



Wheeling Heritage Trail Expansion January 29, 2007 update:

We are currently waiting on approval for Phase 1 grant application submitted 8 January, 2007 for \$470,000. If approval is received construction should begin in late Spring and completed by the end of summer, 2007. Phase 1 will connect the West face of Tunnel Green with a ramp down to the abandoned rail line on the south bank of Wheeling Creek proceeding west downstream to the Ogden Tech Center, cross Wheeling Creek at the Green Bridge, and continue on the north bank of the stream through the West Virginia Northern Community College Campus, passing under Chaplin Street Bridge and exiting onto 18th Street adjacent to Electrical Contractors Supply. This route will eliminate the need for the trail on the East Wheeling Streets, resulting in safer egress from the Ohio River Trail

to the Big Wheeling Creek Trail. Grant decision for the Phase 1 application is anticipated in late April, 2007.

Trail Loop Urged



Robert "Scat" Scatterday Jr., center, professor of engineering at Belmont Technical College and project manager for the Wheeling Trail Expansion Plan, Dr. Benjamin M. Stout III, left, professor of biology at Wheeling Jesuit University and Stepan Neushehirlian, right, with the Environmental Protection Agency exit an old train tunnel near 29th Street.

Photo by Scott McCloskey

Vision of Expansion Has \$6 Million Price Tag

By SHELLEY HANSON
Staff Writer

Robert Scatterday dreams of a day when a person can get on his bicycle in Wheeling and ride to Washington, D.C.

That vision moved forward Wednesday as Scatterday and others gathered to discuss a \$6 million project to expand Wheeling's Heritage Trail system, with the hopes of someday tying it in with a larger system that will traverse through the tri-state area to the nation's capital.

In the immediate future, however, is Scatterday's vision of a looped trail system in Ohio County, which had been in a drawer since the 1980s. However, this past spring he was asked by Wheeling Jesuit University biology professor Benjamin Stout to dust off the idea and make it a reality.

Stout had heard of Scatterday's plans to convert old railroads to public trails, Scatterday said. They eventually teamed up to start the Wheeling Heritage Trail Expansion Plan.



Robert Scatterday Jr., professor of engineering at Belmont Technical College and project manager for the Wheeling Heritage Trail expansion plan, looks over a map of the proposal.

road lines. The plan would create a trail system that is looped, which means users would not be

While the local portion of the project is estimated to cost between \$5 million and \$6 million, Scatterday said the bigger picture for the future would be to connect the local trail to the Tri-State Trail Initiative.

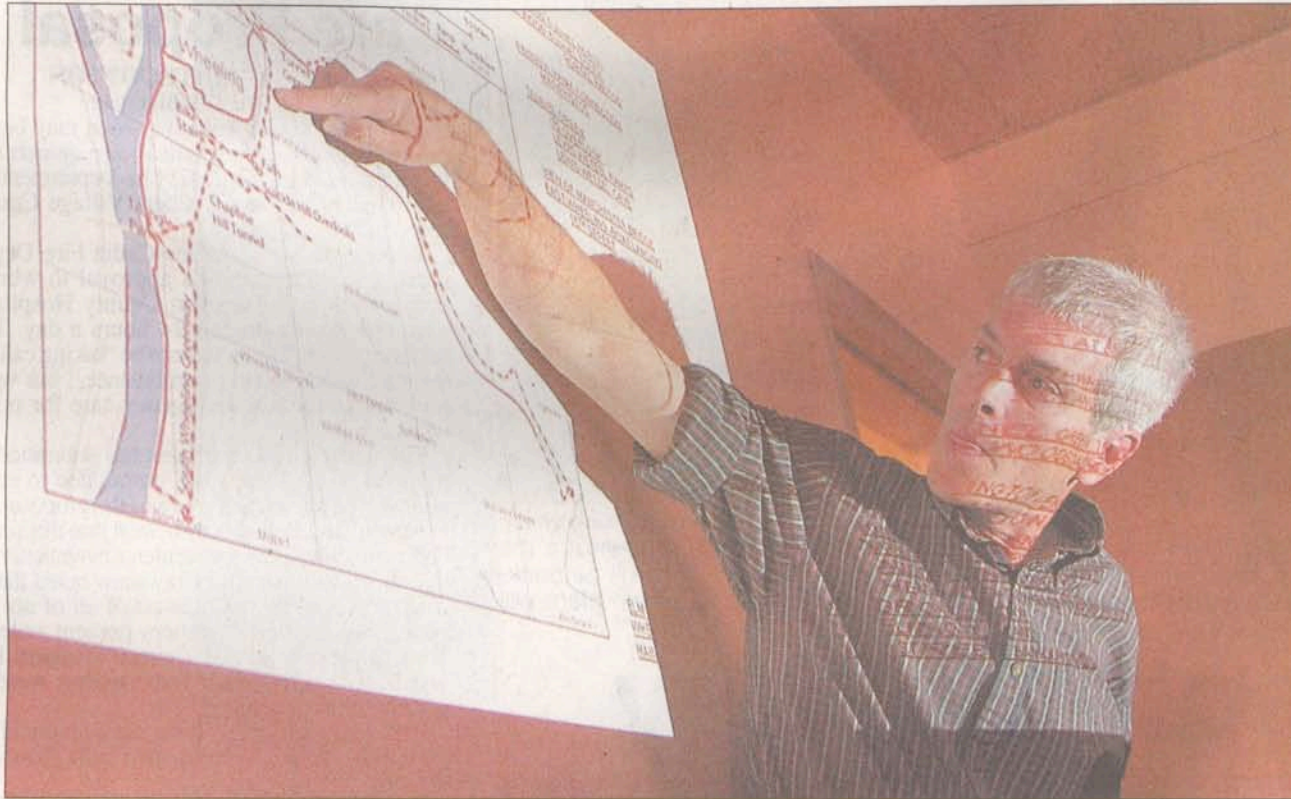
The initiative's goal is to connect trail systems in Ohio, West Virginia and Pennsylvania that would lead to Washington, D.C., among other major cities in the tri-state area, according to literature provided by Scatterday.

He noted the Ohio County system could be a great tourist attraction along the larger system.

"Wheeling ... was the original gateway to the West," Scatterday said. "Wouldn't it be great to get on a bicycle and go all the way to Washington, D.C.?"

Scatterday, who is the project's manager and engineer, said members of the expansion committee currently are identifying funding sources for the project. On Wednesday, an Environmental Protection Agency official was given a tour of a few sites where soil remediation

Trail Expansion o



Photos by Betheny Holstein, graphic provided by the City of Wheeling. ABOVE: Trail Expansion Committee member Benjamin Stout explains where some of the potential trail improvements will be located. BOTTOM LEFT: This graphic shows some potential improvements to Wheeling's trail system that were included in a presentation to the Wheeling City Council Development Committee on Monday, Oct. 10. BOTTOM RIGHT: Robert Scatterday speaks as a member of a committee hoping to work on the expansion of the trail system in Wheeling while City Manager Robert Herron looks on.

