

**Project Title: North Central State Trail/Iron Belle Trail Extension**

Agency: Otsego County

Project Type: New Construction

Year(s) of Project: 2017

Project Description:

The existing North Central State Trail (NCST) currently runs from Fairview Road in Gaylord to Mackinaw City. The NCST is located along the proposed route of the planned Iron Belle Trail. The County is working with Bagley Township, Otsego Lake Township, the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (MDNR), and the Michigan Department of Transportation on expanding the current trail. The MDNR are the lead agency on a portion of the trail from Fairview Road to Wisconsin Avenue, with the County being the lead agency on the remaining segment from Wisconsin Avenue south. Two options for the terminus are being discussed with either the trail ending at the County line or ending earlier in Waters at the Otsego Lake Township Hall. The trail will take the place of an existing lease between the MDNR and the Lake State Railway, serving snowmobiles in the winter and non-motorized uses the remainder of the year. The total length of the County's portion of the extension is approximately 11 miles.

Otsego County and its partnering Townships recognize the need for a non-motorized trail, independent from the existing roadways to provide a safe recreational facility for County residents and visitors, and to encourage tourism. The construction of this trail will provide safe routes for residents and visitors to access recreation areas including the Otsego Lake State Park, Wah Wah Soo Beach and the Otsego County Sportsplex and Energy Outlet. As this project is planned to be constructed along with the Gaylord Gateway Trail as well, safe routes will also be provided to Gaylord's commercial districts and downtown, the Otsego County Dog Park, St. Mary's School, North Ohio Elementary School, the County Fairgrounds, Youth Soccer Complex and the Future Gaylord Gateway Trailhead in downtown. The proposed trail will help to promote healthy living and provide an economical transportation alternative. This proposed trail project is not only part of a regional trail network and Michigan's Iron Belle Trail, it is an important local non-motorized transportation facility that, when constructed with the Gaylord Gateway Trail, connects local schools, public parks and other recreational areas. Crawford County, immediately to the south of the project beginning point, is currently working a concept plan for development of the Iron Belle Trail within their County.

Schedule:

Construction will happen in the summer of 2017.

Estimated Cost: \$2,340,000 (Costs will change once a final plan is adopted, and construction plans are prepared and bid)

Basis of Cost Estimate: Architect Estimate

Alternative Financing: Funding would come from the following sources:

Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund Grant: \$300,000

Michigan Department of Transportation TAP Grant: \$1,400,000

Iron Belle Trail Grant: \$30,000

Local Match – County: \$204,000

Local Match – Bagley Township: \$203,000

Local Match – Otsego Lake Township: \$203,000

Agency Reported Priority: Important

Planning Commission Reported Priority: Important

# Otsego County Trail Part of Michigan's Iron Belle Trail

12.85 mile trail  
 Segment A: 11.2 miles  
 of limestone surface  
 Segment B: 1.65 miles  
 of asphalt surface

## Legend

Otsego County Trail  
 Project Segments

-  Segment A: Otsego County South Trail
-  Segment B: Gaylord Gateway Trail
-  North Central State Trail

Date: 3/4/2016

