

## PATTON TOWNSHIP

# Bike plan updated

By **Jeremy Hartley**

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PATTON TOWNSHIP — Many new bicycle connections could be coming to the township thanks to the Centre Region Bike Plan.

Centre Region senior transportation planner Trish Meek provided an update to the plan Wednesday to the Board of Supervisors, providing regional talking points, but also suggestions to increase the bicycle connectivity in the township.

From a Patton Township perspective, the adjustments are not extremely complicated, she said. This is thanks to the work already done identifying necessary facilities — the bike plan just fills in the blanks.

Meek identified several high priorities that would need to be addressed as the plan continues to unfold. It's important to begin discussions on electric bicycles, she said, as they are becoming more popular and an inevitability in the region.

"Most signage says no motorized vehicles on the bike paths," she said. "We need to establish what an e-bike is ... There are very specific regulations that make it more like a bike than a motorcycle."

A few of these qualifications include traveling no more than 20 mph on a flat surface and weighing less than 100 pounds, Meek said.

Patton Township is on record as allowing e-bikes in the township, she said, but a regional policy is needed so a rider doesn't cross into a municipality that doesn't allow

the bikes and gets a ticket.

Meek addressed a need to start an education campaign focusing on both motorists and cyclists.

"Everyone needs to take appropriate precautions," she said. "There are laws that everyone needs to follow."

Finally, she addressed the issue of cyclists' wishes to travel along the North Atherton corridor, acknowledging that riding along the road is dangerous, but an easy route can be created by linking parallel roads.

Martin Street runs parallel to North Atherton Street, she said.

She proposed creating a path that connects Martin to Cornflower Lane. Then, using signage, the network can be created using existing streets.

Meek said she is collecting comments from the municipalities through Nov. 30. Afterward, the plan can be revised and presented before COG.

In other business, the board unanimously accepted an \$800,000 grant from PennDOT for a Valley Vista Drive turning lanes project. The grant will go toward the estimated \$1.2 million total cost for the project.

By accepting the grant, the township can execute a reimbursement agreement with PennDOT.

Once the agreement is in place, an engineering firm can be selected to prepare the construction plans and specifications.

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