

Cross Plains Trail Volunteers

Memo

To: Mike Axon, Parks and Recreation Director

From: Cross Plains Trail Volunteers

Date: February 3, 2017

Re: **Mixed-Use Mountain Biking and Hiking Trail Proposal
Supplement 2 – Cedar Hill and Cedar Glen Proposed Single Track Layout**

Attached is “Supplement 2” which provides a detailed layout proposal for mixed-use single track trails in the Cedar Hill and Cedar Glen conservancies. Our hope is that between the original proposal, Supplement 1 – Impact Studies, and Supplement 2 – Detailed Alignment, that local concerns have been addressed. A summary of concerns and where to find information is as follows:

1. Increased Traffic in Neighborhoods – See Supplement 2

- a. In response to concerns of increased traffic in neighborhoods the access to the proposed trail system was modified. The main access off of Market Street (CR KP) will eliminate mountain bike access from Luden Drive and Gils Way. Parking is designated on Bourbon Street and a trailhead will be constructed at the Market Street access point.

2. Local vs Non-Local Users – See Supplement 2

- a. In response to concerns about non-local users, the size and scope of the proposed trail improvements was decreased. The total estimated trail distance is currently 2.8 miles which is considered short in mountain biking terms. At this distance it can be assumed that the majority of riders will be local.

3. Privacy for Neighbors – See Supplement 2

- a. Trail alignment was positioned at the furthest extents possible away from local homeowners while still staying on the conservancy open space land. Additionally, a natural grade change exists at the top of the hill and trails have generally been positioned on the uphill side of this grade change to prevent a direct view into neighbor's backyards. Thick underbrush is also present along the majority of the alignment.

4. Property Value Impacts – See Supplement 1

- a. Several home value studies were provided in Supplement 1 which indicate that home values near trail systems typically stay consistent or increase. This can also be confirmed by investigating home values near mountain bike trails in the Middleton, Madison, and Fitchburg areas.

5. Wildlife Impacts – See Supplement 1

- a. A land manager study and wildlife study were provided in Supplement 1 which detail the impacts of mountain biking on wildlife. Generally it is concluded that mountain biking has the same impact on wildlife as hiking. It can be assumed that mountain bike use in the conservancies will have the same wildlife impact as the existing hiking use.

6. Impact on the Surrounding Environment – See Supplement 1

- a. A land manager study and environmental study were provided in Supplement 1 which detail the impacts of mountain bike trail construction on the surrounding environment. Generally it is concluded that mountain biking has the same impact to trail sustainability as hiking. The key to all sustainable trails is proper initial construction, continued maintenance, and staying off when wet.

7. Mixed-Use Biking and Hiking– See Supplement 1

- a. Several studies were provided in Supplement 1 which detail the interaction between mountain bikers and hikers on mixed-use trail systems. Generally it is concluded that perception plays a large part in how the two uses interact.

8. Trail Noise – See Original Proposal

- a. Mountain biking is widely recognized as a quiet recreational sport. Several land manager contacts were provided in the original proposal who can confirm this.

9. Construction on Steep Side Hills – See Original Proposal

- a. The proposed trails will be sustainably constructed per IMBA construction standards as detailed in the Original Proposal. Several examples of similar local trails with steep grades are listed as well. The cross plains trail volunteers will rely upon a professional trail builder, surveyor, civil engineer, and experienced trail builders who are part of the team to set the trail and monitor construction.

10. Cost to the Village – See Original Proposal

- a. As noted in the Original Proposal, all planning work has been generated by local Cross Plains volunteers. The proposed trail system is to be constructed and maintained at **no cost** to Village of Cross. Fundraising, volunteers, and continued maintenance will be coordinate through the Capital Off-Road Pathfinders (CORP) which is a non-profit branch of the International Mountain Bicycle Association.