

DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING, DEVELOPMENT,
& TRANSPORTATION SERVICES



2012 Carolina Thread Trail Report

Overview

In the first five years since the Carolina Thread Trail was founded, many milestones have been accomplished. There are currently 76 local governments collaborating on developing the Trail, including 14 counties with adopted master plans. Currently there are 14 active corridors under development and 113 miles of The Thread Trail open. In 2012, \$6.6 million in grants were awarded to communities. Funding secured includes \$16.8 million in private capital, \$7.3 million in land donations, and \$21.3 million in committed public funding.

Local Efforts

Iredell County

Iredell County has been working on the corridor plan for the Fort Dobbs Area Greenway (Route J), which should be completed in February 2013. The corridor design plan will recommend sidewalk within the public right-of-way along Museum, South Chipley Ford, and Fort Dobbs Roads, and Fort Dobbs will be accessible with an out-and-back spur.



None of Fort Dobbs will be accessible via an off-road route as proposed at this time because of public opposition.

The planning department successfully lobbied the NCDOT for bicycle/pedestrian accommodations on a South Chipley Ford Road bridge replacement. The foundation of the replacement bridge will be designed strong enough to add ten more feet of pavement in the future if necessary.

Statesville

Statesville has over 6 miles of existing greenway, all of which are on or near proposed Thread Trail routes. Construction drawings are underway for a pedestrian access underneath Highway 21 near the Wal-Mart shopping center entrance (Route K).



Troutman

In late 2011 Iredell County and Troutman planning departments helped plan a bike ride and a run to celebrate a Thread

Trail/Lake Norman Bike Route ribbon cutting. At that event the Carolina Thread Trail sign was unveiled on the Richardson Greenway, which is an eight-tenths-of-a-mile segment of Thread Trail.

After securing a Thread Trail construction grant, an attempt to win gap funding from the Recreational Trails Program for the Richardson Greenway Extension (section of Route Q) in Troutman was unsuccessful. Troutman has not been able to obtain a couple of easements but continues to negotiate.

Mooresville

The Dye Creek Greenway corridor design (Route Y) was finished in 2012, and 1.3 miles of the Dye Creek Greenway at Bellingham Park was already designated Thread Trail, marked with two trailhead signs. Following the recommendations of the Dye Creek Greenway corridor design, Mooresville re-striped portions of Center Avenue, Magnolia Street, Heatherly Road, and Fieldstone Road, creating 2.6 miles of bicycle lane.



Harmony/Love Valley

Love Valley has 2.5 miles of equestrian trail that was recently designated as part of the Thread. Harmony hosted a small ribbon-cutting when it celebrated the designation of the two-tenths-of-a-mile track at Tomlinson Moore Park.

What's In Store For 2013

Iredell County

Neither Statesville nor Iredell County plan to take specific action on the Fort Dobbs Area Greenway (Route J) in 2013.

Iredell County will identify which projects to submit to the Long Range Transportation Plan and the State Transportation Improvement Plan (STIP) when the call for projects occur. Since the Long Range Transportation Plan's target year is 2040, perhaps all popular routes should be submitted: Routes F, J, K, Q, U, X, W and Y. During the last STIP cycle the county requested construction funding for Routes J, K, Q, and Y.

The Girl Scouts Hornet's Nest Council has recorded a 338-acre conservation easement with the Catawba Lands Conservancy, including land set aside for Carolina Thread Trail Route F. The site plan should be ready in 2013 and the trail should be open in 2014.

Iredell County may open a new mountain-biking park, called Bigleaf Slopes, off Fanjoy Road which backs up to proposed Route K. The park is 104 acres. It is in trail design

phase and construction should start in September 2013. Iredell County will monitor and help the park's progress.

The NCDOT will design the Highway 150 widening this year and it will be crucial for Iredell County to negotiate and plan for sidewalks, bike lanes, or multi-use paths along the new Highway 150, and over the bridge that spans the Catawba River in particular (Route W). In 2013 the Lake Norman and Unifour RPOs will contribute formal resolutions to support a multi-use path on the Highway 150 bridge.

We anticipate that local governments will need to fund or partially fund Highway 150 amenities. The Carolina Thread Trail may be able to provide funding up to \$200,000. Iredell County and other project partners will begin identifying other funding sources early so as not to delay bridge construction.

Statesville

Statesville has two new priorities, and due to monetary constraints these projects will take many years. They include constructing the bridge under Hwy 21 (Route K) and creating a new cross-section on Shelton Avenue complete with streetscaping and a multi-use path as recommended in the downtown streetscape master plan. The multi-use path will be part of Carolina Thread Trail Route Q. Statesville has submitted this project to MUMPO's Long Range Transportation Plan.

Troutman

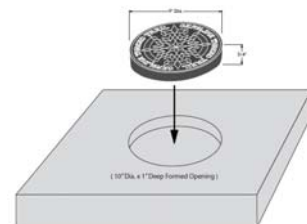
Troutman will re-approach property owners to obtain the remaining easements for the Richardson Greenway Extension (Route Q) and re-apply for the Recreational Trails grant.

Mooresville

The Town of Mooresville will be participating in a MUMPO planning grant for corridor design on the Mooresville to Charlotte Rail-Trail adjacent to the existing Norfolk Southern rail line (Route X). This process is being administered by Gwen Cook, a planner from Mecklenburg County Parks and Recreation, and does not utilize funding from the Carolina Thread Trail. Aside from this project, the Town is not anticipating to apply for any additional planning grants from Carolina Thread Trail this year.

Harmony

The Town will consider purchasing Thread Trail medallions to install in the sidewalk that will be rebuilt along Harmony Highway this spring.



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For further information on Carolina Thread Trail projects:

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Carolina Thread Trail

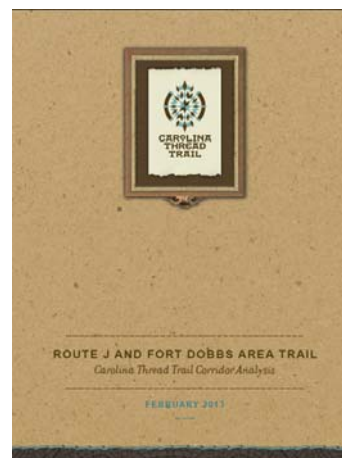
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[Route J and Fort Dobbs Area Trail Corridor Analysis](#)

[Route Y: Dye Creek and Rocky River Corridor Analysis](#)

