
Plan Adoption
Big 4 Trail Master Plan

Staff Report
October 13, 2021

BACKGROUND AND REQUEST:

The Cities of West Lafayette and Lafayette, along with Tippecanoe County, developed a master plan that explores the alignment and location of the Big 4 Trail extension. The study explored the feasibility of a multi-use pathway for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other non-motorized modes of transportation that addresses both recreation and transit intentions across Tippecanoe County. Not only will this trail connect multiple communities within the County, it will complete a missing puzzle piece in the Big 4 Regional Trail as development of the route continues throughout central and northwest Indiana

Originally named the Farm Heritage Trail, there has been significant progress in construction of the trail in Boone and Clinton Counties. It nearly connects the Town of Colfax to Zionsville with only three sections missing. Two of those sections recently received funds through the Next Level Trails program. Those funds will be used for construction.

The overall goals of the Master Plan focused on identifying the regional and local factors that could impact the future design of the Big 4 Trail through Tippecanoe County. The Master Plan identified a feasible route, along with alternate options, to help guide future planning and design efforts to establish the trail through future construction projects.

Projected outcomes from the Master Plan include eligibility for additional funding sources as well as helping local communities prioritize trail projects throughout the County. The Plan is available through the Area Plan Commission's website and can be found on the main web page.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends approval of this Plan to the Policy Board.