

Safe Bicycle and Pedestrian Transport Committee: February 7, 2026

Attendees: Chair Chris Bell, Mary Rensel

Scheduling of Future Meetings

- The committee will meet on the first Friday of each month at 7:30 AM.
- July's meeting will be moved to July 10 to avoid the holiday weekend.
- The schedule may be adjusted if conflicts (e.g., vacations) arise.

Trail Project Funding and Levy Discussion

- Rensel researched trail funding options, including approaches used by towns like Pepper Pike.
- Pepper Pike has a \$2 million trail project in its budget, prompting exploration of external funding sources.
- Potential funding sources:
 - NEORSRD grants for pervious pavement and water management.
 - Geauga County Parks Foundation grants for large projects.
 - Federal Recreational Trails Program (RTP), offering \$1.6 million annually.
 - Clean Ohio Trail Fund (COTF), offering up to \$6.25 million.
- RTP and COTF can be applied for via a single application; deadline is March 13.
- The committee expressed initial hesitation for a levy due to more pressing funding needs in the village.
- Regardless the committee agrees to continue exploring additional grant opportunities while also working with the Geauga County Auditor for millage information to cover the remaining \$1 million for phase one (south side) of the trail project. This keeps the levy option moving along if needed.

Committee Structure and Membership

- The committee discussed adding a third council member.
- An announcement will go out for the March 6 meeting, inviting residents and noting two openings for resident members.

Project Communication and Third-Party Review

- The committee discussed organization of an online hub on the village website for project updates. Bell will talk to the police chief about creating a single landing page for all trail information.
- The committee discussed requesting a formal bid from StructurePoint, which provided qualifications for a third-party review. They will proceed with requesting a bid from StructurePoint to understand costs before deciding.

Next Arrangements

- Research and prepare the combined RTP/COTF grant application (deadline March 13), including assembling required documents and drafting the proposal.
- Contact the Geauga County Parks Foundation regarding potential funding.

- Reach out to Catherine Garvey about her experience securing a large state grant and gather best practices.
- Clarify with Fiscal Officer the exact amount to provide to the county auditor for millage analysis for a potential levy (confirm \$1 million for phase one vs. \$1.8 million).
- Coordinate with the police chief to create a single landing page on the village website for the trail project.
- Send the March 6 meeting announcement, inviting public participation and applications for two resident member openings; outline the process for expressing interest.
- Request a formal bid from StructurePoint for the third-party review, including scope, timeline, and cost.