

## **NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path Fact Sheet**

### **What it is:**

- The NYS&W Bicycle and Pedestrian Path is a proposed 4.8 mile shared use pathway that is primarily located within the New York, Susquehanna, and Western Railway right-of-way. The path will be located adjacent to the existing tracks (Rail-with-Trail), which are inactive. The path crosses over the Norfolk Southern tracks at its southern terminus, which experiences minimal activity.
- The path facility will provide an exceptional transportation and recreational facility that will link visitors, residents, and commuters in the region with area schools, libraries, parks, neighborhoods, businesses, and transit services along the corridor.

### **Where it is:**

- The northern terminus of the path begins at River Drive in Pequannock Township and extends south, and comes to an end at the Mountain View rail station in Wayne Township.

### **Why build it:**

- The path will provide a much-needed alternative for non-auto travelers in the area.
- The facility is separated from the roadway offering improved safety for bicyclists and pedestrians traveling between Pequannock and Wayne, especially as opposed to using NJ 23.
- The path provides a link directly to the Mountain View railroad station in Wayne, which will enable and encourage non-motorized access to transit and area destinations.
- The path can be a means to improve levels of physical activity, in turn improving overall health.

### **How it came about:**

- Pequannock Township received a Federal Transportation Enhancement Grant, which was transferred to Morris County for a portion of the construction.
- Morris County received federal funding to conduct a feasibility study for the path. The results of the study showed a need for the path, recommended a preferred alignment, and any associated impacts to be considered.

**What's happening now:**

- Received approvals from FHWA to move forward with Final Design phase of work.
- A title search and appraisal of the rail corridor was completed in 2009.
- The Final Design phase of work began in December 2009. The initial work included field survey, data collection, environmental services, and regrouping with the local communities involved.
- Morris County continues to negotiate an agreement with Norfolk Southern to allow crossing of their railroad tracks at the southern terminus near Mountain View Station.
- Morris County continues discussions with NYS&W to determine easement negotiations.
- Morris County and the municipalities involved are investigating options to insure the path jointly.
- Federal funding has been secured in the Transportation Improvement Program for engineering, Right of Way acquisition, and construction.

**What's next:**

- Complete agreed upon insurance requirements.
- Finalize easement negotiations with property owners.
- Advance additional tasks under the Final Design phase of work, such as utility investigation, structural and environmental analysis, permits, and design details.
- Continue public outreach efforts.