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## **Biking & Walking News**

**Ira S. Weiss, Editor**

**January 31, 2010**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **WAD Bikeway Association**

Meeting Announcement  
Monday, Feb 1st, 2010  
7pm Public Inquiry Period, 7:30pm Business  
Linden Branch, Columbus Metropolitan Library  
Cleveland@Kohr

### **The next APBP webinar is Wednesday, Feb. 17, at MORPC, from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m.**

The topic will be "Cycle Tracks: Concept and Design Practices." The webinar is free. Please RSVP.

Some of you may get this message forwarded to you by a colleague. If you wish to receive these emails directly in the future, please email me at [agodwin@morpc.org](mailto:agodwin@morpc.org). I send out these announcement emails approximately once per month. You may also email me if you wish to be removed from the APBP webinar list. Some past APBP webinar recordings are now available as free samples. Other APBP webinars have been archived, and are available on a pay-for-play basis. See the list at the bottom of the [APBP webinar page](#) for more information on how to order these.

**If you want more details about the webinar, please continue reading below. Thank you!**

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#### **Feb. 17: "Cycle Tracks: Concept and Design Practices"**

The Mid-Ohio Regional Planning Commission is hosting the webinar "**Cycle Tracks: Concept and Design Practices**" on Wednesday, Feb. 17 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. The webinar is open to all, and there is no charge. **Please RSVP.** Contact Ariel Godwin ([agodwin@morpc.org](mailto:agodwin@morpc.org) or 614.233.4123) to RSVP. Parking passes will be provided after you have RSVP'd. The presentation PowerPoint and feedback survey will also be emailed to you after the webinar is completed. If you are interested in this topic but cannot attend, please request the PowerPoint slides – you will receive them shortly after the presentation.

**LOCATION:** The webinar is hosted by MORPC. We are located just south of downtown Columbus. You must come to our office to attend the webinar for free. Both car and bike parking is available. Here is a [map](#)

[with directions](#). Please note we will be in the Scioto Conference Room. Often MORPC is hosting more than one webinar at a time in our different conference rooms. **CM Credits:** APBP has applied for one CM credit from the AICP for this webinar. A certificate of attendance for those wanting to claim Professional Development Hours will be available.

**Upcoming APBP webinars to be hosted at MORPC:**

Mar 17: ADA  
Apr 21: Bicycle Parking Programs  
May 19: Law Enforcement in Bike/Ped Safety Programs  
Jun 16: Policy Promotion  
Jul 21: Bicycle Boulevards  
Aug 18: Road Diets  
Sep 15: Integrating Ped and Bike Facilities with Transit  
Oct 20: Roundabouts  
Nov 17: Smart Growth Connection  
Dec 15: Bike Boxes  
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## **NCBW's PRO WALK / PRO BIKE® 2010 CALL FOR PROPOSALS**

The National Center for Bicycling & Walking is pleased to announce a call for proposals to present at the 16th biennial Pro Walk / Pro Bike® Conference in Chattanooga, on September 13-17, 2010. Proposal submissions are now being accepted through the on-line submission form at: <http://www.bikewalk.org/2010conference/submissions.php> The conference theme is "Bringing Livable Communities and Regions to Scale." Chattanooga and the southeast region will serve up many examples of what can be done in small and mid-size cities and rural regions to make livable communities come to life. And in keeping with the Pro Walk / Pro Bike® big tent tradition we are inviting practitioners and advocates from coast to coast and around the globe to form geographically and experientially diverse teams to submit panel sessions and interactive workshops. We are looking to showcase good bike/pedestrian projects that were built with stimulus money; trans-discipline approaches to building livable communities; programs and approaches that can demonstrate promising environmental and policy solutions, and ensure meaningful results to the people who are affected; and projects that make it possible for people of all ages and abilities to walk and bike easily, conveniently, and safely. The opening reception for Pro Walk / Pro Bike® will be held on Monday, September 13, at 6:30 PM. Earlier in the day there will be some special interest sessions and meetings; more on that in the weeks to come. The closing plenary will be on Thursday, from noon until 2:00 PM with special interest meetings later in the day and on Friday. Conference registration will open in early February. Pro Walk / Pro Bike® 2010 Call for Proposals submission information can be found at <http://www.bikewalk.org/conference.php>. Submissions must be received before February 26.

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Director

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# SAFETY

## **Truck, bus drivers: No texting**

Ban for all drivers could be next step

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 3:05 AM

By Charlie Boss

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

A federal rule announced yesterday could be the first step toward a national ban on texting while driving. Commercial truck and bus drivers face as much as \$2,750 in federal fines if caught, officials with the U.S. Department of Transportation said. Criminal penalties would apply if a driver's actions put people at risk of death or serious injury. "It's a starting point to expand to all drivers," said David Bartosic, spokesman for the Ohio Trucking Association. Many commercial truck and bus companies already have similar policies. For several years, Con-Way Freight, a national trucking company with an operation in Columbus, has banned the use of any portable communication device while driving.

[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2010/01/27/trucking\\_texting.ART\\_ART\\_01-27-10\\_A10\\_73GDQJ7.html?sid=101](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/business/stories/2010/01/27/trucking_texting.ART_ART_01-27-10_A10_73GDQJ7.html?sid=101)

## **Distracted driving laws don't stop crashes, study shows**

By Associated Press business staff

January 29, 2010, 12:23PM

WASHINGTON -- A new study from the insurance industry finds that state laws banning the use of handheld devices to make a call or send a text message while driving have not resulted in fewer vehicle crashes. The study, released Friday by the Highway Loss Data Institute, examined insurance claims from crashes before and after such bans took effect in California, New York, Connecticut and Washington, D.C. The organization found that claims rates did not go down after the laws were enacted. It also found no change in patterns compared with nearby states without such bans. Adrian Lund, the group's president, said the finding doesn't bode well "for any safety payoff from all the new laws." Six states and the District of Columbia ban talking on a hand-held device for all drivers, while 19 states and the District of Columbia ban texting while driving, according to the Governors Highway Safety Association. The Highway Loss Data Institute, an affiliate of the Insurance Institute for Highway Safety, said its findings "don't match what we already know about the risk of phoning and texting while driving" and said it is gathering data to "figure out this mismatch."

[http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2010/01/distracted\\_driving\\_laws\\_dont\\_s.html](http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2010/01/distracted_driving_laws_dont_s.html)

## **Legislators renew efforts to curb drivers who text**

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 3:10 AM

By Jim Siegel

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Another bill aimed at banning texting while driving was introduced in the Ohio House last week, and the sponsor says this is the most comprehensive one. Rep. Nancy Garland, D-New Albany, said her House Bill 415 will marry the best concepts from other texting bills introduced last year in the House, including one she sponsored. The bill, jointly sponsored by Rep. Michael DeBose, D-Cleveland, who also had a texting bill previously, would define texting so that law enforcement can easily identify it. Texting while driving would be a primary offense, so police would not need another reason to pull over a vehicle. The fine would be up to \$150. The bill establishes a six-

month grace period to educate drivers and ease the transition. The Senate has been holding hearings on a Democratic-sponsored texting bill. Senate President Bill M. Harris, R-Ashland, supports a ban but laments legislating common sense.

[http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/01/27/copy/legislators-renew-efforts-to-curb-drivers-who-text.html?adsec=politics&sid=101](http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/01/27/copy/legislators-renew-efforts-to-curb-drivers-who-text.html?adsec=politics&sid=101)

## **Editorial: Other viewpoints**

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 3:01 AM

IN A reasonable world, it wouldn't require a new advocacy group modeled after Mothers Against Drunk Driving to champion the obviously good cause of banning cell-phone use while driving. But allowing the obvious to speak for itself wasn't working before MADD took on America's casual acceptance of drunken driving, either. It's been known for a long time that cell phones and drivers don't mix. Indeed, a study in the New England Journal of Medicine back in 1997 found that cell phones make a motorist four times as likely to have an accident, a rate comparable to drunken driving. Now text messaging has been added to the deadly mix. At least the Obama administration gets it. Back in September, U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood held a summit on distracted driving, and the new nonprofit advocacy group targeting driver cell-phone use is an outgrowth of that. Named FocusDriven, it takes a page out of MADD's playbook by presenting spokesmen who have lost family members to drivers using cell phones. If it gets as many drivers to put down their cell phones as MADD did in shaming motorists to watch their drinking, the nation will be safer. -- The Blade, Toledo

[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2010/01/26/OVshorts.ART\\_ART\\_01-26-10\\_A10\\_TIGCOAI.html?sid=101](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/editorials/stories/2010/01/26/OVshorts.ART_ART_01-26-10_A10_TIGCOAI.html?sid=101)

# **HEALTH**

## **U.S. Bicycling and Walking in the United States: The 2010 Benchmarking Report**

The Alliance for Biking & Walking sent the below press release earlier this morning announcing the release of a new national report on bicycling and walking in the U.S. Bicycling and Walking in the United States: The 2010 Benchmarking Report highlights data on biking and walking levels, safety, funding, policies, and more from 50 states and the 51 largest U.S. cities. States and cities are ranked on a number of indicators including bicycling and walking levels, safety, and funding. The report also highlights the great disparities that exist between bicycling and walking levels, safety, and funding: While 10% of trips in the U.S. are by bike or foot, 13% of traffic fatalities are bicyclists and pedestrians, and biking and walking receive less than 2% of federal transportation dollars. The report also highlights the connection between biking and walking and public health: states with the lowest levels of biking and walking have, on average, the highest rates of obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure. In contrast states with the highest levels of biking and walking have, on average, the lowest rates of obesity, diabetes, and high blood pressure. The nearly 200-page report is a snap-shot of the state of bicycling and walking in the U.S. and in 50 states and the 51 largest U.S. cities. It contains a number of illustrations which you are welcome to use.

Here are some helpful links to access the information:

Webpage with more info and to download the report: <http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/benchmarking>

Press

Release: [http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/media/investing\\_in\\_biking\\_and\\_walking\\_could\\_save\\_lives\\_says\\_report/](http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/site/index.php/site/media/investing_in_biking_and_walking_could_save_lives_says_report/)

Quick Facts

Sheet: [http://www.PeoplePoweredMovement.org/site/images/uploads/2010\\_Benchmarking\\_Report\\_Fact\\_Sheet-FINAL.pdf](http://www.PeoplePoweredMovement.org/site/images/uploads/2010_Benchmarking_Report_Fact_Sheet-FINAL.pdf)

We appreciate your help forwarding this info and spreading the word about this valuable new resource for bicycle and pedestrian advocates and professionals. We would also appreciate you including information about this report in your organization's e-news, print newsletters, and websites. We also welcome you to include the report in your organization's online resource section, we just ask that you please link

to <http://www.peoplepoweredmovement.org/benchmarking> so that we can most accurately track the downloads and usage of the report. I can provide a jpg image of the cover if you need it. If you haven't already, we also encourage you to issue a local media release highlighting what this report says about your state or city. If you are interested, please contact me for a template local press release.

Kristen Steele

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## Call for Proposal

Active Living Research has issued a Call for Proposals to support research that informs policy and environmental strategies that increase physical activity among children and adolescents. A total of \$2.6 million will be awarded. This would be a great opportunity to submit a proposal for Safe Routes to School-related research. The application deadline is April 14, 2010 and more information is available through the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation (RWJF) Grantmaking Online system at <http://www.activelivingresearch.org/grantsearch/grantopportunities/current>.

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January 28, 2010

## CentralOhio.com Health department: Ohio heart disease rate high

BY RUSS ZIMMER

LANCASTER -- Fairfield County residents were rushed to hospitals for heart problems at a rate 42 percent higher than the state average in 2005, according to a new report from the Ohio Department of Health. The county's heart disease diagnosis rate also was higher than the typical Ohio county, but deaths attributed to heart disease or heart attack in Fairfield County were well lower than the rest of the state, the report shows. Christina Siemer-Harley, a cardiac educator at Fairfield Medical Center, works with patients after they are out of immediate danger to re-evaluate lifestyle choices regarding heart health. She said most people are aware smoking and eating poorly puts your heart health in danger, but some remain unaware. "They have the information but they're just noncompliant and didn't think it could ever happen to them," she said. "But I do have patients who just didn't know." Heart disease is the No. 1 killer in Ohio and the rest of the nation. In 2007, nearly 29,000 people -- or 27 percent of all deaths in Ohio -- were victims of heart disease, according to the report, titled "The Burden of Heart Disease in Ohio."

<http://www.lancastereagle.com/article/20100128/NEWS01/1280304/-1/NLETTER01/Ohio-heart-disease-rate-high?source=nletter-news>

## Kidzapalooza makes staying fit fun for the young

Games, entertainment promote healthful living

Sunday, January 31, 2010 3:36 AM

By Todd Jones

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Children scampered across the concrete floor of Veterans Memorial yesterday as if plugged into electrical outlets and juiced by the excitement of an activity dreamland. They bounced around the eighth-annual Kidzapalooza for seven hours of games and entertainment, enthralled by oversized mascots, Luke The Juggler, magic shows and puppet shows, and nearly sent into orbit by a forest of inflatable play structures. The event also provided parents something: a respite from winter cabin fever, a much-needed let's-get-out-of-the-house day for many in central Ohio. About 10,000 were expected to attend. Amid the excitement, families also found educational opportunities from the more than 30 vendors in the north hall.

[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/01/31/kidfest.ART\\_ART\\_01-31-10\\_B1\\_10GESON.html](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/01/31/kidfest.ART_ART_01-31-10_B1_10GESON.html)

## LOCAL NEWS

### State plan might put local road projects into high gear

Franklin County interchanges on list

Thursday, January 28, 2010 3:06 AM

By James Nash

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Gov. Ted Strickland's State of the State announcement that he's fast-tracking certain road projects might mean quick action on two bottlenecked Franklin County interchanges and widening a stretch of I-70 near Springfield. Then again, it might not. During his annual address Tuesday, Strickland said the state will more rapidly approve and pay for "our most promising job-creating transportation projects." He said he's dedicating \$100 million to the effort. Even before Strickland's announcement, the Ohio Department of Transportation queued up five projects -- with a total price of \$130 million -- that appear to fit the governor's criteria. Three are in central Ohio: improving traffic flow around Rickenbacker Global Logistics Park, rebuilding the frequently congested interchange of I-71 and Rt. 665 in Grove City, and adding a third lane to I-70 near Springfield. Those projects and freeway interchanges near Cleveland and Cincinnati should start within a year, rather than the four-year window that major transportation projects normally require, said Scott Varner, spokesman for the state Transportation Department. "These projects are planned; they just need a spark to get going," Varner said. "This (the governor's announcement) is that spark." Strickland's plan, which he dubbed "Fast TRAC," would accelerate not only the five projects outlined yesterday but also others deemed essential to job creation. TRAC is the acronym for the Transportation Review Advisory Committee, which prioritizes major transportation projects. The panel is scheduled to vote today on Strickland's proposed new process.

[http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/01/28/copy/MOVEUP.ART\\_ART\\_01-28-10\\_B8\\_89GE8C4.html?adsec=politics&sid=101](http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/01/28/copy/MOVEUP.ART_ART_01-28-10_B8_89GE8C4.html?adsec=politics&sid=101)

### Service director requests \$3M for street repairs

Thursday, January 28, 2010 12:31 PM

By TARA STUBBS-FIGURSKI

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Bexley service director Bill Harvey wants to borrow \$3-million to fix additional city streets this year. Harvey asked Bexley City Council's finance committee Jan. 26 to approve a plan allowing him to borrow \$1.8-million in the short term to fix eight or nine streets; he plans to ask for the rest of the money later. He pointed out council approved \$3-million for street repairs in this year's capital improvements budget. "I'm planning to go ahead with it unless you tell me otherwise," he said. Harvey also noted that council approved borrowing \$3-million for street repairs in 2009.

Council member Ben Kessler asked how much money the city was spending per year to service the debt on the \$3-million that was borrowed. Harvey said the city spends about \$60,000 per year to service the debt on every \$1-million that it borrows.

<http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/bexley/stories/2010/01/27/Bexley-street-repairs.html?sid=104>

## **Clintonville Area Neighborhood Plan**

Community's vision could become reality

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 11:41 AM

By KEVIN PARKS

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Clintonville has not failed to plan, but now comes the hard part of trying to ensure that the plan does not fail. A subcommittee of the Clintonville Area Commission's planning and development committee, headed by District 5 representative Nick Cipiti, is working on implementing the Clintonville Area Neighborhood Plan, which was adopted by Columbus City Council on March 2, 2009. "The plan provides a comprehensive vision for shaping neighborhoods based on existing conditions, needs and goals to bring continuity as we move from a 'streetcar suburb' into the 21st century," Cipiti wrote in an e-mail that accompanied documents relating to the efforts of the subcommittee. "It supports continuing current land uses but also considers recommendations for mixed use structures on High Street and Indianola corridors. "Further, the plan anticipates increases in pedestrians and bicyclists, and recommends accommodations on (North) High Street, improvements for selected crosswalks and repairs to priority sidewalks."

[http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/clintonville/stories/2010/01/27/0128clvision-plan\\_In.html?sid=104](http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/clintonville/stories/2010/01/27/0128clvision-plan_In.html?sid=104)

January 30, 2010

## **A pedestrian walkway should be provided on Bridge Street**

Editor, the Gazette:

As I was driving to work the other day, I noticed the increased amounts of pedestrians on Bridge Street. Due to the drop in the economy, more residents have taken to walking to work rather than driving or paying to take a bus. Among those walking are parents with young children walking alongside them or in strollers. Since Bridge Street is our main business area where so many people hold jobs or go to for shopping, I think there should be a pedestrian walkway to accommodate their needs. I also would find it interesting to hear what goes through the minds of these parents who have to take their young children so close to heavy traffic. Perhaps also, the introduction of a walkway could help decrease the amount of traffic and/or accidents on Bridge Street.

<http://www.chillicothe Gazette.com/article/20100130/OPINION03/1300307/1014/OPINION/A-pedestrian-walkway-should-be-provided-on-Bridge-Street>

## **City allocating more for paving**

But \$20 million this year not enough to keep roads in 'fair' shape, according to its survey

Sunday, January 31, 2010 3:33 AM

By Mark Ferenchik

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Although Columbus plans to double its spending on resurfacing roads this year to \$20 million, a report commissioned by the city warns that it needs to spend \$60 million a year just to maintain roads in fair condition. If the city wants to improve conditions, it needs to spend \$78 million a year, according to the report. The report from the Public Service Department says Columbus is so far behind that most of its 6,348 lane miles of roads could fall into "poor" shape within five years. On Friday, Mayor Michael B. Coleman announced the \$20 million pledge, the most the city has spent in one year in two decades. Last year, the financially strapped city had no money for resurfacing, save for \$3 million in federal stimulus money used to resurface parts of nine streets

in 2009 and 2010. The report said that even if the city spends \$20 million annually during the next five years, the system's pavement rating will drop from a "fair" rating of 61 out of 100 to a "poor" rating of 52. The report pointed out that cities such as Toledo and Cincinnati had been spending twice as much per mile on resurfacing as Columbus.

[http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/01/31/copy/PAVEMENT.ART\\_ART\\_01-31-10\\_B1\\_10GESFP.html?adsec=politics&sid=101](http://www.dispatchpolitics.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/01/31/copy/PAVEMENT.ART_ART_01-31-10_B1_10GESFP.html?adsec=politics&sid=101)

## **City takes step toward 'sustainability'**

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 11:32 AM

By JENNIFER NOBLIT

ThisWeek Staff Writer

One of Dublin's newest administrators plans to help residents, businesses and new developments be more than green. The recent reorganization of the city administration included the creation of a new position: sustainable programs administrator. The position was filled from within the city, with Jamie Adkins moving over from the planning department. Adkins said sustainability has three elements: economic vitality, environmental preservation and social well-being. "Sustainability is basically about identifying those key things that are critical for everyday life and identifying systems to ensure you can sustain those over a long period of time," she said. "So from a community perspective, it's those things that the city and community need to live out their day-to-day lives and municipal operations." Before becoming the city's point person on sustainability, Adkins tried to move Dublin in that direction in the planning department by adding sustainable elements to the city's building principles... We want to give people opportunities to drive less, walk more and bike more... "Making development walkable is one sustainable principle the city already is exploring, especially with its Bridge Street corridor study.

[http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/dublin/stories/2010/01/27/0128dusustainability\\_In.html?sid=104](http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/dublin/stories/2010/01/27/0128dusustainability_In.html?sid=104)

## **Genoa gets funding for pedestrian signal**

Saturday, January 23, 2010 2:11 PM

By CHRIS ALEXIS

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Genoa Township has received funding for improvements to the Freeman Road and state Route 3 intersection. Township officials plan to install north and south left-turn lanes on state Route 3. Freeman Road will have no turn lanes. The township also hopes to build a pedestrian signal and a trail from the intersection to Freeman Road Park. The park sits about 300 yards west of the intersection. Construction likely will begin in September with a completion date in early 2011, township administrator Paul Wise said. At the Jan. 21 Genoa Township trustee meeting, Wise announced that the Ohio Public Works Commission (OPWC) has approved funding for the project up to \$323,700. The project has a total price tag of about \$683,000. The Ohio Department of Transportation has provided \$330,000 in construction and engineering funding, according to the Genoa Township Web site. The Ohio Public Works Commission grant would pay 90 percent of the remaining balance, Wise said. Genoa Township would pay the remaining \$32,370. "This is good news for the township. It's one of the big hurdles we've been waiting on to move ahead with the Freeman Road-Route 3 red light project," Wise said. Assistant administrator Joe Clase said the project is vital because of safety concerns. The intersection has been the site of many accidents. Close to the site are Foust Elementary School, Genoa Middle School and Northside Fellowship Presbyterian Church, which has a kindergarten and pre-school. All contribute to the traffic volume.

[http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/sunbury/stories/2010/01/23/0124sugenoa-signal\\_In.html?sid=104](http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/sunbury/stories/2010/01/23/0124sugenoa-signal_In.html?sid=104)

January 28, 2010

## **Proposed Granville pedestrian bridge will get state eligibility ruling**

BY BRIAN MILLER

Advocate Reporter

GRANVILLE TOWNSHIP -- A proposed pedestrian bridge linking the T.J. Evans Bike Path and Raccoon Valley Park will get a shot at making a list of projects eligible for state funding. The Granville Township trustees agreed Wednesday to sponsor the Granville Rotary Club's application for state Transportation Enhancement Program funds toward construction of the bridge. That will allow the club to submit a letter of interest that will determine its eligibility to apply for a TEP grant. The grant could furnish up to 80 percent of the estimated at \$1.2 million cost of building the bridge. The bridge would provide a way for children and families to walk or ride bikes to the park. It also would help create a pathway loop for recreational use.

<http://www.newarkadvocate.com/article/20100128/NEWS01/1280354/1002/Proposed-Granville-pedestrian-bridge-will-get-state-eligibility-ruling>

## **Planner describes plan to boost Grove City town center**

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 7:19 PM

By EVAN BROOKS

ThisWeek Staff Writer

Redevelopment of the Grove City town center will take "multiple small successes" rather than a "super big project," said a city planner and architect. Frank Elmer, the planner who worked with city officials to develop a town center plan in both 1987 and 2008, answered resident questions and presented his philosophy for redeveloping the town center during a special Grove City Council meeting Jan. 26. He also spoke to council in November 2008 after the completion of his most recent town center plan. Elmer is a principal partner of Columbus-based Lincoln Street Studio. He said "small, dense and local" are the key characteristics to redevelopment. City officials should invest in infrastructure and change zoning regulations that would create an urban neighborhood in the town center by increasing the residential density of the area, improving sidewalks and adding many small parks.

<http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/grovecity/stories/2010/01/27/elmer-has-plan.html?sid=104>

## **Avery Road project on target**

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 11:44 AM

By GARY BUDZAK

ThisWeek Contributor

In addition to the beginning of the Triangle project, other major road project in Hilliard this year will benefit the city, Norwich Township, the Franklin County Fairgrounds, commuters and pedestrians. The Avery Road-Northwest Parkway Intersection Improvement Project is scheduled this year. Clyde Seidle, the city's public service director, said the bidding process begins Feb. 11, construction starts in March and completion is expected Nov. 15. "Basically, the project extends existing Northwest Parkway over to Avery Road and installs a traffic signal at Avery and Northwest Parkway," said transportation engineer Letty Schamp. "It provides access for the Joint Safety Services Building and provides a true public street for through traffic." Drivers may notice how the road on Northwest Parkway changes at the Fairgrounds. "Currently, Northwest Parkway only goes from Leap Road and then to the west, and then when it gets to the Fairgrounds property, it's still a road connection, but it's technically not a public street," Schamp said. "It's more of a private driveway to serve the fairgrounds, and it was not built to public street standards," she said. "Years ago, they used to block it off when the fair wasn't going on." "With the new Safety Services building, the Norwich Township trustees came to the city and said we would like to see you do something," Seidle said. City officials said that once completed, the project will also benefit the fairgrounds by providing better access with left turn lanes, as well as infrastructure like sanitary sewer connections in place for future development. In addition, there will be pedestrian paths that may be extended to Leap Road in the future.

[http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/hilliard/stories/2010/01/27/0128hiavery-road\\_in.html?sid=104](http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/hilliard/stories/2010/01/27/0128hiavery-road_in.html?sid=104)

## **Local parks may see more cuts and possible closures**

Saturday, January 23, 2010 2:15 PM

By MARLA K. KUHLMAN

ThisWeek Staff Writer

The Licking Park District has cut programming in half this year and is looking at closing altogether if voters don't approve an operating levy this year. The park board is scheduled to vote Tuesday to place a five-year, 0.2-mill levy request before voters on May 4, said Rich Niccum, park operations administrator. The countywide levy would raise about \$750,000 annually for park operations and cost a homeowner about \$6 a year in new taxes per \$100,000 of home value. "In my opinion, that's a bargain," Niccum said. "It will cost the average homeowner about 50 cents a month. We aren't asking for large amounts to do extravagant things. We're looking for funds just to operate and continue what we're doing." This marks the district's seventh try at the ballot in about 20 years, with the last unsuccessful attempt in 2006... That staff is responsible for 1,500 acres of green space and more than 36 miles of bike trails. Park facilities include Infirmary Mound Park in Granville; Frederick R. Reese Preserve in Mary Ann Township; Lobdell Reserve in Alexandria; Morris Woods State Nature Preserve near Johnstown; Ohio Canal Greenway near Hebron; Palmer Road Swamp Preserve in Etna Township; Riverview Preserve in Newark; T.J. Evans Recreational Trail between west Newark and Johnstown; Taft Reserve and William C. Kraner Nature Center in the southeast side of the county; and Tyler Powell Preserve in Pataskala. [http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/johnstown/stories/2010/01/23/0124jlocal-park-cuts\\_in.html?sid=104](http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/johnstown/stories/2010/01/23/0124jlocal-park-cuts_in.html?sid=104)

## **Parks and Trails president steps down after 10 years**

(by Kristy Zurbrick, Madison Editor - January 26, 2010)

It started with a meeting in a London man's living room. A decade later, Madison County has 16.5 miles of paved walking and biking paths and is part of the cross-state Ohio To Erie Trail. The London man is Wayne Roberts, who on Jan. 20 stepped down as president of the Friends of Madison County Parks and Trails, the all-volunteer group he started in 1999. "I first learned about the Ohio To Erie Trail in a newspaper article. Jim Campbell from Springfield's Parks and Trails gave a talk about the trail at a women's club meeting in London," Roberts said. "From there, I started inquiring around the county to see if anyone was involved with a group to assist with the trail coming through Madison County." When he didn't find such a group, he started his own. Since that time, the resulting Friends of Madison County Parks and Trails (FMCPT) has worked in tandem with the Madison County commissioners, who make up the county's park district board, and grant writer Julia Cumming of the Madison Soil and Water Conservation District. FMCPT was there in the beginning when the commissioners struggled with right-of-way issues along the trail. "Maybe with us being there, it gave the park district enough encouragement to go on, that it was the right thing to do," Roberts said. Over the years, Roberts and FMCPT have provided much more than moral support for construction of the trail, which runs from South Charleston to London and London to Wilson Road just shy of the Franklin County line. They've held fund-raisers, lobbied for state capital improvement funds, and helped with grant applications. They've raised awareness by making presentations and forging collaborations with other groups. They've also donated lots of sweat equity. <http://www.columbusmessenger.com/NC/0/7742.html>

## **Orange Township to seek renewal of parks levy**

Wednesday, January 27, 2010 11:44 AM

By TOM SHEEHAN

ThisWeek Contributor

Residents can expect to see a renewal parks levy on the May 4 ballot in Orange Township. Township trustees on Jan. 19 took the first step to place a three-year, 1.5-mill renewal levy on the

ballot. They passed a resolution to have the Delaware County auditor certify millage for the levy. Trustee chairman Nelson Katz said it is important to act now because Feb. 18 is the deadline to place an issue on the May ballot. Trustees John Cassady and Rob Quigley agreed. "We could use more (money)," Quigley said. "We don't feel this is the right time to ask for more." Cassady said township officials are following the parks master plan, which was devised with input from residents. "I believe a renewal levy strikes the proper balance," he said, both keeping taxes as low as possible and in moving forward with park projects. The current three-year levy was approved in 2007 and collections expire at the end of 2010. That levy raises about \$1.5-million a year and costs the owner of a \$200,000 home about \$30 a year. The parks department's capital budget for 2010 is about \$2.9-million with \$2.8-million earmarked for improvements, mostly new leisure trails throughout the township. Beth Hugh, parks and maintenance director, told trustees the township is seeking four state grants this year totaling about \$1-million. The grants are reimbursements, meaning the township must spend its own money first on projects before getting any state money. If a levy isn't approved, the township likely would lose that state money, she said. In addition to the 2010 projects, the township hopes to spend about \$10.5-million in future years to complete leisure trails and other related projects, Hugh added.

[http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/olentangy/stories/2010/01/27/0128poorange-park-levy\\_in.html?sid=104](http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/olentangy/stories/2010/01/27/0128poorange-park-levy_in.html?sid=104)

## **Pataskala to seek \$180K grant for trails**

Saturday, January 23, 2010 2:09 PM

By GAIL MARTINEAU

ThisWeek Staff Writer

The city of Pataskala plans to move forward with a grant application to construct about a mile of a new walking/bike trail from the Bright Waters subdivision to the Pataskala Ridge area. City council on Jan. 19 voted to have planning-zoning director Dianne Harris submit the application to the Ohio Department of Natural Resources by the Feb. 1 due date. Member Bryan Lenzo dissented, and council president Barb Triplett was absent from the business meeting. According to Harris, the federal transportation grant is for \$179,739 and would help create the 3,400-foot asphalt trail. The total estimated cost of the project is \$239,652. Pataskala would have to match about \$59,913, which would be paid for using money from easements and park-use funds, Harris said. "This is one that I have been thinking about for a while," Lenzo said. "I must respectfully disagree with the administration. This is akin to someone not being able to turn the heat on in their home and given a hot tub."

[http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/lickingcounty/stories/2010/01/23/0124ls180k-grant\\_in.html?sid=104](http://www.thisweeknews.com/live/content/lickingcounty/stories/2010/01/23/0124ls180k-grant_in.html?sid=104)

## **Ohio Turnpike Commission reverses itself on higher tolls for bicycles or luggage on roof**

By Karen Farkas, The Plain Dealer

January 25, 2010, 10:10PM

BEREA, Ohio - Vehicles with non-permanent items on the roof, such as bicycles and luggage carriers, no longer will be charged a higher toll on the Ohio Turnpike. The turnpike commission reversed part of its height classification policy instituted last fall that placed those vehicles in a toll category meant for taller, heavier two-axle commercial trucks. "That's excellent and very encouraging to hear," said motorist Chris Huck of Stark County, who complained after he paid a higher toll rate last for a trip to Michigan with three mountain bikes on the roof of his station wagon. Turnpike spokeswoman Lauren Hakos said people carrying rooftop items represent a small percentage of turnpike traffic. Still, those drivers who paid the higher rate did complain, she said. With the policy change, a car traveling with bikes on its roof now pays \$15 in cash to cross the state instead of \$25. The E-ZPass electronic tolling rates, which are less than cash tolls, will be \$10.25 for a cross-state trip compared to \$18 for taller vehicles.

[http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/01/ohio\\_turnpike\\_commission\\_rever.html](http://blog.cleveland.com/metro/2010/01/ohio_turnpike_commission_rever.html)

## Ohio Turnpike stops higher tolls for cars with roof racks

Tuesday, January 26, 2010 8:47 AM

BEREA, Ohio (AP) - The Ohio Turnpike has stopped charging cars higher tolls when they're carrying bicycles or luggage on the roof. Toll changes that took effect last year put vehicles with rooftop luggage carriers or bike racks into a higher toll classification meant for taller commercial trucks and moving vans. Laser scanners that measure the heights of vehicles still cause the toll plazas to spit out the more expensive tickets to cars with items on the roof. But turnpike spokeswoman Lauren Hakos says toll collectors are now making adjustments and taking lower toll amounts from passenger vehicles. It means a \$10 difference for a car traveling the entire length of the toll road. Hakos says E-ZPass users will have to call customer service to get a refund. [http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local\\_news/stories/2010/01/26/turnpike-tolls.html?sid=101](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/local_news/stories/2010/01/26/turnpike-tolls.html?sid=101)

**Ira:** E-ZPass users have to call customer service to get a refund? I have one of those passes. This is a PITA! So much for being user friendly. Now I'm glad we have a hitch rack.

## Fast Track Cycling makes progress on plans for velodrome in Slavic Village

By Michelle Jarboe, The Plain Dealer

January 27, 2010, 1:32PM

Fast Track Cycling Inc., a non-profit group, has an option to buy the former St. Michael's Hospital property for the project. The 9-acre property is owned by the city of Cleveland. CLEVELAND -- Fast Track Cycling Inc., a non-profit group based in Cleveland, has an option to purchase the former St. Michael's Hospital site in Slavic Village from the city of Cleveland. The group hopes to develop and run a recreational facility and a velodrome -- a banked bicycle track -- on 9 acres at McBride and Broadway avenues. The \$6.5 million project would include a 150,000 square foot dome housing a 250-meter wooden track, 75,000 square feet of turf fields and other amenities. In addition to cycling, the facility would offer activities including soccer, track and field, football, baseball, volleyball, basketball, running and walking. The velodrome proposal has been in the works for several years. But Fast Track still needs to raise funds for the project. The group is seeking naming-rights sponsors, corporate sponsors, foundation grants, government grants and charitable donations from the cycling community. So far, Fast Track has received a \$30,000 grant from the Civic Innovation Lab, which provides funding for projects that it believes will improve Cleveland's economy. Fast Track also has received \$7,000 in donations and has pledged of \$45,000 for its capital campaign.

[http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2010/01/fast\\_track\\_cycling\\_makes\\_progr.html](http://www.cleveland.com/business/index.ssf/2010/01/fast_track_cycling_makes_progr.html)

## OTHER NEWS

### Michigan trail serves skiers, snowmobilers

Sunday, January 31, 2010 3:20 AM

It's the state park that's shaped like a ribbon. The Fred Meijer White Pine Trail State Park is the 92-mile former Penn Central railway bed that runs north and south from Cadillac to Grand Rapids, Mich. Snowmobiles are the only motorized vehicles allowed on the state's longest rail trail, which is also used for cross-country skiing in winter. In summer, the trail hosts cycling, walking, hiking and in-line skating. Part of it is paved, but most is gravel. The trail passes through Tustin, LeRoy, Reed City, Big Rapids, Stanwood, Howard City, Sand Lake, Rockford and Belmont, but snowmobilers can go no farther south than Russell Road near Rockford. In warm months, travelers could create a vacation by hiking the trail and staying in towns along the way. Its headquarters is in Cadillac (231-775-7911, [www.whitepinetrail.com](http://www.whitepinetrail.com)). A rugged bike tour is run

each year on the route ( [www.tourwpt.org](http://www.tourwpt.org)), and the trail also is known for its amazing wildflowers ([www.wildflowersofthewhitepine.com](http://www.wildflowersofthewhitepine.com)).  
[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/travel/stories/2010/01/31/BED\\_AND\\_A\\_SLED2.ART\\_ART\\_01-31-10\\_F1\\_11GDQCQ.html](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/travel/stories/2010/01/31/BED_AND_A_SLED2.ART_ART_01-31-10_F1_11GDQCQ.html)

cycling

## **Pelotonia to form race team**

Saturday, January 30, 2010 2:57 AM

By Jeffrey Sheban

THE COLUMBUS DISPATCH

Pelotonia, the charity bike tour for cancer research, is forming an eight-man elite racing team to compete in professional and amateur events in the East and Midwest. Elite riders are top-level amateurs who also compete against professionals in National Racing Calendar and USA Criterium events. The first race for the Pelotonia Cycling Team will be April 4-5 at the Philadelphia 2-Day Cycling Classic. Seven of the riders are Category 1 and 2 cyclists, the highest levels for amateurs in the United States. They are: Elliot Gaunt of Lock Haven, Pa.; Turner Johnson of Renfrew, Pa.; Adam Kahler of West Chester, Pa.; Alexander Pratt of Columbus; Anthony Rienzi of Cleveland; Jason Wood of Doylestown, Pa.; and Jonathan Wood of Canal Winchester. Pratt will be the team's director. Team member Griffin Weiler, of Dublin, is a triathlete. The team will be racing in Ohio, New York, Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, Virginia, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky, finishing the season in September with the Univest Grand Prix in Doylestown, Pa. The Pelotonia Tour is a cycling event between Columbus and Athens to raise money for cancer research at Ohio State University. Executive Director Tom Lennox said the racing team will help publicize the fundraiser and recruit riders for the event, which will be held Aug. 13-15. The team will hold training rides around central Ohio for tour participants this spring and summer.

[http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/sports/stories/2010/01/30/Pelotonia\\_team.ART\\_ART\\_01-30-10\\_C10\\_ONGET8I.html](http://www.dispatch.com/live/content/sports/stories/2010/01/30/Pelotonia_team.ART_ART_01-30-10_C10_ONGET8I.html)

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