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Plan includes bike lanes through McKees Rocks, Coraopolis

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Four Ohio River communities west of Pittsburgh could become more bicycle-friendly under a \$1.6 million plan officials announced Thursday.

Bicycle lanes would extend 8 miles through McKees Rocks, Stowe, Neville and Coraopolis. They would include a mix of bike-only and shared lanes.

“This is going to be a big plus for this area,” McKees Rocks Mayor Jack Muhr said during a news conference in the borough.

The lanes would connect on the western end with Allegheny County's planned Sports Legacy Park in Coraopolis, Moon and Robinson; the Montour Trail; and a proposed Ohio River trail into Beaver County. They would link to Pittsburgh's West Carson Street on the east.

“Connectivity and safety are the keys to getting more people on bicycles,” said Scott Bricker, executive director of the Lawrenceville-based advocacy group Bike Pittsburgh. He said increased bike traffic tends to provide a boost to nearby businesses.

About 800,000 people use the Great Allegheny Passage annually, spending \$50 million a year along the 150-mile corridor, according to the Allegheny Trail Alliance.

The state Department of Conservation and Natural Resources is expected to sign off on the Ohio River plan within the next two weeks, said Thomas Baxter, executive director of the nonprofit Friends of the Riverfront. The plan took a year and \$50,000 to develop.

Officials would then begin seeking money for the project from public and private sources, said Allegheny County special projects coordinator Darla Cravotta. Officials didn't provide a timetable for the project.

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