

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## **Spring Meetings on Leveraging PA, WV Trails for Regional Benefit**

*Input Needed for P2P Corridor Community & Economic Planning Effort*

WASHINGTON, PA – The [National Road Heritage Corridor](#) (NRHC) and seven partner organizations are seeking community input as part of the Parkersburg to Pittsburgh (P2P) Corridor Regional Master Plan project. The partners and a variety of local organizations are hosting a series of community meetings between April 29 and May 20.

All meetings will be held from 5:30-7:00 p.m. with a meal provided. The meetings support a regional planning process for leveraging the P2P Corridor, which links six existing and emerging Pennsylvania and West Virginia rail-trails. The project partners are calling on residents, local leaders, business owners, trail users, and residents across the two-state region to attend, share their ideas, and help shape the future of the corridor.

Meeting dates and locations include:

### **Ritchie County, WV**

Wednesday, April 29

North Bend State Park Lodge

Co-hosts: North Bend State Park, North Bend Rails-to-Trails Foundation, Inc., and North Bend Rail Trail State Park

### **Doddridge County, WV**

Wednesday, May 6

Doddridge County Park

Co-hosts: Doddridge County Economic Development Authority, North Bend Rails-to-Trails Foundation, Inc., and North Bend Rail Trail State Park

### **Harrison County, WV**

Thursday, May 7

Harrison County Recreation Complex

Co-hosts: Harrison County Parks & Recreation, Harrison Recreational Trails, North Bend Rails-to-Trails Foundation, Inc., and North Bend Rail Trail State Park

**Wood County, WV**

Wednesday, May 13

Wood County Resiliency Center

Co-hosts: Greater Parkersburg Convention & Visitors Bureau, North Bend Rails-to-Trails Foundation, Inc., and North Bend Rail Trail State Park

**Marion & Monongalia Counties, WV (combined meeting)**

Tuesday, May 19

Fairmont State University, Turley Student Services Center, Room 106

Co-hosts: City of Fairmont, Mon River Trails Conservancy, and Fairmont State University

**Fayette County, PA**

Wednesday, May 20

South Union Township Sports Complex

Co-hosts: Fayette Trails Coalition, National Road Heritage Corridor, and the Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy

Each meeting will include a presentation on the P2P Corridor and the master plan project, interactive asset mapping, and discussions about how trails can better impact local communities. The meetings are an important part of the overall planning process and follow a month-long engagement (“Heart Trails Month” in February) that featured 25 indoor, outdoor, and virtual events and programs to generate interest in trails and the master planning effort.

More information on the spring meetings and a meeting registration form are available at [www.p2pcorridor.org](http://www.p2pcorridor.org).

**About the P2P Corridor**

Part of the larger Industrial Heartland Trails Coalition trail network, the P2P Corridor links six existing and emerging rail-trails that span seven counties across West Virginia and Pennsylvania:

- The North Bend Rail-Trail (WV)
- Harrison North Rail-Trail (WV)
- West Fork River Rail-Trail (WV)
- MCTrail (WV)
- Mon River Rail-Trail (WV)
- Sheepskin Trail (PA)

When complete, the trails comprising the P2P Corridor from Parkersburg, WV into Fayette County, PA will create a fully connected 180-mile non-motorized route, one of the longest in the U.S. The P2P meets the Great Allegheny Passage near Connellsville. Trail users can continue on to Pittsburgh using the GAP and the Three Rivers Heritage Trail.

## **About the Project**

The P2P Corridor Master Plan is intended to be an actionable blueprint for sustained rural prosperity. The vision is one of a connected region with vibrant communities and new thriving businesses along an interconnected rail-trail corridor. The planning process is focused on improving trail-to-town connections and developing economic and marketing strategies to leverage the involved trails for community benefit. With community participation and input, communities can shape and benefit from the outcomes of the plan.

This project builds on two 2018 feasibility studies: the [Sheepskin Trail Feasibility Study](#) and [Connecting Parkersburg to Pittsburgh by Rail-Trail](#). The new effort expands the lens beyond trail construction to include the broader community and economic development potential of the P2P Trails system.

The project is funded through a multi-state Appalachian Regional Commission (ARC) ARISE grant designed to position a 9-county region in Pennsylvania and West Virginia to fully leverage the P2P Corridor for community and economic benefit. The \$145,500 ARC grant is matched by \$140,000 in matching support from the Just Transition Fund, Claude Worthington Benedum Foundation, and the City of Fairmont.

Project partners include the City of Fairmont, Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy, Harrison Recreation Trails, Inc., Monongahela River Trails Conservancy, Morgantown Riverfront Revitalization Task Force, National Road Heritage Corridor, Pennsylvania Environmental Council, and WV TRAIL, Inc.

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