

MEMORANDUM

TO: GTC Planning Committee Members & Alternates
FROM: James Stack, Executive Director
DATE: December 27, 2016
SUBJECT: Proposed Council Resolution 17-2 (Accepting the *Hojack Trail Feasibility Study* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 6527)

The following items are provided for your consideration:

- 1. Proposed Council Resolution 17-2** (Accepting the *Hojack Trail Feasibility Study* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 6527) and the **Executive Summary** of the project.

The Town of Greece has completed UPWP Task 6527, Hojack Trail Feasibility Study, and will discuss it at the January 5, 2017 Planning Committee meeting.

Recommended Action:

Recommend action by the GTC Board on proposed Council Resolutions 17-2.

GENESEE TRANSPORTATION COUNCIL

RESOLUTION

Resolution 17-2 Accepting the *Hojack Trail Feasibility Study* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 6527

WHEREAS,

1. The *FY 2016-2017 Unified Planning Work Program* includes Task 6527, *Hojack Trail Feasibility Study*, for the purpose of assessing the feasibility of developing a multi-use trail along the former Hojack Rail Line from the NYS Route 390 Bike Path in the Town of Greece west to the Village of Hilton;
2. Said Task included evaluating the right-of-way, land use, and environmental issues pertinent to developing a trail in the study area; developing design criteria and trail alternatives for review by project stakeholders; identifying the preferred alternative based on public, stakeholder group, and advisory committee input; and developing concept-level design and planning-level cost estimates for the preferred alternative;
3. Said Task has been completed and has resulted in the *Hojack Trail Feasibility Study*, and
4. Said Report has been reviewed by GTC staff and member agencies through the GTC committee process and has been found to be consistent with the goals, objectives, and recommendations of the Long Range Transportation Plan.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED

1. That the Genesee Transportation Council hereby accepts the *Hojack Trail Feasibility Study* as evidence of completion of UPWP Task 6527; and
2. That this resolution takes effect immediately.

CERTIFICATION

The undersigned duly qualified Secretary of the Genesee Transportation Council certifies that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of a resolution adopted at a legally convened meeting of the Genesee Transportation Council held on March 9, 2017.

Date _____

KEVIN C. BUSH, Secretary
Genesee Transportation Council

3. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



INTRODUCTION

The purpose of the Hojack Trail Feasibility Study is to assess the feasibility of developing a 6.3 +/- mile multi-use trail with associated trail amenities along the former Hojack Rail Line from the NYS Route 390 Bike Path in the Town of Greece west to the Village of Hilton.

The study area is primarily comprised of an inactive railroad corridor, electric transmission lines, and subsurface utilities. The corridor is owned by Rochester Gas and Electric (RG&E), which uses the trail primarily to access utilities.

The planning process for this study included outreach to both the general public and to key stakeholders. Representatives from various organizations served on the steering committee and provided continuity and study oversight. The general public was invited to attend two public meetings to learn more about the trail project, and provide feedback to the committee. The Hojack Trail Feasibility Study builds on previously completed planning initiatives that have occurred in and adjacent to the study area.

BENEFITS OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION

The extensive benefits of active transportation were documented for this study. These benefits include decreased impact on the environment through reduced motor vehicle usage, social benefits due to increased access for people without motor vehicles, increased health benefits through physical activity, and economic benefits resulting from decreased strain on our health system.



INVENTORY AND ANALYSIS

The study included an inventory and analysis phase where the existing conditions in and around the Hojack Trail study area were assessed. Topography, soils, ecological character, habitat, drainage, wetlands, land use, destinations, adjacent property ownership, access, circulation, infrastructure and utilities were all evaluated. Other than the project area being owned by RG&E, none of these factors present a significant constraint to the development of a trail in the study area. The project addresses a number of opportunities and constraints, which include: connectivity to the larger trail system, adaptive re-use of a transportation corridor, habitat diversity, scenic views, historic resources, active transportation, and property ownership. The existing conditions within the RG&E corridor are able to accommodate the proposed multi-use trail.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

Alternatives were developed by carefully evaluating the data gathered in the inventory and analysis phase. The Hojack Trail has a clear preferred alignment, described in this section. Choices for construction materials, as well as alternatives for trailhead locations, road crossing treatments, trail surfacing and signage systems were also considered.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Hojack Trail study was primarily focused on assessing the feasibility of the trail. However, preliminary design decisions were made to allow for estimating the cost of trail development. These decisions are explained, and typical construction details are provided. A project phasing plan is also included in this section.

IMPLEMENTATION

The feasibility study includes implementation information regarding SEQRA documentation, the permitting process, and funding. The study also addresses trail construction standards, user guidelines, and operations and maintenance. Appendices are included that provide a summary of public input, an overview of schematic costs, the economic impact of trails, and potential areas of conflict between trail users.



Figure 1: Project Location

