

Vandalia Trail corridor looking east towards Downtown.



SEGMENT PROFILE

vandalia trail

(National Road Heritage Trail)

The Vandalia Trail proposed route is new to the Indy Greenways Master Plan, but its concept and the early planning of the entire Vandalia rail corridor is anything but new. The corridor is part of the National Road Heritage Trail, a trail route envisioned to cross the State of Indiana beginning in Terre Haute and extending all the way to Richmond, Indiana. Much of that proposed route utilizes the former Pennsylvania Railroad corridor, the successor of the Vandalia Railroad, and closely parallels US 40.

The Vandalia was originally chartered as the Terre Haute and Richmond Railroad Company and construction began on the section of tracks between Terre Haute and Indianapolis in 1849. In 1852, the first train ran between Terre Haute and Indianapolis. By 1856, the westward connection was achieved through the use of several smaller rail lines. In 1905, the Vandalia Railroad was formed as a consolidation of several different individual holdings and different railroad companies in Indiana and Illinois including the St. Louis, Vandalia, and Terre Haute Railroad which included the route that connected Indianapolis and St. Louis. The rail line provided both freight and passenger service between the two cities. In 1917, the Vandalia was acquired by the Pittsburg, Cincinnati, Chicago, and St. Louis Railroad. This acquisition provided a direct route between New York and St. Louis. Eventually, the company was absorbed into the Penn-Central rail company and ultimately into Conrail. Most of the rail line was abandoned in 1976. Today, the Vandalia Railroad (re-established in 1983) operates only 3 miles of track in Vandalia, Illinois.

In Indianapolis, the proposed National Historic Road Heritage Trail uses a combination of greenways to complete its route across Marion County, but approximately 6 miles of that route lies on the former Vandalia Rail corridor on the west side of Indianapolis. National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. has done a significant amount of preliminary route planning on Indianapolis' section of the Vandalia, and the route



being included in this master plan is consistent with that early route planning.

In this plan, the Vandalia route begins near the Hendricks County line and Bridgeport and extends east where it intersects with the Eagle Creek Greenway. The western reach of this route falls within lands controlled by the Indianapolis International Airport. It follows the former rail line along the north side of Perimeter Road for the entire length of airport property. There is an existing railroad bridge that could be renovated for use at the western end near Bridgeport. Near South Girl School Road, an active rail line joins the corridor and much of the remaining route parallels the active line. On the northeast side of the airport property, the route dips into some of the airport-related development along Pierson Drive because there is very limited space between the active line and the adjacent development. The route then works its way back to the former rail corridor.

The route passes under Interstate 465 by sharing the Minnesota Street underpass, and then continues east along the rail line. It follows the rail line on the south side of the tracks to an underpass near West Morris Street/Vandalia Street at Plainfield Avenue. At this point, the route would cross to the north side of the railroad tracks using a new underpass or pedestrian tunnel under the rail line. From this point, the route would follow the north side of the rail line the remaining 1.5 miles to where it converges with the Eagle Creek Greenway.

The Vandalia Trail is a key component of the plan. It provides a connection from the west side of Indianapolis to the Eagle Creek Greenway which will eventually connect to downtown. This route will provide one of the connections to the city center while connecting to several older neighborhoods north of the route. It will also provide a connection westward into Hendricks County as well as the Plainfield trail system. When extended into Hendricks County, it will connect to the shared-use path along the Ronald Reagan Parkway and to the constructed 2.2 mile section of the Vandalia Trail section built in Plainfield (the current terminus is approximately 2 miles to the west of the county line).



Total Miles Planned

6.8

Anticipated Cost to Complete

8.5 Million

5 neighborhoods

West Indianapolis
Stout Field
Park Fletcher
Garden City
Chapel Hill - Ben Davis

1 landmark

Indianapolis International Airport

3 connections

White Lick Creek Greenway
Eagle Creek Greenway
National Road Heritage Trail-
(Hendricks County)

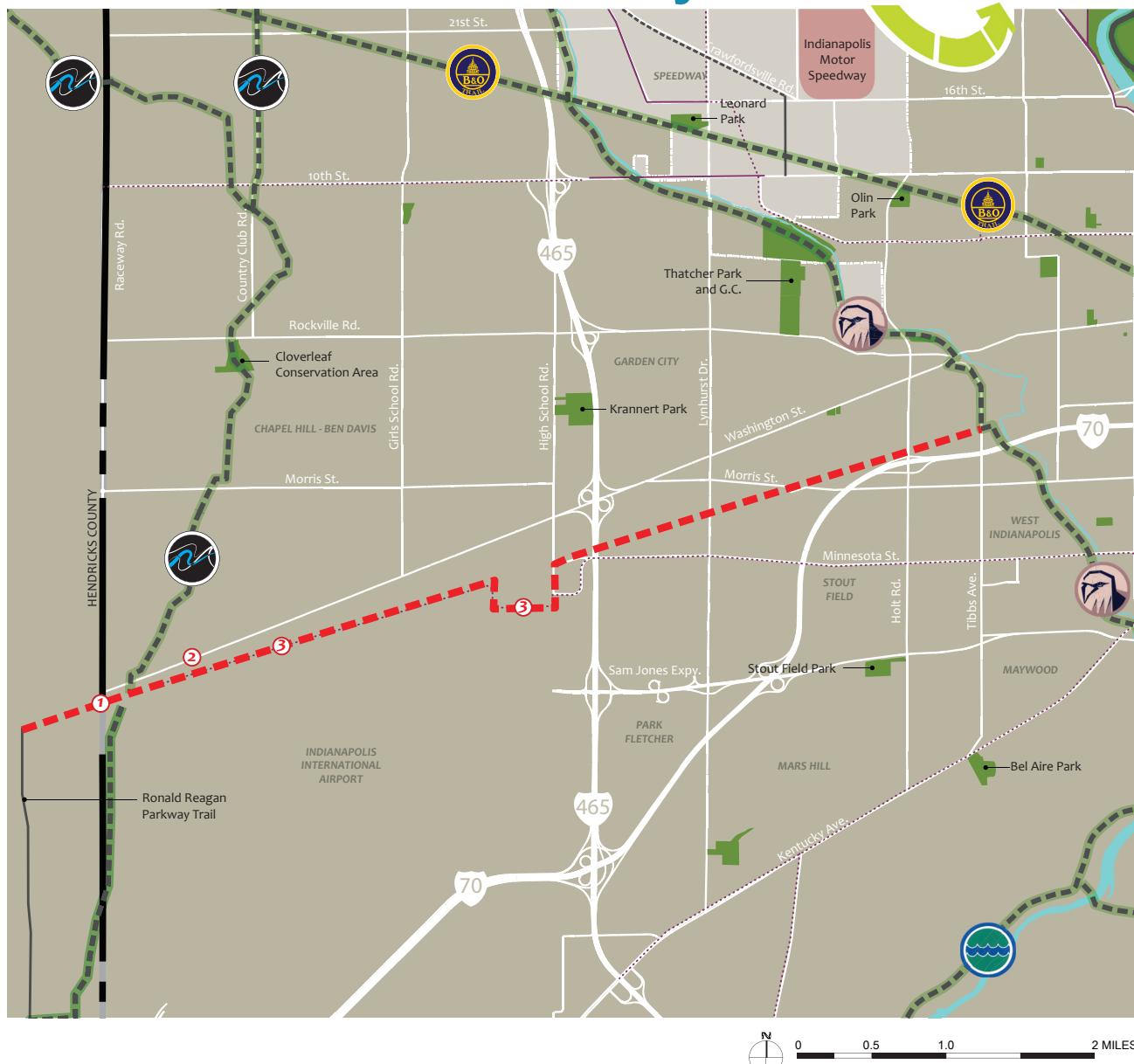
Site-Specific Recommendations

- ① Coordinate with Hendricks County and Plainfield greenway officials on determining the location of where the systems connect along the county line.
- ② Make connections where feasible to future transit stations, including potential connections to Blue Line BRT stations.
- ③ Coordinate with the Indianapolis International Airport to establish requirements for trail development on land controlled by the airport. Develop a Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) for use of airport-controlled property.

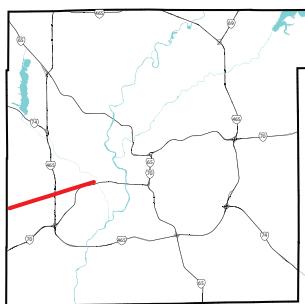
Corridor-Wide Recommendations

- Develop scoping study that identifies feasibility of route and identifies costs for implementing the trail.
- Work with neighborhoods along the route to determine appropriate connections and right-of-way controls along the corridor.
- Coordinate with National Road Heritage Trail, Inc. on the extension of the route into Marion County regarding funding development, grants, and other coordination issues.

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key map



legend

PROPOSED	VANDALIA TRAIL
BUILT	OTHER GREENWAYS
PROPOSED	INDIANAPOLIS CULTURAL TRAIL
—	EXISTING SHARED-USE PATHS
- - -	PLANNED SHARED-USE PATHS
—	EXISTING BIKE LANES
.....	PLANNED BIKE LANES
■	LANDMARKS
■	PARKS
■■■■■	OTHER INCORPORATED AREAS

vandalia trail overview:

• AS PART OF THE NATIONAL ROAD HERITAGE TRAIL, A STATEWIDE TRAIL ROUTE, THE VANDALIA TRAIL WILL LINK WESTERN INDIANAPOLIS AND PLAINFIELD TO CENTRAL INDIANAPOLIS

MILES: 6.8

DESTINATIONS:

- BRIDGEPORT
- INDIANAPOLIS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

CONNECTIONS:

- WHITE LICK CREEK GREENWAY
- EAGLE CREEK GREENWAY
- RONALD REAGAN PARKWAY TRAIL (HENDRICKS COUNTY)
- NATIONAL ROAD HISTORIC TRAIL (HENDRICKS COUNTY)



vandalia trail



TAYLOR
SIEFFER
WILLIAMS
design group

