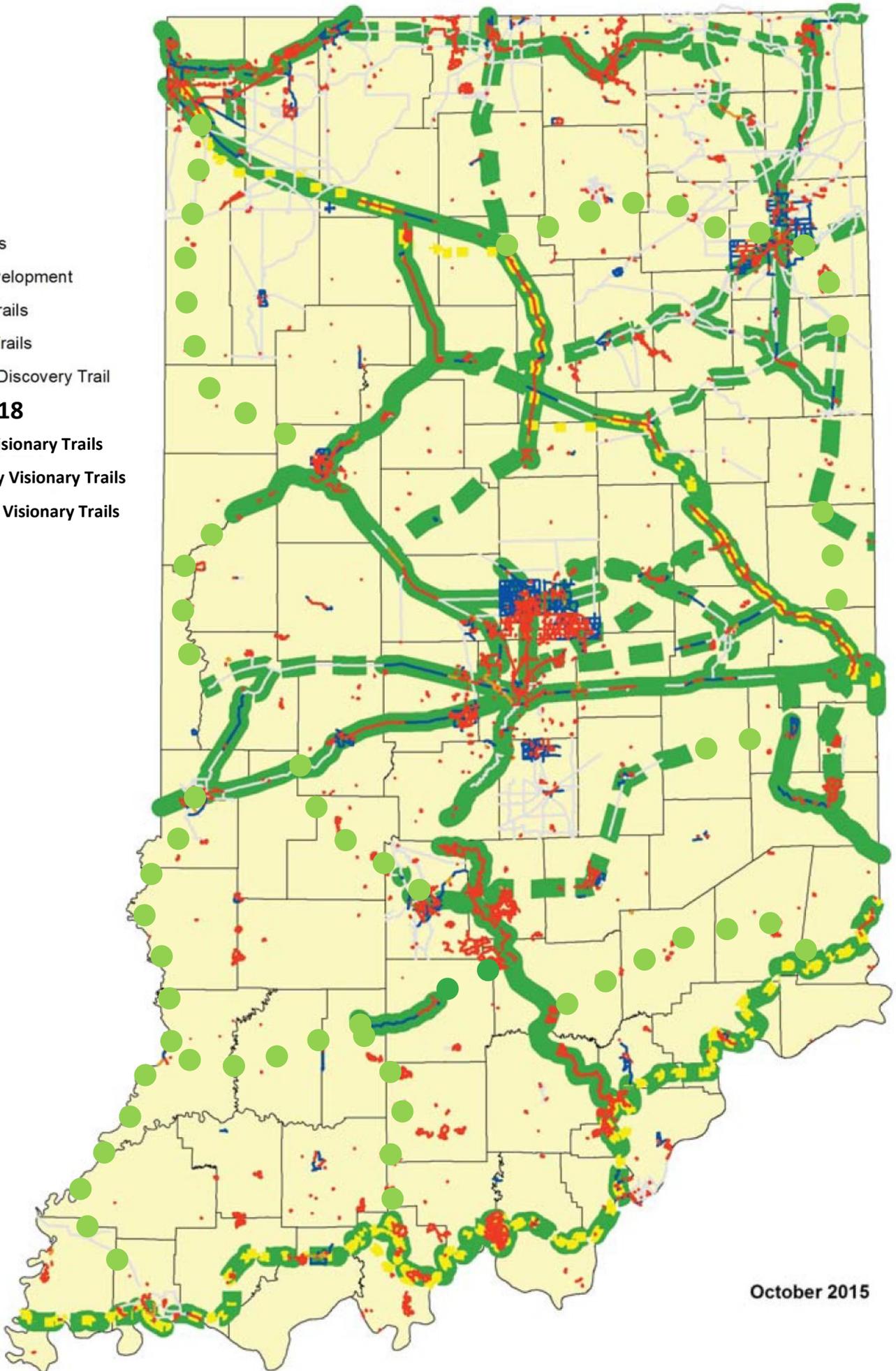
Once a corridor is determined, DNR staff will prepare a report summarizing their findings behind the selection, and outlining strategies for public and private stakeholders going forward.

Legend

- Open Trails
- Under Development
- Planned Trails
- Potential Trails
- American Discovery Trail

Visionary 2018

- Priority Visionary Trails
- Secondary Visionary Trails
- Proposed Visionary Trails



October 2015