

County bridges all gaps but one in Pittsburgh-to-D.C. trail

Onorato wants it completed by 2011

Thursday, July 08, 2010

By Jon Schmitz, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette



Pushing the trail through the former industrial sites and over the rail lines ranks near the top of the development feats on the trail project, he said, along with renovation of the 3,291-foot Big Savage Tunnel in Somerset County that was completed in 2006.

The two bridges erected on Wednesday are about 2 miles apart and will be connected with a trail along U.S. Steel's former coke gas pipeline, which the company donated in 2007. The segment will hug the hillside between Route 837 and the river, connecting to McKeesport to the south and The Waterfront complex to the north.

A \$500,000 state grant helped to fund the bridges, with private money paying the rest of the \$950,000 cost, Mr. Paulik said. Developing the piers and substructure cost \$2.5 million, nearly all of which was private donations, he said.

The bridges will enable trail users to avoid Route 837, which is dangerous for bicycling.

Development of the 150-mile Great Allegheny Passage, which connects at Cumberland, Md., with the C&O Towpath to Washington, began in 1975 with the abandonment of 87 miles of railroad line from Cumberland to Connellsville.

Nine years later, the first 9.5 miles of trail opened in Ohio State Park.

Jon Schmitz: jschmitz@post-gazette.com or 412-263-1868. Visit "The Roundabout," the Post-Gazette's transportation blog, at post-gazette.com.