

**Exploring Policy Change in the Development of Community Trails**  
**- South Ellerby Creek Trail -**  
**Interview Guide**  
*Revised 3/13/06*

**Preparation for the trail**

1. Who were the main people or entities involved in developing the South Ellerby Creek trail?
  - *Probe: Individuals, community members/associations, non-profit organizations, trail groups, federal, state, local government agencies, contractors, other stakeholders?*
  - a. If there was an organized group, how did it come together?
  - b. Was assistance needed from state or federal legislators for the development of the trail?
    - *Probes: What type of assistance?*
    - *How was it provided?*
    - *Was there a key legislator that championed the project?*
  - c. What roles did each of the key groups play in the planning phase?
  - d. Describe the relationships among these key groups during the planning, design, or construction phase.
    - *How well did they work together?*
    - *What types of negotiations occurred?*
    - *Do you have any suggestions of how to facilitate a better working relationship?*
2. Do these people or groups continue to be organized in support of the trail?
3. How were you involved with the planning and development of the South Ellerby Creek trail?
4. How did the trail emerge as a priority project?
  - *Probes: Was there an event or policy that led to the conception of the trail?*
  - *Who were supporters of the trail?*
  - *Was there any opposition? If so, what was opposed?*
  - *Was there a particular person who was especially important to the trail development?*
  - *Were there any special constraints on the project? (e.g., financial administrative, political, physical)*
5. When the trail was being developed, were there particular trail users in mind?
  - *Probe: In what ways did you design for those users?*
  - *How were you constrained by the demands of the non-users (e.g. motor vehicles, adjacent property owners) in meeting the needs of the trail users?*

6. How long did it take to build the trail from conception to the actual opening? Please provide a summary of the timeline of trail development from your perspective.
  - *Probe: Were there any schedule delays? If so, why?*

## **Policies**

7. What policies made it easier or facilitated the development of this trail?
  - a. How was the land acquired for the trail? (If they do not mention it, ask: We learned of a 1988 subdivision ordinance that made many trails in Durham possible. Are you aware of this policy?)
    - *Probes: Can you explain how it helped make the case of the S.Ellerby Creek Trail?*
    - *Were there issues surrounding land transfers from government, private or commercial land owners?*
    - *What were the issues and how were they addressed?*
  - b. Why was this policy originally proposed?
  - c. Who instigated the policy, and what was the agenda of that person or group, or groups?
  - d. How did the policy become a reality?
  - e. What barriers had to be overcome to implement the policy?
  - f. In what ways did this policy facilitate land acquisition for the trail?
  - g. Were there issues surrounding land transfer from government, private, or commercial land owners? What were they and how were they addressed?
  - h. What were some positive and negative aspects of the policy?
8. There also may have been policy challenges that needed to be overcome to build the trail. Are you aware of any other policies that made it difficult to develop this trail?
  - *Probe: what phase of the trail development did these policies affect?*
9. Is the trail part of any local, regional or state land use plans?
  - *Probe: City Master Greenway plans, county ordinances, state plans like Mountains to Sea trail, other agendas?*
10. Were any zoning issues involved in planning/developing the trail? If yes, what were they?
11. Were there any historic or environmental issues with respect to trail development and planning? If yes, what were they?
  - *Probe: wetlands, open space, contamination etc.*
12. Were there any design standards that had to be met? If so, what were they?
  - *Probe: standards required by funding agency, ADA, local standards etc*

## **Funding**

13. What were the major funding sources of your trail?
  - *Probe: How were these funds procured (e.g. grant writer, planner etc)?*
  - *In what order did you receive funding for the project?*
14. Were there competing priorities for funding? If so, what were they?
  - *Probe: How did community trail emerge as the funding priority?*
15. How does the City of Durham plan to address future funding needs for the trail?
  - *What group or groups will be involved?*
  - *Will citizen participation play a role, and if so, how?*
  - *Will state funding play a role?*
  - *If so, who advocates for state funds?*
  - *Other sources (e.g., grants, private donations, etc)?*

## **Management and Maintenance**

16. Who is responsible for maintenance of the trail?
  - *Probe: Is this agreement long term or dependent on funding?*
17. How does citizen participation play into the ongoing use and life of the trail?
18. Are there liability issues surrounding maintenance of the trail? If so, what are they and how are they addressed?
19. What is the future vision for the trail (according to the city of Durham, Citizen groups, or other key groups)
  - *Probes: Any goals of connectivity, new programs associated with the trail, etc.*

## **Safety**

20. How are the following types of safety being addressed?
  - a. Personal safety crime
  - b. Safety from injury on the trail
  - c. Traffic when trails cross roadways
21. Do safety concerns impact the use of the trail? In what ways?
22. What would happen if the trail were to receive negative publicity? (e.g. an injury or crime happens along the trail).
  - a. Is there an official agency that would respond? How would the community respond?
  - b. What would the short term response be and what would the long term response be in this type of situation?
23. Do you think negative publicity has ever impacted use of the trail in the past or currently? How?

### **Other “Ps” from the 5 P Model:**

24. Have there been any physical improvements (planned or completed) to the trail? If yes, how have these improvements come about?

- *Probe: regular grass mowing, call boxes along trail, lights along trail, zebra stripes painted or speed bumps placed where road intersects trail.*

25. What strategies are used to promote use of the trail?

- *Probe: community organized events, pamphlets and guides, media highlights - print, radio, or TV, etc.*

- b. Who conducts the promotional efforts?
- c. Are promotional materials made accessible to non-English speakers? How?
- d. How successful have promotional efforts been in promoting use of the trail?
- e. What could be done to make promotions more successful?

26. What types of on-going programs are currently associated with the trail? Be specific.

- *Probe: walking or biking groups, environmental education, commuter incentive programs, adopt-a-trail, recreational bike rides, crime prevention program, etc.*

- b. What group or groups are responsible for running programs?
- c. How are minority groups included in program planning?
- d. What types of programs are the most successful?
- e. Which are the least successful and what could be done to make them more successful?

### **Perceptions and lessons learned**

27. Are you aware of any beneficial effects of the trail? If so, what are they?

- *Probe: free place to exercise, beautification, pedestrian transportation, source of community pride.*

28. Are you aware of any negative effects of the trail? If so, what are they?

- *Probe: monetary expense, disgruntled land owners, maintenance difficulties*

29. What policy advice would you give to elected officials, agency staff, or community leaders who might be considering a trail like the one that you were involved with?

30. Is there anything else we haven't talked about that you feel would be important to share?

31. Is there anyone else I should speak with to get more information about the trail?

**Thank you for your time and insight!!**

**Exploring Policy Change in the Development of Community Trails**  
**- Georgetown County (Bike the Neck) Trail -**  
**Interview Guide**  
*Revised 10/04/07*

**Preparation for the trail**

1. Who were the main people or entities involved in developing the “Bike the Neck” trail?
2. *Probe: Individuals, community members/associations, non-profit organizations, trail groups, federal, state, local government agencies, contractors, other stakeholders?*
  - a. If there was an organized group, how did it come together?
  - b. Was assistance needed from state or federal legislators for the development of the trail?
    - i. *Probes: What type of assistance?*
    - ii. *How was it provided?*
    - iii. *Was there a key legislator that championed the project?*
  - c. What roles did each of the key groups play in the planning phase?
  - d. Describe the relationships among these key groups during the planning, design, or construction phase.
    - i. *How well did they work together?*
    - ii. *What types of negotiations occurred?*
    - iii. *Do you have any suggestions of how to facilitate a better working relationship?*
3. Do these people or groups continue to be organized in support of the trail?
4. How were you involved with the planning and development of the “Bike the Neck” trail?
5. How did the trail emerge as a priority project?
  - i. *Probes: Was there an event or policy that led to the conception of the trail?*
  - ii. *Who were supporters of the trail?*
  - iii. *Was there any opposition? If so, what was opposed?*
  - iv. *Was there a particular person who was especially important to the trail development?*
  - v. *Were there any special constraints on the project? (e.g., financial administrative, political, physical)*
6. When the trail was being developed, were there particular trail users in mind?
  - i. *Probe: In what ways did you design for those users?*
  - ii. *How were you constrained by the demands of the non-users (e.g. motor vehicles, adjacent property owners) in meeting the needs of the trail users?*
7. How long did it take to build the trail from conception to the actual opening? Please provide a summary of the timeline of trail development from your perspective.
  - i. *Probe: Were there any schedule delays? If so, why?*

## Policies

8. What policies made it easier or facilitated the development of this trail?
  - a. How was the land acquired for the trail? (If they do not mention it, ask about importance of : 1994 County Resolution, Vision I, 2030 Long Range Transportation Plan. Are you aware of these policies?)
    - i. *Probes: Can you explain how it helped make the case of the Bike the Neck Trail?*
    - ii. *Were there issues surrounding land transfers from government, private or commercial land owners?*
    - iii. *What were the issues and how were they addressed?*
  - b. Why was the policy originally proposed?
  - c. Who instigated the policy, and what was the agenda of that person or group, or groups?
  - d. How did the policy become a reality?
  - e. What barriers had to be overcome to implement the policy?
  - f. In what ways did this policy facilitate land acquisition for the trail?
  - g. Were there issues surrounding land transfer from government, private, or commercial land owners? What were they and how were they addressed?
  - h. What were some positive and negative aspects of the policy?
9. There also may have been policy challenges that needed to be overcome to build the trail. Are you aware of any other policies that made it difficult to develop this trail?
  - i. *Probe: what phase of the trail development did these policies affect?*
10. Is the trail part of any local, regional or state land use plans?
  - i. *Probe: regional/county master greenway plans, county ordinances, state plans, or other agendas?*
11. Were any zoning issues involved in planning/developing the trail? If yes, what were they?
12. Were there any historic or environmental issues with respect to trail development and planning? If yes, what were they?
  - i. *Probe: wetlands, open space, contamination etc.*
13. Were there any design standards that had to be met? If so, what were they?
  - i. *Probe: standards required by funding agency, ADA, local standards etc*

## **Funding**

14. What were the major funding sources of your trail?
  - i. *Probe: How were these funds procured (e.g. grant writer, planner etc)?*
  - ii. *In what order did you receive funding for the project?*
15. Were there competing priorities for funding? If so, what were they?
  - i. *Probe: How did community trail emerge as the funding priority?*
16. How does the Georgetown County plan to address future funding needs for the trail?
  - i. *What group or groups will be involved?*
  - ii. *Will citizen participation play a role, and if so, how?*
  - iii. *Will state funding play a role?*
  - iv. *If so, who advocates for state funds?*
  - v. *Other sources (e.g., grants, private donations, etc)?*

## **Management and Maintenance**

17. Who is responsible for maintenance of the trail?
  - i. *Probe: Is this agreement long term or dependent on funding?*
18. How does citizen participation play into the ongoing use and life of the trail?
19. Are there liability issues surrounding maintenance of the trail? If so, what are they and how are they addressed?
20. What is the future vision for the trail (according to the Georgetown County, Citizen groups, or other key groups)
  - i. *Probes: Any goals of connectivity, new programs associated with the trail, etc.*

## **Safety**

21. How are the following types of safety being addressed?
  - a. Personal safety crime
  - b. Safety from injury on the trail
  - c. Traffic when trails cross roadways
22. Do safety concerns impact the use of the trail? In what ways?
23. What would happen if the trail were to receive negative publicity? (e.g. an injury or crime happens along the trail).
  - a. Is there an official agency that would respond? How would the community respond?
  - b. What would the short term response be and what would the long term response be in this type of situation?
24. Do you think negative publicity has ever impacted use of the trail in the past or currently? How?

**Other “Ps” from the 5 P Model:**

25. Have there been any physical improvements (planned or completed) to the trail? If yes, how have these improvements come about?

*i. Probe: regular grass mowing, call boxes along trail, lights along trail, zebra stripes painted or speed bumps placed where road intersects trail.*

26. What strategies are used to promote use of the trail?

*i. Probe: community organized events, pamphlets and guides, media highlights - print, radio, or TV, etc.*

b. Who conducts the promotional efforts?

c. Are promotional materials made accessible to non-English speakers? How?

d. How successful have promotional efforts been in promoting use of the trail?

e. What could be done to make promotions more successful?

27. What types of on-going programs are currently associated with the trail? Be specific.

*i. Probe: walking or biking groups, environmental education, commuter incentive programs, adopt-a-trail, recreational bike rides, crime prevention program, etc.*

b. What group or groups are responsible for running programs?

c. How are minority groups included in program planning?

d. What types of programs are the most successful?

e. Which are the least successful and what could be done to make them more successful?

**Perceptions and lessons learned**

28. Are you aware of any beneficial effects of the trail? If so, what are they?

*i. Probe: free place to exercise, beautification, pedestrian transportation, source of community pride.*

29. Are you aware of any negative effects of the trail? If so, what are they?

*i. Probe: monetary expense, disgruntled land owners, maintenance difficulties*

30. What policy advice would you give to elected officials, agency staff, or community leaders who might be considering a trail like the one that you were involved with?

31. Is there anything else we haven't talked about that you feel would be important to share?

32. Is there anyone else I should speak with to get more information about the trail?

**Thank you for your time and insight!!**