

## [Trail from Monaca to Montour Trail](#)

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MONACA — Monaca's borough manager wants to see a hiking and biking trail that would connect Lake Erie to Washington, D.C.

And naturally, that trail would run right through Monaca.

Mario Leone Jr. has a good start on a trail that would run from Monaca along the Ohio River until it connected with the Montour Trail in Robinson Township — and from there, a system of trails that ends in Washington. Leone is also looking into a Bridgewater-to-East Liverpool, Ohio, trail that would hook up with the Great Ohio Lake-to-River Trail, ending in Ashtabula at Lake Erie.

Leone has been working with borough businessman Vincent Troia to form a nonprofit corporation, the Ohio River Trail Council, which will manage the upcoming feasibility study, as well as construction of the trail. The group has already solicited resolutions of support from the Beaver County communities the South Shore Trail would pass through and will soon have similar resolutions from those in Allegheny County.

The council also has money. The study has an estimated \$35,000 cost, and Leone said the group has already put together enough money for the match required for a grant from the state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources.

And it may be able to extend its money even further. Leone said Aliquippa has \$20,000 from a swimming pool study it did not complete, and City Manager Tom Stoner has pledged that to the trail study.

"If we're able to change the grant administrator from Monaca to Aliquippa, we'd then use the other money for the South Shore Trail feasibility study," Leone said. "We'd be able to get the whole process moving much more quickly."

Leone said the group also has a good start on securing property for the trail.

"Much of it will be built on already-established rights of way, so there shouldn't be too much trouble there," he said. "And we've had discussions with (Center Township developer Charles) Betters and the (Beaver County Corporation for Economic Development) about using their property, and they're very supportive."

Troia said the benefits of the trails would outweigh by far the work the council has put in and the expense of construction. For example, it would give bicyclists a dedicated path off heavily traveled roads and could help spur new development geared toward trail users.

"There are stretches of the property that aren't conducive to traditional economic development," Troia said. "But fishing piers, boardwalks and other recreational services would be a natural thing to see along the trail."

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#### South Shore Trail

Mario Leone Jr., Monaca's borough manager, and Vincent Troia, a borough businessman, have already secured resolutions of support for their planned South Shore Trail from the towns it would traverse. Similar resolutions from the Allegheny County communities are pending, they said.

#### Beaver County

Monaca, Center Township, Aliquippa, Hopewell Township, South Heights

#### Allegheny County

Crescent Township, Moon Township, Coraopolis, Robinson Township