

The Candidates' Positions

KRTC sent letters to Governor Ernie Fletcher and Steve Beshear, the Republican and Democratic candidates for Governor, requesting their thoughts and positions on rails to trails. KRTC does not endorse any candidates. KRTC does encourage all citizens to vote and to evaluate their positions on rail trails along with other public issues.

The text of Steve Beshear's reply ...

"Thank you for your inquiry about my position concerning rails-to-trails.

Earlier this summer, I unveiled my Adventure Tourism plan for Kentucky. My plan is aimed at creating jobs and exposing the splendor of our state. I believe the state is poised to be a premiere destination for adventure tourism, and the rail trails are a part of my vision for expanding tourism in Kentucky.

I recognize that the rails-to-trails conservancy has proved successful in states like Florida, Massachusetts and Pennsylvania, to name only a few, as they have converted former rail lines into recreational trails in rural and urban areas. Yet, despite the success of this program in other states, only minimal efforts have been made to date to expand the program in Kentucky. For example, we only have seven RTC trails now, totaling just 33 miles in length. We can do better. A Beshear/Mongiardo Administration will provide the leadership to get it done.

Dr. Mongiardo and I believe that further developing and expanding our state's rail trails are important to building upon the vast opportunities Kentucky has to develop its tourism industry. Kentucky has so much to offer, and we believe it is time to share with everyone what Kentuckians already know."

At the time that this newsletter went to print KRTC had not received a reply from Governor Fletcher.

Little Mount Trail Commission and Madison County Greenways & Trails are now tax exempt non profit organizations

Local railtrail groups in Montgomery and Madison counties have received their non profit 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status allowing them to receive tax deductible donations. The official notification came after months of diligent work by officers of the organizations with the incalculable assistance and guidance of Attorney Bill Gorton, KRTC's legal advisor.

Recently The Kiwanis of Mt. Sterling showed their support for RT's by generously giving The Little Mount Trail Commission \$5000 toward the development of trails in Mt. Sterling.

Madison Co. Greenways & Trails advocate for multi use trails and a trail from Richmond to the Valley View Ferry over sections of the old Riney B. RR corridor.



(Members of the Little Mount Trail Commission and bicycle riders at a rest break in Mt. Sterling near the Depot during the 2007 Lexington to Ashland Relay.)

KRTC Joins Safe Routes to School National Partnership



This summer, KRTC joined 300 other organizations in endorsing the national Safe Routes to School movement. In 2005, SAFETEA-LU, the federal transportation bill, funded the new program along with the successful Transportation Enhancements program. The goal of SRTS is to reverse the decline of children

bicycling and walking to schools. 30 years ago an estimated two-thirds of children walked or rode their bicycles to school. In recent years, this number has plummeted dramatically to less than 10 percent.

The Safe Routes to School National Partnership recognizes that the potential for SRTS is much broader than the \$612 million in funds available now through State Departments of Transportation. \$1.5 million is available in KY for 2007. The SRTS National Partnership has implemented the State Network Project to leverage resources by creating SRTS state networks in nine key states - California, Georgia, Illinois, Kentucky, Louisiana, New York, Oklahoma, Texas, Virginia-and the District of Columbia.

The project links existing leaders in the fields of health, bicycling, walking, education, environment, youth development and smart growth to ensure that the SRTS federal program succeeds and the funding is spent on viable projects. The project also works to leverage additional resources for Safe Routes to School, remove barriers to walking and bicycling to schools and create an institutional framework to generate long-term policy changes.

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council enthusiastically agreed to be the non-profit that sponsors the State Network Organizer in Kentucky. Each SRTS State Network is facilitated by a contracted State Network Organizer associated with a non-profit organization. Cheryl Wyatt, a member of KRTC will be Kentucky's network organizer. Currently Cheryl along with the staff and participants in the 10 state networks are investigating eight key issues related to the success of SRTS. They will develop State Action Plans to guide the efforts of the networks.

Network members may help with outreach and promotion, education, research, convening stakeholders within their field, advocacy, and development and ongoing refinement of the State Action Plan. An emphasis will be placed on collaborative efforts between organizations and initiatives with similar goals to increase community buy-in and to have a positive influence on decision makers. The future of SRTS programs in the

U.S. may well be influenced by how well this SRTS State Network program succeeds during the years 2007, 2008, 2009. To read about the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation-funded SRTS National Partnership please visit www.saferoutespartnership.org, For more information, contact Cheryl Wyatt, Kentucky's State Network Organizer at cheryl.wyatt@insightbb.com.

Newly Elected Board of Directors

Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is staffed by volunteers; many of whom have been on the Council for several years. As a group the Council is committed to the establishment and use of rail trails and associated multi use trails in Kentucky. A very loud Thank You to those who give so freely of their time and talents for their communities. If you are interested in becoming more active on the Council or on a committee please contact one of the Directors or Representatives.

Keith Lovan - Chair

Sandy Shafer -Vice Chair for Government Affairs

Cindy Deitz - Vice Chair for Technical Assistance

Cheryl Wyatt - Vice Chair For Advocacy

Steve Wyatt - Treasurer

Dixie Moore - Secretary/Newsletter Editor

William T. Gorton, III - Legal Advisor

William Stillwell, Ph.D. - Listmaster

Trail Representatives

Bluegrass RT Foundation -

Daniel Boone RT - April Haight, Morehead 08

High Bridge RT - Tim Powell, Wilmore 09

Lake Cumberland RT - Marc Travis, Somerset 09

Muhlenberg Co. RT - Becky Keith, Greenville 09

Tyrone Bridge & Rail Trail Co. - Jodie Wells, Versailles 08

Pennryrile RT - Tom Hayes, Hopkinsville 08

Greenways of Oldham Co. - Ashli Collins, 08

The Little Mount Trail Commission - Lynda Wilson, Mt.

Sterling, 08

Madison Co. Greenways & Trails - Gail Kulp, 08

Regional At Large Representatives

Barren River - Helen Tyson Siewers, Bowling Green, 09

Bluegrass - Eddie Farrey, Richmond, 09

Bluegrass - Robin Reams, Berea 09

Bluegrass - Philip Meyer, Lexington, 08

Green River - Sue Fowler, Owensboro, 09

KIPDA - Ron Schneider, Louisville, 09

Northern Kentucky - Ben Bishop, Villa Hills, 08

The bylaws allow 8 officers elected annually and 10 at large representatives and a representative from each trail group with 2 year terms.



Join or Renew Membership and Donate for 2007

Without the continued financial support from our members the volunteers would not have the resources to do the many tasks of advocacy and education that is the hallmark of KRTC. Acknowledgement of tax deductible donations are batched and sent out through the year as donations and memberships are received. Please keep on giving because the work is always there. We can do more with more. The 109 members have paid their 2007 dues since the last newsletter are listed below; this is about an 100 less than at the end of 2006. KRTC encourages donations to local groups but KRTC needs to maintain a financial and support base for state wide initiatives that benefit all. If you are a past member please rejoin and encourage others to join with you. For error correction please contact the Secretary at Dixiemore@insightbb.com or 859-227-6165.

Engineer (\$250+)

Heather Auman

Benefactor (\$100-\$249)

Ann Fitzpatrick

Anne Hoskins

Sally Malmer

Glenn Proudfoot

Fred A. Schroeder

Julie & John Tresaloni

Promotor (\$50+\$99)

Ben & Kelly Bishop

Jo Ann Czekalski & Jim Stokes

George & Ramona Ely

Maureen A. Flannery

Joni Kling

Art Moore

Supporter (\$25-\$49)

Virginia Alexander

Rebecca Beyerle

Andrew Cammack

Andra & Dave Gyor

Roger & Libby Jones

Mattie Lovan

A. Lee & Victoria Meyer

Franklin B. Miller

Rosemary & Lewis Miller

Vicki Reed

Carola Sprague

William E. Stillwell

Individual

Wendy DeVier

Kenneth Karem



Kentucky Rails to Trails T-Shirt for Sale

NEW - NEW -NEW

\$12.00 plus shipping

It's a new era! The shirt is printed in navy and bright harvest gold on 100% organic cotton.

To purchase: Contact the Secretary at 859-227-6165 or dixiemore@insightbb.com. Most sizes including XXL are available. For color see the photo at <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/gallery/July-4-2004-Lex>.

WILD OATS
MARKETPLACE

161 Lexington Green Circle, Lexington, KY 40503
859-971-8600, www.wildoats.org



Kentucky Horse Council
4063 Iron Works Parkway, Ste. 2
Lexington, KY 40511, 859-367-0509
www.kentuckyhorse.org

Eastern KY RT Summit

The Eastern Kentucky Advocates for Wellness from eleven eastern Kentucky counties presented a highly successful Rail Trail Summit on Thursday June 14th at Carter Caves State Resort Park. Approximately fifty individuals from across the eastern portion of Kentucky attended to learn how to become better advocates for a strong rail trail system in Kentucky.

Speakers included Jodi McDonald with the Governors Office of Local Development; Tiffani Jackson, state Bicycle and Pedestrian Coordinator; Keith Lovan, Kentucky Rails to Trails Council; Larry Ridenour, Architect and former rail trail developer in the state of Pennsylvania; and Charlie Holbrook, member of the Ashland Cycling Enthusiasts and the Kentucky Bicycle and Bikeways Commission. A panel that included representatives from the Big Sandy ADD offered real life information about the successes and challenges of rail trail development. Elaine Russell and Wendy Carlin from the Governor's Office on Wellness and Physical Activity discussed the Partnership for a Fit KY and how the built environment can make a huge impact on the health of Kentucky's citizens.

The Summit attracted mayors, city commissioners, county judge executives, district planners, city planners and representatives from parks and



(Large stand alone display at the 2007 Horsey Hundred Tour, Georgetown, KY. Displays are available for future events.)

recreation, health care, and individual citizens. All agreed that more key decision-makers in county and state government should be receiving the important message that rail trails are good for Kentucky's fiscal health and physical health.

If you live in Eastern Kentucky and would like to know how you can become involved in the rail trail movement in Kentucky you are invited to join the Advocates for their next coalition meeting. Contact Sara Boyd for more details at sara.dunlap1@ky.gov.

Eastern Kentucky Advocates for Wellness



**995 Hwy 801 South
Morehead, KY 40351
(606) 784-1818
caverunbikeshop.com**



**[317 S. Ashland Ave.
Lexington, KY 40502](http://317.S.Ashland.Ave.Lexington,KY.40502)**
M-F 10a-7p, Sa 10a-6p, Su 1p-5p
859.269.8313
www.johnsrunwalkshop.com

Bike, Pedestrian, & Greenways Summit - Oldham County - 9/ 26
Significant Interest Displayed from Local & Regional Governments, NPO's, Developer/Real Estate Community, & Engineering Firms

Greenways for Oldham County, in partnership with Oldham County Government hosted a county-wide Bike, Pedestrian, and Greenways summit on Wednesday, September 26 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:30 pm at the Fiscal Court room in La-Grange. The summit, open to all individuals and groups with an interest in bicycling, walking, hiking, equestrian trails, and greenways in Oldham County was well attended and proclaimed very successful by Oldham County Judge-Executive Duane Murner in his closing remarks. The summit was broadcast on Oldham County Public Access Channel 25.

The summit was planned in conjunction with the recently started Bike, Pedestrian, and Greenways Master Plan funded by a grant from KIPDA. Oldham County Judge-Executive Duane Murner and Greenways for

Oldham County Vice President Dr. Ashli Collins co-hosted the event, supported by the Oldham County Planning and Zoning office. The summit allowed the consultant for the master plan, Brandstetter Carroll Inc. to meet key persons involved in county trails effort.

In all, 27 separate individuals and organizations provided presentations for the summit. A breakout of the presenters include:

- Six local/regional governmental entities including representatives Oldham County Government, Metro Government Parks and The Kentuckiana Regional Planning and Development Agency (KIPDA).

- Twelve Oldham County and Jefferson County non-profit organizations with an interest in bike, pedestrian and equine trails and greenways.

- One quasi-public organization, the Old-

ham County Economic Development Agency.

- Three private developers/real estate agents.

- Four engineering/consulting firms including Brandstetter Carroll Inc who is developing the master plan for Oldham County . For maps and more detail see <http://www.oldhamgreenways.org/>.



Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION , DONATION &/or RENEWAL for 2007

\$25 Supporter \$ 50 Promoter \$ 100 Benefactor \$ 250 Engineer
 \$ 500 Trail Blazer Other Donation \$ _____ Address Correction

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ County: _____ State/Zip: _____

Phone: H W C _____ Email: _____

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council is always in need of volunteers, e.g. writing newsletter articles, being an officer or board member, fundraising, giving presentations, contacting landowners, checking maps, web site design, letter stuffing. *I would like to volunteer with KRTC.*

Corporate sponsorships are available: See <http://www.kyrailtrail.org/sponsors.php>

Please make check payable and mail to: Kentucky Rails to Trails Council, Inc.

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Kentucky Rails To Trails Council, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) non-profit tax-exempt organization founded in 1995.

The Kentucky Rails to Trails Council promotes and advocates for the establishment and use of rail trails and associated greenways in Kentucky.

Contributions and dues are tax deductible to the fullest extent of the law.

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