

Cleveland Metroparks has reviewed the Regional Bicycle Draft Plan and the updated Bike and Pedestrian Activities Summary and offers the following comments:

Generally, Cleveland Metroparks supports the goals, strategies, and priorities for increasing bicycle transportation in the region. As one of the largest providers of all purpose trails in the region (approximately 85 miles to date), the Park District has received widespread support for continuing to provide additional trails throughout the Park District and its 16 Reservations. Cleveland Metroparks is also committed to developing additional connector trails to nearby neighborhoods and commercial districts as funding permits in order to enhance public access to park facilities. As additional trails are developed to complete linkages to the Towpath Trail and other bikeways, the use of bicycles as an alternative mode of transportation will continue to increase.

Through surveys which monitor use of the trail network, Cleveland Metroparks has noted that bicyclists continue to comprise one of the largest user groups of the all purpose trail network. However, other user groups, including runners, walkers, and rollerbladers, utilize the trails as well.

Therefore, the Park District supports the draft report's conclusion regarding increased public awareness with respect to the shared use of paths and roadways.

The continued development of a multi-purpose trail network is critical to improving the overall health of the region's residents and employees.

Greenway trails provide the opportunity for the public to enjoy a more active lifestyle, thus reducing the risk of cardio-vascular disease, obesity and osteoarthritis. The development of additional trails will enable northeast Ohio to become more competitive with other regions in attracting businesses which promote a more active lifestyle for their employees, thus reducing health care and insurance costs.

With regard to Map 6 (Planned, Proposed and Conceptual Bikeways), Cleveland Metroparks has provided NOACA with updated information relative to its trail network. In addition, it appears that the alignments depicted for Cleveland's Morgana Run Trail and the Towpath Trail through Steelyard Commons are incorrect, while no proposed connection to Whiskey Island is indicated on the map. Correct alignments are available through the City of Cleveland and Cuyahoga County Planning Commissions.

Cleveland Metroparks appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Regional Bicycle Draft Plan.