

# *March 23-25, 2009 CIS Rail-Trail Open House Questionnaire Report*

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# *Introduction*

- Open houses part of NPS Rivers and Trails planning process for CIS Trail
  - Held March 23-25, 2009
    - March 23 Shiawassee County
    - March 24 Clinton County
    - March 25 Ionia County
  - Cooperative effort among NPS, MI DNR, three counties, Friends of CIS Trail, MSUE
  - This presentation reports on results of questionnaire and complementary data

# *Questionnaire*

- Four page, 19 item questionnaire
- Focus on goals for visitor use and trail development
- Total of 164 returned
  - Clinton – 61
  - Ionia – 57
  - Shiawassee – 46
- Limitations of the data
  - Opportunity to complete multiple surveys by attending more than one meeting
  - Participants are self-selected, not randomly selected
    - Not a representative procedure to sample of residents of the three counties

# Results

- Trail uses supported for corridor

- Walk 84%
- Bicycle 77%
- Run 67%
- Equestrian 58%
- Electric wheelchairs 57%
- River access 51%
- Pet walking 51%
- In-line skating 48%
-

# *Respondents Primary Use Trail Use*

■ Equestrian	37%
■ Bike	27%
■ Walk	18%
■ Run	2%
■ Pet walking	2%
■ River access	1%
■ Other	2%
■ Missing	12%

# *Potential for Conflict*

- Is there significant potential for conflict among trail uses listed as possible uses?
  - Yes - 49%
  - No – 29%
  - Missing – 22%
  - If yes, what activity is the conflict with?
    - Equestrian – 69%
    - Pet walking - 20%
    - Bike – 6%
    - Walk - 2 %
    - In-line skate – 2%

# *Facilities/Conveniences Needed*

- What percentage support each type of facility beyond safety signage?
  - Public restrooms – 80%
  - Mile markers – 80%
  - You are here maps – 76%
  - Drinking fountains – 47%

# *Services/Products to be Accessed from Trail*

- What services/products would your household access from the trail?
  - Restaurant – 61%
  - Grocery/convenience store – 53%
  - Historic/cultural features – 42%
  - Farmers market – 35%
  - Bicycle repair – 31%
  - Bicycle rental – 26%
  - Shopping – 20%
  - Bed and breakfast – 16%
  - Motel/hotel – 16%

# *Trail Preferences*

## Surface

- Asphalt – 40%
- Unimp./gravel – 27%
- Crushed limestone – 8%
- Other/combo – 7%
- Missing – 18%

## Trailhead Location

- Towns – 46%
- Rural – 30%
- Missing – 24%

## Trailhead Separation

- Five miles – 51%
- Ten miles – 39%
- Missing – 10%

# *Important Considerations in Management*

- Rating scale: 1=unimportant to 5=crucial
  - Security trail users 4.1
  - Keep motorized off trail 4.1
  - Security of adj. owners 3.7
  - Clean/no litter 3.6
  - Trailside mowing 2.5
  - Clear surface in winter 1.8

# *Importance of Selected Trail Benefits*

- Rating scale: 1=unimportant to 5=crucial
  - Recreation/fun 4.2
  - Health/fitness 4.1
  - Be outdoors/nature 4.0
  - Outdoor education 3.5
  - Non-motorized trans 3.4
  - Access to other rec. op. 3.4
  - Site for events 3.3
  - Economic opportunity 3.3
  - Place to socialize 3.2
  - Site to train for events 3.1
  - Access to hist/culture 3.0

# *Hopes, Concerns & Highlights*

- Difficult to categorize as often multiple facets mentioned
- Hard copies provided verbatim
- After careful consideration of these results, this leads to concerns about the data from this process representing the populations of the three counties

# *Concerns about Data Reflecting Public Interest*

- Clinton County Recreation Needs Assessment
  - Summer/Fall 2007 survey of 1,000 randomly selected households with one or more registered voters
    - 5% of such households in county sampled with mail questionnaire
    - 42% response rate
  - Key results related to non-motorized trails
    - 84% support, 11% neutral, 5% oppose development of additional non-motorized trails

# *Concerns about Data Reflecting Public Interest*

- Percentage of households w/ one or more members participating in trail activity in past year
  - Walk/hike 73%
  - Paved trail/road bike 43%
  - Walk pet 37%
  - Run/jog 22%
  - Mountain bike 17%
  - In-line skate 10%
  - Equestrian 8%

# *Concerns about Data Reflecting Public Interest*

- Listed as either first and second most important activity for households related to non-motorized trails (non-trail activities omitted in this table)
  - Walk/hike 33% (most mentioned of all)
  - Paved trail/road bike 20% (2<sup>nd</sup> most mentioned of all)
  - Walk pet 6%
  - Multiple trail activities 6%
  - Run/jog 3%
  - Mountain bike 2%
  - Equestrian 2%
  - In-line skate 0%

Non-trail activities at 10% or greater were swim, fish, playgrounds, nature observation/wildlife viewing

## **Clinton**

### **Linkages**

- (3) Link trail to Sleepy Hollow State Park
  - (2) Link trail with Motz County Park
  - (3) Connect to Ionia State Recreation Area
  - (3) Connect to Ionia State Recreation Area
- Connect to mid-Michigan Equestrian Center (E. of 127 on Krepps Rd.)

### **Equestrian Use**

- Adjacent horse trail
- 7' wide for horses, 7' wide for other uses
- Reconnect with rural heritage – horse as mode of transportation
- Adequate water for trail users, pets, horses
- Horse friendly trail design
- (3) Equestrians have equal access to entire trail “not considered less than”
- Trail will have staging areas for horses like Shore to Shore Trail
- Trail will be wide enough for cart riding – “2 people wide”
- Separate path for horses – other side of ditch, geographically separate uses
- Horses share main trail tread – not down in ditch

### **Multi-Use**

- Trail is a multi-use trail
- Separate wheels from heels
- Trail will be a walk, bike trail – black topped or limestone fines
- (4) Share – Everyone should be able to use the trail
- Pave trail near towns for in-line skates and bikes

### **Economic Development**

- Downtown realized economic benefit
- (2) Develop to attract outside the state users – tourism
- Trail considered as part of an agri-tourism effort
- Trail will draw Equestrian tourism from out of state

### **Cooperation – Partnerships**

- (2) That there is cooperation between jurisdictions
- Develops public/private partnerships
- The trail will bring user groups together and build mutual respect

### **Education**

- Networking and educational opportunities (i.e. 4-H)
- Use corridor for teaching about forests, wetlands, soils, etc...
- Develop a visitor and interpretive center for the trail

### **Get it Done**

## **Shiawassee**

### **Linkages**

(4) Link trail with Sleepy Hollow State Park and Ionia State Recreation Area  
Connect trail with Shiawassee River Water Trail on east end (Owosso) – hike and canoe experience  
Have “canoe heads” off the trail  
Connect to the Genesee Regional Trail Plan thru Byron to Sliver Lake Rail Trail and beyond

### **Equestrian Use**

Horses can use the trail  
Accommodate different equine abilities – great for equine training  
Like to see horse carting and carriage rides where feasible

### **Multi-Use**

Road bikes can use the trail  
Multi-use trail is a good idea, safety in numbers  
Parallel trail in high use areas, single multi-use trail in isolated stretches  
Opportunity for cross country skiing  
All season trail (good footing throughout all seasons, out of the mud)  
All users accommodated on main trail tread  
(3) Two parallel trails on same plane/tread – for horse, for bike  
Handicapped accessible trail  
Opportunity of reenactment of historic trail events  
Mushing events – wheels or skis  
Accommodate as many uses as possible  
Ability to have an overnight group campsite/s along trail for back packing  
(2) Users will have respect for other uses

### **Education**

Trail offers environmental education activities & opportunities  
Provides connection with nature and rural heritage  
There are educational opportunities  
Trail gets kids out in nature

### **Trail Design**

Leave part of the trail surface unpaved  
Adequate trail access and parking with turnaround for trailers  
Trailhead amenities to include: trailer space, pickett poles, manure mngt., water  
Pickett poles and water along trail as stop overs – rest, eat, shop, etc...  
Parallel trail for horses without “pungy” sticks and overhead fears – canopy should be at least 10'-12' high  
Good wayfinding signs – maps, distances, etc..  
(2) Asphalt surface better for handicapped  
AASHTO is a guideline

## **Volunteerism**

Volunteers will have opportunities to help maintain trail – work bee's, 4-H, boy scouts, horse clubs....part of civic duty.

(3) Adopt-a- Mile Volunteer Trail Program

(2) Volunteer trail rangers...help patrol, provide information

Trail provides scout projects – Boy scout troops work with trail manager to enhance trail – trail markers, bird houses, clean ups

## **Concerns (combined)**

(3) Who will police the trail? Trail security

(2) Who will maintain the trail?

Maintenance accessibility for equipment, materials, employees

Maintenance of support facilities – such as adjacent picnic areas, trail heads

(2) Control of motorized vehicles on trail, Village of Ovid and adjacent lands

(2) Concern over \$\$ for sustainable maintenance cost....who is paying for it?

(3) Adequate restroom facilities

(2) Separate recreational uses non-motorized and horses, safety concern

(3) Mixing equestrians, pedestrians and bikers

(2) Riding horses on the road is dangerous and boring (no aesthetic value)

(2) Down the road will the townships be taxed for trail maintenance costs (milage)?

How will trail construction be funded?

Who cleans up horse and pet waste?

Protection for adjacent land owners from trespass

Privacy issues for adjacent landowners

Farm Crossings and use

Farmers have not been involved in trail plans

Private driveway crossing of the corridor - safety

Paved surfaces limit uses,,,not so with limestone fine surfaces

Limestone surface...good for road bikes? Cause flats?

Unlevel surface leads to puddling, holes of unknown depth, and obstacles

Equestrian – sloped trail surface will cause erosion and joint damage to horse

Access to emergency services...need good directional signage

Garbage and trash along corridor

Getting through and around the Veteran's Memorial, respect for memorial

The need to get going with trail development

Safe pedestrian road crossings

Getting permission for removal of dead trees on corridor

Continued hunting access – use trail to access hunting lands

Horse compatibility regarding surfaces

Pro-equine representation on trail planning committee

Travel distance requirement vary for horses based on surface, topo, etc

Feed mills locate on RR corridor limits expansion of Mill operation

Trail users need education, lack trail etiquette, i.e. Fort Custer State Park, Mackinaw Island, Lakelands Trail

## Hopes, Concerns, Highlights/Special Places and Final Thoughts from the CIS Open Houses Verbatim

### 17. Hopes regarding the trail:

- That it becomes a reality
- That it happens soon & is hard surfaced
- Built within 2-3 years
- That it gets done before I die
- Area to walk/bike without worrying about traffic
- User friendly, coming about in timely manner, accessible to all non-motorized activity
- A place to ride bike without cars on your heels
- A nice safe place to experience the outdoors with families
- That it will be developed safely, ecologically sound and that many people will use it and take care of it.
- That it will be completed in the next couple of years; that it will attract many people to use it, that it will be well-maintained
- That it'll happen soon!
- Opportunity to ride bike on a paved trail
- Pave this trail – keep it clean
- That it remains for non-motorized use – mainly biking, walking, running. No pets. Hope it gets going sooner than later.
- It gets done ASAP
- Become a facility that gets people moving & healthy
- I hope they name it after Mr. Meijer
- Good limestone trail in open areas, hard surface near cities and villages
- To use it
- Open soon. Done right to attract all. Kept in good condition
- Paved trail for biking
- Well maintained, highly utilized, accessible for running
- Lots of people use it, enjoy it, etc.
- That we can work together and have a good multi use trail and multi use trails in Michigan
- More people to use the area
- That it will be welcomed by the communities the way they have in other counties & states. Returning to bikes & other motorized mode of transportation for getting around & going from community to community are where we need to get to.
- I hope that the trail gets opened for use soon.
- Great support & development soon
- To get it finished
- This Mid Michigan area offers an answer for “where to ride”. Sleepy Hollow trails are very short (6.5 miles) and are limited to use by muddy conditions and hunting seasons. Road riding is dangerous and not rustic. Other multi-use trails exist hours away and they successfully draw trail users from a distance.
- Everyone will get along and have a trash free trail
- That Owosso is connected to Sleepy Hollow S.P. then to Ionia S.P. for camp-overs
- It is open to all non motorized usage
- That it will be available for people to use for many things bikes, horses, skates, foot, kids, and adults
- Open to all forms non-motorized traffic. Split surfaces for all to enjoy. A chance to experience history & nature. Chance for Clinton, Ionia & Shiawassee to work together.

- That the trail may be shared by all
- That the tri-counties will recognize this as an opportunity to accommodate all trail users and to make this a horse friendly trail. The horse industry is an unrecognized economic asset to Michigan that should be nurtured to benefit this trail.
- A wonderful place to ride, your horse
- Git-R-Dun! Soon!
- Multi-use for all to enjoy outdoors
- Trail gets done so any & all nonmotorized recreation can be enjoyed by all
- Force safe equestrian trails
- To ride in the near future
- Multi use of the trail which all (bikes, hikers, runners, horse people) can enjoy!
- That it can be shared by everyone – bikes – runners & horse people
- Horse use
- Paved surface entire length, 8-10' wide in rural areas, 14' wide in cities
- I would like to see it open while I'm still young enough to enjoy biking on it!!!
- That it serves as a community resource, bringing people together and be a focal point, or identity
- It is left as is, the trail is currently used by many as is, with no additional tax dollars
- It wouldn't be strictly non-motorized. Limited hunting possible for nuisance control wood chuck's etc. Dead wood could be cut.
- Equestrian access & safety
- To spend a great deal of time there during spring, summer & fall
- To spend a greater deal of time there during spring, summer and fall
- Spend a lot of time there
- People getting involved, willing to help maintain trails
- Horse back riding
- Horses be included. Trail utilized to its highest potential
- To give riders somewhere they can ride besides that roads. Main roads can be a very dangerous place to ride when you add in vehicles
- To be used for inclusion of horses and riders since we pay taxes on large portions of property and contribute to the local economy on a continual basis
- To be passed on to our children and grandchildren
- To be able to ride horses on it
- Be able to ride it! Education signs to facilitate multi-use
- That horses would not be excluded from use
- To establish a multi-user trail for the benefit of all concerned, bikes, equestrians, skaters, wheelchairs
- That horses and riders are allowed to use the trails
- That the entire trail will be planned for horseback riding
- That the entire trail from Corunna to Ionia would be open and available for equestrian use. More trails need to be available to horses and horse people where we can ride safely away from traffic. The majority of drivers have no idea how to drive around horses. Some delight in scaring the horses and riders. We need safe places to ride with our horses, kids and grand children.
- Horses & horse people are to use the trail
- Hope to be able to use it for horses and others. Make it a multi-use trail
- That the equestrian trail is a part of this. I use the Saginaw Valley RTT on a regular basis for many activities – a safe place to ride horses is extremely important to me.
- Listed on front page
- A truly multi-use trail that can be shared by multiple disciplines

- That the trail provides a place for multi-use recreational opportunities – particularly equestrian use. With more restrictions & regulations for horses all over Michigan, I hope any future trails will be open to horses and compromises made in order to facilitate all users of a trail system.
- Equestrian use, carriage, cart use, dog sleds, pack animals, goats, lamas, I would like to see “all” interests accessing the trail people of different interest be able to learn to tolerate those of other interests & needs & abilities
- Hope they finish it
- That it is developed, that it would serve as part of a regional green infrastructure vision, that it would connect to river trail routes
- That it can be developed to provide safe and enjoyable outdoor experience
- There is some interest in the Lainsburg Community to see a trail linking the city to Sleepy Hollow St. Park & on N. on Shepardsville Rd. to connect w/ the CIS Trail
- Hope it’s a go and the sooner the better
- To open as soon as possible. Please plan in stages so we don’t have to wait to have it paved
- Completed through all 3 counties, continuing exist through Shiawassee county
- It will be open for use in the next couple of years
- We start soon! Open it up – starting small built to asphalt
- To be able to go on hiking/backpacking trips with the troop and also be able to access rivers for canoe trips.
- To be able to have a closer trail system to use with my scouts for backpacking
- It is a reality as soon as possible
- Just to have it become a reality!
- Take care of it
- That it is developed
- It goes well but 100% safety
- That it e completed while I can still ride a bike
- That this trail will become very similar Pinckney trail improved by providing a rustic campground
- Safety & respect for everyone; visitors and landowners, be able to ride horses
- It will be truly multipurpose, allowing equine riding
- It will be equine “friendly”, tie stations, water availability
- I would love to get our group of Saddle Sisters together weekly and go for long trail rides. There are many members of our stables who live along the trail, so it would be convenient for us.
- To be able to ride horses on the trail from my house
- That horses can be on it
- Multi-use
- I would hope that horseback riding and horse-drawn vehicles will be allowed on this trail. Looking at the Michigan Trail Map & Directory, there are only 4 trails out of 35 that allow horseback riding in this area. Since this is a long trail, it would be a really good trail for equestrians. I am willing to drive 1 ½ hours one way to get to this trail because I can have a good long ride. It would be nice to have restrooms with hitching posts and a place to stop and purchase a snack/beverage.
- That it will be open to all
- Open to horses
- Provide fun family time while riding & enjoying the outdoors
- Keeping areas available for horses & their families – the Equine industry is well rooted in this state
- That it happens

- Equine use most important if trail is to be multiuse. Horse owners are an unbelievable resources both financial and resources
- That it remains unpaved to access horseback riders
- Hope the horse people could have another trail to ride on We have less and less places to ride we worry that soon we'll have no place to ride.
- That it will be open for horses
- That it is open to all users & cooperation is encouraged
- That it be a true multiuse trail and every interest is able to enjoy it
- All non motorized groups especially concerning horses come up with a mutual understanding of trail courtesy and cooperation. Parallel trails for horses, not lower!
- Do not exclude equestrian. Multi million industry in MI leaving due to lack of support. Allow camping for hikers, riders, etc
- Multi use, riding/walking trails running parallel
- That all people work together for a great opportunity to create the future for our grandchildren to have access to be outside on foot, horse, wheelchair or rollerblade be healthier and happier then we are. Stress in MI should only be from the heavy snow ☺ only we need to get it opened up and in use as soon as possible. It doesn't always have to look pretty & lite. Humans need to use common sense.
- That it will be available for all outdoor enthusiasts, be safe, access to towns, information signs on historical value, reflex the character of area
- Non motorized multi use meaning hiking, biking, equestrian
- That it will be a link to our counties & communities a place to meet with friends for health & enjoyment – increase business opportunities to our small villages & lottery
- To have the trail used safely and successfully by all activities and public
- That we can ride horses on the trails. I could see that it may be necessary to have the trail split i.e. one lane for bike, one for walkers, one for horses.
- That the trail be constructed as soon as possible
- Get it done now
- It gets completed sooner rather than later
- It become a reality
- I hope that the trail will be paved with asphalt so as to make it smoother for in-line skater & wheel chair uses, etc. RV camping in towns for overnight camping. This will bring business to the area from people who may be on their way to other areas, see the trail and spend the night to use the trail.
- A paved bike & walk trail
- That they will utilize the areas where the trail is wider for opportunities to provide historical/cultural features and public rest room areas, picnic areas.
- I hope that the trail be of asphalt
- Involve as many citizens as possible to work on project (create ownership) volunteers
- Keeping it clean
- Paved trail for biking-running, friends-family trail
- To see it finish in my lifetime
- Gets done soon. I'm sick of the White Pine Trail I biked 2245 miles last year & hoped for something new
- To see the opportunity to walk, bike, without concern for safety (flying debri, etc.)
- That it be easy to access – easy to park, get out of car, bicycle or walk or run and make the return trip home – lots of access/parking
- That future citizens could learn from the history of specific spots on countries
- To see it completed (paved) within five years to see connections made with other trails

- That it be done in the next couple of years
- That it be paved & free of horse traffic

18. Concerns regarding the trail:

- Bickering between counties
- Horses and snowmobiles using it. Who is going to clean up horse poop? Smells, draws flies, don't want to step or bike through it
- Does not move forward timely
- Security
- That its not getting done
- Upkeep
- Safety issues with walkers, bikers, children and horses on same trail
- Out of control animals like horses or being chased on a bike by dogs
- Not getting the trail completed
- That it will be misused, not maintained, and conflicts might arise because of funding issues among various units of government
- That it won't be kept safe and maintained overall
- That the trail is maintained appropriately and safe environment
- People with horse won't clean up after them. Don't want my kids riding bicycles next to horses, that is not safe – horses need their own trail
- That the 3 counties cooperate better
- That it get built!
- Clear education of people that they are going thru large areas of ag activity
- Keeping it clean
- Not enough usage to warrant upkeep
- If not paved it will be muddy/messy and won't get much use.
- Long term maintenance, unimproved surfaces
- Upkeep (trail surface condition, litter, weeds, safety, etc.)
- Money for maintaining trail
- That all groups will not have access to this trail
- Costs
- No concerns
- That it will take forever to develop it.
- How to keep it safe
- That equine users are continually regarded as “less than” users and their economic impact and benefits for trail use are not being equally considered in planning a safe-equine friendly multi use trail
- That equestrian use will not be allowed. Because of a lack of communication with other non-motorized groups.
- Maintenance
- That the access will be restricted to those with the loudest voice
- That somehow one or more user group will be ignored or eliminated – eps. us other ables that can't walk or run or bike but need our horses & carriages & chairs to experience
- That the different groups will fight over the use of the trail

- That equestrians might be excluded because of mind sets or misinformation. Horses played a big part in our history and I'm sure were part of building these communities. Horses enable handicap individuals to enjoy nature and cover territory that would not otherwise be accessible. I am 62 years old and I ride with women 67 and 69 years of age. We are well past walking and biking long distances. Our horses are our legs.
- That it won't be open to horse's
- Git-R-Dun! Soon!
- Horsemen riding in the ditches
- All users need to be educated from user type to another
- That it may not happen in my lifetime
- People not familiar with horses who don't think horses should be on the trail
- That it is created for everyone...
- If the horse trail is off to the side & they put down crushed limestone it will lame the horses
- Keeping farm equipment from using for travel. No objection to farm crossings
- Concerns regarding someone destroying adjacent properties and possible danger to users by drug dealers etc. that type of thing
- Dumping of trash; it occurs now, will it get worse or better? Keeping deadfall cleared off trail, have system in place to remove as needed
- 1. That there cannot be an agreement amongst the 3 counties, 2. too much emphasis will be placed on groundless concerns of adjacent property owners, 3. trail development will be hindered by special interests (i.e. equestrians)
- The loss of the trail for its current use. Theft from private property
- Same as above (It wouldn't be strictly non-motorized. Limited hunting possible for nuisance control wood chuck's etc. Dead wood could be cut.)
- That it stay available for everyone
- Stays available to everyone
- That it stays available to everyone
- Keep motorized vehicles off. If pets allowed, leashing & droppings cleaned up. That horses be excluded from trail
- Horses could be excluded
- Keeping it available for more than bike riders & walkers. Most trail riders no longer have trails to actually ride on
- That horses will be excluded
- None
- That the trail would exclude horses from using it
- Safety for horseback riding, cooperation among users
- My only concern is horses not be allowed to use it.
- Safety in numbers. Good to have horses & people hiking together for safety. Put signs up that people understand horses. Be courteous to horses.
- Safety of users, keeping the trail maintained
- The footing for horses
- That the board considers how important the equestrian trail is to horse enthusiasts & the revenue that can be generated by horse people. People like to voice concerns about horse "messes" but I am here to tell you people on the Saginaw Valley Trail let their dogs poop all over the asphalt & don't clean up after it!!
- Safety-Hunters, Motorbikes-bullies
- That equestrians will be relegated to a less than status. That the needs and buy-in of adjacent landowners will be ignored and the trail will be "rammed" down their throat

- That horses will be denied access due to inaccurate information, perceptions about equestrian use that are not based on facts, and a general bias against horse use
- Full access for all users to the whole trail for the whole length
- Lack of connections to the east, the fear of it not being developed
- Misuse of trail – unimportant that individuals “being into” that concept in order that they will want to help maintain it
- Littering, path lighting, maintaining trail
- That it won’t get developed-but it is looking very hopeful
- Animals – hoping people clean-up after them & if a horse trail have is on the side
- An endowment fund for maintenance
- Upkeep
- \$ to develop & maintain trail
- Neighbors who have used to land for personal issues-not willing to give it back
- Safety & security of people on the trail & also the cleanliness of the trail
- Safety, security, sanitation, ability to camp overnight on backpacking trips
- Safety
- You must yield to farmers. Trimming tree next to landowner
- Maintenance
- Safety & future mandates
- Concern of animals (horses) being on same path as walkers, etc.
- That there will be interference by people who own land adjacent to the trail
- That horses will be excluded from the trail
- Property owner’s rights that have property around the trail. They pay taxes on their property they have rights also
- That adjacent landowners are satisfied w/ land security, that surface will be good for both horse riding & bikes & baby carriages
- \$ maintenance of the trails
- I am afraid that people who walk or ride would not want horses on the trail. I believe all groups can co-exist and enjoy the trails together. Horse owners are very responsible people.
- I don’t want motorized vehicles on the trail
- That people will trash the property around the trail
- Keep it natural, not all paved
- That horse people will not be considered equally with other prospective trail users
- Safety, cleanliness
- Making sure different uses respect others
- That it will accommodate horses
- Horses won’t be allowed
- Horses will not be allowed thru the same misinformation & mismanagement of facts that the Mich DNR used to railroad these users out of other areas in Mich
- Security – education on (for) each trail user on trail etiquette when on the trail
- Security, common courtesy from other users when horses are using the trail to keep riders safe
- That horses will be denied access
- ATV
- That it will not be multiuse and some groups will be discriminated against
- It is becoming more and more dangerous to ride anything bike or horse or rollerblading on public streets. We are all desperately in need of a safe place to pursue our hobbies.
- Farmers access to land on both sides of trail, each group might not have interests acknowledge. Horse groups wants to make sure the DNR knows how much they want their interests known.

- It takes so long in planning that we never get to use it before we die.
- Be keep open, keep as natural as possible
- That the CIS is going to discriminate against equestrian use
- That horses won't be allowed
- Safety. Dogs on leashes, etc.
- When I have walked on the trails, there have been times when bikers are going too fast, unsupervised kids and people walking their dogs not on leashes. What can we do to monitor issues such as these? Or to educate people on the safety for all.
- No people coming on private property, no junk yards
- If horses are allowed, the horse dirt trail, be separated from the bicycle trail. Crushed Limestone
- Multiuse including equestrian carriages
- Up keep – up keep & safety of the trestles
- I hope that we can get appropriate & adequate funding
- Impeded progress
- My concerns are that it will be unsafe if horses are allowed on the trail itself as many users are low to the ground (Recumbant bicyclists, baby strollers, wheelchair users. I hope to have an access close to my home so I won't have to use a vehicle to reach the trail.
- Funding. Horses on the same trail as a walk/bike path. Bridge safety
- Concerned about “road apples” also the safety of the trail users through remote rural areas.
- Hunting season between Ionia & Pewamo
- Same as above (keeping it clean)
- Why wait, lets get started! With a good plan and engineering
- Security, cleanliness
- Gopher holes, & muskrat holes
- Unhappy landowners & farmers keep them informed, sustainability
- Keeping motorized vehicles off trail
- Making sure there is a maintenance plan in place and funded, planning for long term replacement of the surface
- Safety concerns if horses allowed-“spooked” horses trampling small children
- If horses are allowed along side of the trail or on the trail, there is too much change of danger of horses getting spooked & hurt someone using the trail or even the rider of the horse
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#### 19. Special places trail should highlight:

- St. Johns library, St. Johns depot, Clinton County Veterans memorial, Bike shops/rental, skate park (does not exist), spray park (does not exist)
- Depot, Vet's memorial in St. Johns
- All the above
- All of the above
- All listed
- (circled natural resources) (2)
- (circled natural resources and cultural/historic resources)
- Rivers
- Natural resources, especially developing or preserving habitats for wildlife. Cultural/historic on or in close proximity to the trail
- The St. Johns Depot & historic rail cars, Nearby recreation opportunities, Natural Resources
- Natural resources and historical sites top my list

- Recreation Opportunities
- Historic and business
- Natural Resources (2)
- Train depot St. Johns
- Agricultural communities along the route, histories of adjacent communities
- Recreation
- Significant attractions for each of the areas the trail passes through
- All special places should be highlighted
- West end by Muir and Ionia. Very beautiful!
- Tough question as all are very important. This trail could offer interpretive center (could be close to US 27/21) for education field trips & tourists. Ex. The Hennepin Canal Trail that is a “self supporting” linear park near Sheffield, Illinois.
- Historic for use with schools
- Maple River
- Label trees. Label wildflowers
- Be careful of spending too much on signing these special habitats – they seem to be subject to vandalism. What a waste a shame, because I personally like this highlighting of special features.
- Downtown survival
- Historic rail–buildings along route
- Interesting shopping facilities, interesting historical facilities, gas, food, lodging, camping, parking, locations for trucks & trailer’s
- St. Johns Train Depot
- The rivers, train depot
- It is currently used by all with no charges
- Maybe sign’s identifying rivers and streams along the way
- None
- All of the above
- All above
- All the mentioned.
- All of the above
- Any points of interest
- (circled recreation opportunities and natural resources) (2)
- (circled natural resources, cultural/historic resources)
- ?
- Yes!
- The historical presence of horses on these trail. Early trail where built using horse transporting materials for these trails
- We are not from this immediate area so I can’t think of any certain area to highlight. But I think it would be nice to point out areas of interest along the trail corridor. People riding along the trail from far away would have the areas of interest pointed out to them.
- Recreation fishing, tubing canoe, cultural/historical resources
- Point out points of interest
- Recreational opportunities, identify unique plant and wildlife along with special habitat areas highlight historic items and locations
- Rail station & their history transporting good, cattle & food stuffs, cavalry & machine as well as people & mail
- Recreation opportunities
- Offering natural corridors that connect high priority conservation areas are very important

- All of these – in order to attract a diverse group of people who will want to use the trail
- All historic places – all natural resources & make recreation areas available
- I would like to see a spot in each county that is designated for master gardeners. Like Sag Valley
- Natural Resources
- Not sure
- Rivers and state parks that might be close
- Rivers & access to state/nat parks
- Public river access would be awesome, Indian sites, RR history sites
- Ionia has some neat quarries that could be enjoyed and viewed. Many of our old brick houses are build from there. Could have historic home tours in conjunction. Quarries are a potential break areas, camping area, etc.
- Natural resources
- History
- (natural resources and cultural/historic resources circled)
- All
- All of above
- All of the above
- Natural resources, recreation opportunities
- Special nature foliage (rare trees, flowers, etc.)
- Allow camping areas
- Most of the people want a place to go to get off the roads away from vehicles. Lets face it, on the trail everyone spreads out so fast that this many miles will accommodate everyone
- To handle horses riding in, to have the opportunity to possible stay the night
- Indian background
- Historical sites
- Other thoughts – what about lights for evening? What about a day of the week for horses? i.e. Sundays are horses, Saturdays are bikes
- Indian Historical sites, Early settler's sites, wildlife observation sites.
- Between Maple River
- Curwood Castle Owosso, Railroad Depot, Shiawassee Council of Arts, Sleepy Hollow State Park, Michigan Milk Producers, Amish farms along trail
- Should highlight historic sites along trail as well as a web site with those sights highlighted
- Bridges and towns
- Historic spots-train wreck of 1917? 1 ½ miles east of Pewamo (several killed) former site of states 1<sup>st</sup> roadside park on M-21 1 ½ miles east of Pewamo, lost of history on trail
- The Grand and Maple river villages
- Markers to explain natural elements: rocks/rock formations, plants, trees, rivers, creeks, creek beds, lakes
- Old train depots, Ionia & others
- Markets/panels telling about certain sports naming creeks, river & mile markers
- Rivers-canoeing, Indian sites, nearby parks (Motz, Greenview Point, etc.), churches/schools/businesses
- Recreational oppor. & all of the above
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\*\*Final Thoughts, Comments, etc.\*\*

- This will be such an economic boom to all areas that are on the trail

- I hope that Fred Meijers offer to help fund this project will not be passed on just to name the trail something else!
- Trails should serve all interest, not one specific group
- I hope this comes to fruition before I croak.
- Get it done!
- Thanks for all you are doing to make this become a reality. Hopefully, your persistence will pay off soon!
- Make this trail non-motorized, pave this trail, leave the horses off this trail. Not a good idea to have horses on this trail.
- This is long over due. The people against it will change their minds after its in a while.
- This project is highly significant for the future users to have an all season trail for recreational use, without having to drive past it driving hours to other locations. It's unique rural heritage, to reconnect historically and to show stewardship and responsibility allows all multi users hope!
- Take this opportunity to make this trail an example to trails in Michigan and other states by making it accessible to all
- My wife and I have rode. Hundreds of mile's on shared non-motorized trails. We've had thousand's of inter-action with hiker's, biker's, see-n-eye dog's. Dog walker's, and back packer's. We have experience 100%. Positive reactions. Small children, who would never be able to experience touching a horse. Biker's who have been courteous. And pleasant. I feel everyone enjoys the inner action.
- "Mackinaw Island is an excellent example of multi-use trails."
- It takes 10 years for a trail to become a reality. The "Friends of Clinton – Ionia – Shiawassee Trail" started in 1999 that is 10 years ago! We are still years away. Shame on all those involved – shame on the politicians of Clinton County for dragging their feet. DNR put a deadline on the Clinton Co. people get an agreement or we will turn over project to the "Friends"
- I would like to see it progress faster than it is going now
- If all our tax \$\$ are paying, we should all be able to use
- Family fun and there is not of trails for people that are riding horse because they are closing them all, who want a family fun on horse back, and others
- There is not a lot to do for teen this would be good
- Signs could be posted along the route letting skaters, bikers, wheel chair users/etc. know that it would be safer to stop on the trail when meeting people on horses. Some horses get scared when these type of things come upon them. It is safer to just stop and wait for the horses to pass to prevent accidents.
- Signs could be posted along the route letting skaters, bikers, wheel chair users/etc know that if a horse is cared just stop so no one get hurts. Lets all get along
- My hope is to provide a unique multi-use opportunity for varied disciplines in a shared and respectful setting
- Thank you (would like to see is asphalt trail) Separate for horses and bikes & runners
- Our economic crisis going on currently has made it very hard for people to support their horses. A trail like this would give us more incentive to afford this awesome creature. Horses are a part of our heritage. Please give us a place to use them that is safer than the roads with too much traffic. These trails could be a real boom for horsemanship in the future can keep more horses alive.
- Instead of representing the state well being of natural resources, the MI DNR chose to lie, misrepresent, falsify documents, etc to exclude equine in MI state land – now we are told to expect DNR to organize this project – oh boy!!!
- How much control influence will the Fred Meijer Corporation have since they have donated (grant) a majority of the money for this project?

- Will Fred Meijer corp have any say in how the trail will be used? They have been very successful in keeping horses off the trail that was formerly known as the White Pine trail
- Locally 4H & BSA groups will support, clean, enhance
- Great opportunity for recreation
- Everyone, bike, foot, rollerblade, horse, wheelchair all are capable to get along and add resources to this project. We all live here on this earth its impossible to leave out anyone. Thank you for your willingness to be fair to all of our communities.
- Please consider the positive aspects of the trails to rails how all in the community have been able to enjoy and benefit monetarily
- That you realize that federal & state funds are being used and that you must consider all non motorized use does mean horses. After all other than our two feet they were the means of transportation before bikes, rollerskates, etc.
- Concern for equestrian usage – safety reasons concerning horses riding “beside trails” – sticks in ditches covered up by mud – slippery mud, etc. Kids and bike safety
- Keep it non-motorized
- Trails, for horses, could also be seasonal i.e. May-Oct. I liked the “Adopt a Trail”
- I am opposed to horse use of the trail. I would like to see more of this information put out on the county web sites so all of this information is available.
- Big dream – having bicycle lockers so that we don’t have to load them on the car and off again
- Campsites possibly & drinking fountains, benches
- It sounds like there are already a lot of trails that allows horses. Many of the people favoring horses do not even live in Clinton, Ionia or Shiawassee Co. Should they have so much influence how this trail is managed.
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