

Chester County Parks and Recreation

**Chester Valley Trail
Public Meeting Survey Results**

Meetings held at:

East Whiteland Township Building
209 Conestoga Road, Frazer, PA 19355
Monday, December 3, 2007

Tredyffrin Township Building
1100 DuPortail Road, Berwyn 19312
Tuesday, December 4, 2007

Introduction

During December 3 and 4, 2007, Public Meetings were held in East Whiteland and Tredyffrin Townships to share information regarding the design and construction elements of the Chester Valley Trail. These meetings had two purposes – to share progress in the design and development of the trail, and to answer questions from citizens who may have had concerns.

The meetings were facilitated by John Mikowychok, Director of Parks and Recreation, Steve Fromnick, Director of Facilities, Yang Liu, Senior Project Manager of Arora and Associates, P.C., and members of their respective staffs.

The meeting held on December 3, 2007, was at the East Whiteland Township Building. There were 62 people in attendance. John Mikowychok, Director, spent about 20 minutes stating the goals of the night's presentation, and then had the audience visit three tables where maps were on display and representatives were available to discuss concerns that citizens had of the development process.

The meeting held on December 4, 2007, was at the Tredyffrin Township Building. There were 66 people that signed in on the attendance roster, although several came in after the meeting had started. Based on feedback from the previous evening, the general question and answer session from the audience at the beginning of the meeting was extended, and lasted for about 75 minutes. Afterwards, there was still an opportunity for the audience to view maps of the trails with representatives, allowing the public to voice concerns and comment.

At the end of each evening, the audience was given the chance to fill out a yellow survey form, a sample of which has been attached to the end of this article. Surveys were collected at the meeting, and were collected via the mail through December 31, 2007. This summary article includes items from these Public Meeting Surveys, and contains the following items:

- Chart – Planned Use of Trail
- Chart – Recreational Activities
- Responses – Trail Connections
- Responses – Shopping Destinations
- Responses – Trail Uses – Other Destinations
- Responses – Other Comments

In the responses section, full comments were recorded as they were written, or were able to be read. Comments were attempted to be categorized by common responses.

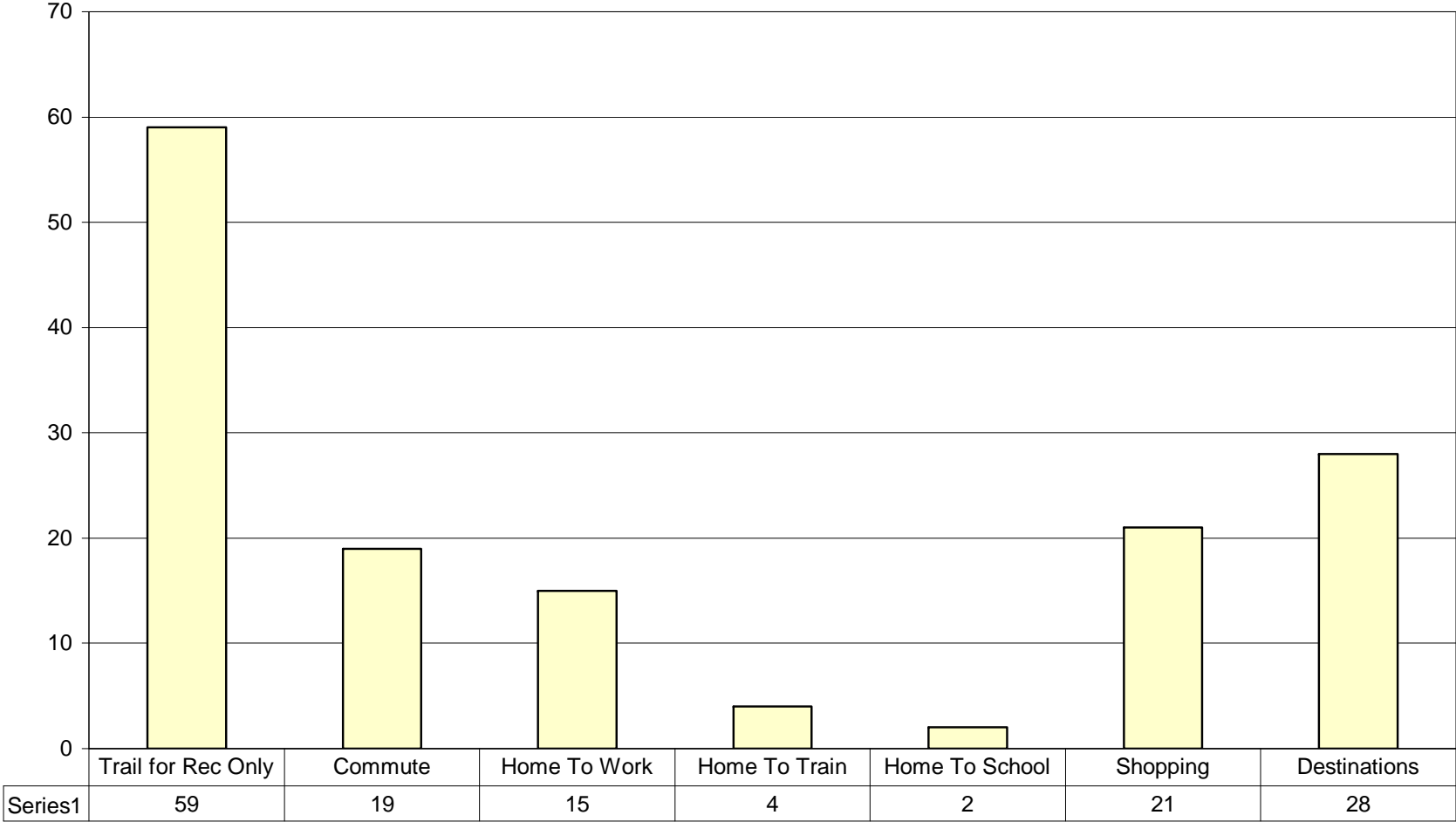
The purpose of this article is to present those responses that were received for further analysis by planners, designers, and department staff, which can be utilized in development efforts of the Chester Valley Trail.

The Chester County Parks and Recreation Department would like to thank all of those that participated in the public meeting process, and those that returned comments on the survey.

Chester Valley Trail - Public Meeting Surveys

Planned Use of Trail

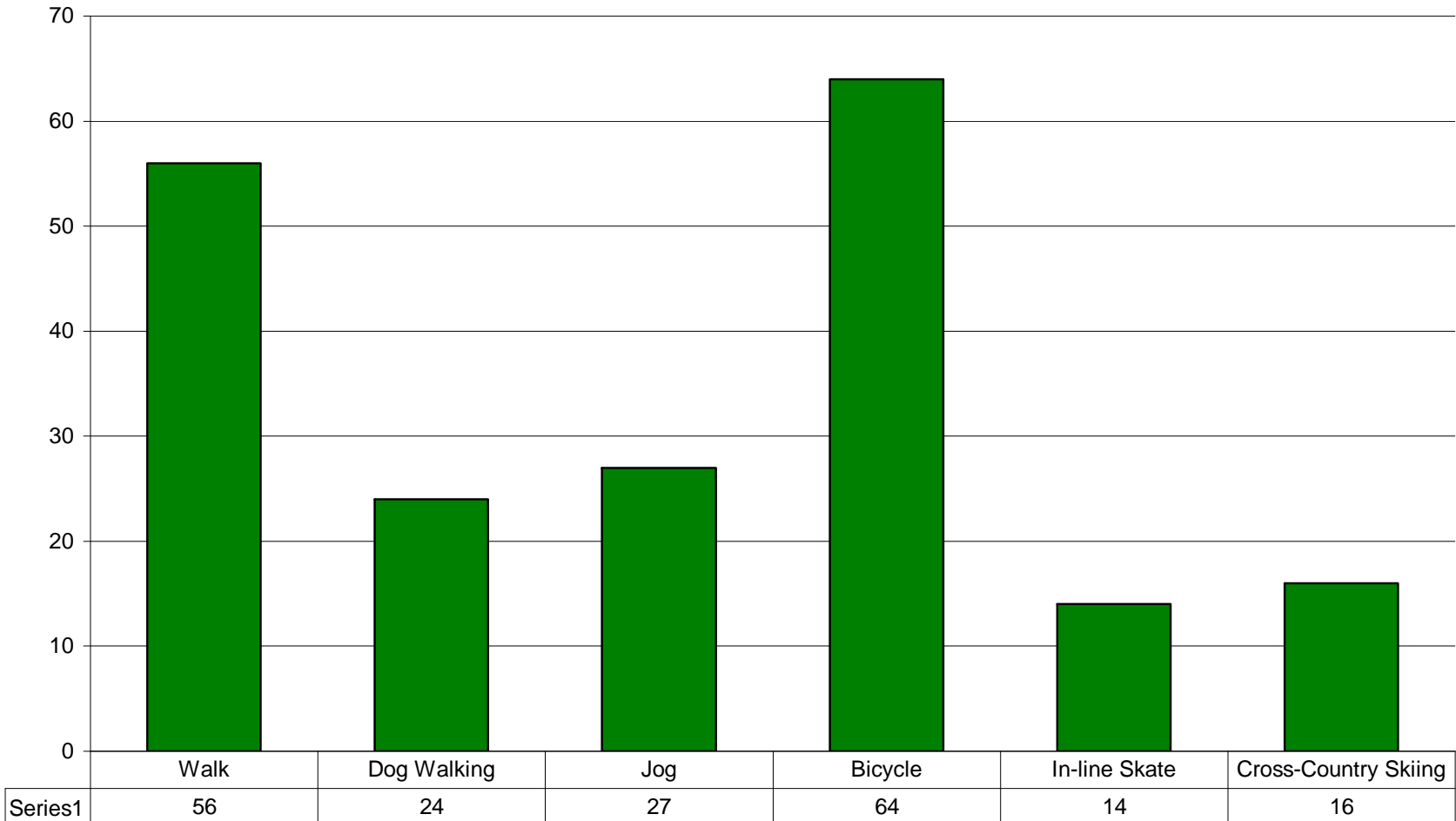
79 Responses



Chester Valley Trail - Public Meeting Survey

Recreation Activities

79 responses



Trail Connections

The following are suggested trail connections mentioned in the surveys. They are grouped by common trail connection suggestions. Except for exact same responses from the people taking the survey, these are the actual comments made on the survey. (Not everyone responded)

Trail Connection: **Schuylkill River Trail**

1. Schuylkill River Trail
2. Schuylkill River Trail, Struble Trail, Exton Community Park

Trail Connection: **Struble Trail**

1. with Struble
2. with V.F./Schuylkill system to Phila.

Trail Connection: **Valley Greene**

1. Valley Greene Neighborhood [3 responses]
2. Valley Greene Road to Trail (near intersection of Valley Greene Rd + N. Valley Road)

Trail Connection: **Worthington Site**

1. Barnes & Noble bookstore vicinity
2. Schuylkill River Trail

Trail Connection: **Valley Forge**

1. Connections to Valley Forge Park would be great
2. Connections to Wilson Park, Valley Forge Park
3. If possible, the Perkiomen Trail @ VF Park/Schuylkill Trail
4. Valley Forge Nat. Park/Chesterbrook/G.V. Corp Center
5. Valley Forge Nat'l Park [3 responses]

Trail Connection: **Horse-shoe Trail**

1. Horseshoe Trail - CFS Park, Bridle paths in E & W Whiteland Spur of Horseshoe Trail to WC
2. I think you have them except connect to Horse Shoe Trail

Trail Connection: **King of Prussia**

1. I would consider commuting to work on some days if there were bicycle lanes planned in King of Prussia.
2. I live at Old Forge Crossing, Tred. Twnshp, and drive on Rt 202 north to

- Henderson Rd and Rt 23 everyday (well, almost everyday!)
3. King of Prussia, VFNHP, Bridge port
4. Warner Trail/Warner Road/KofP

Trail Connection: **Rt 401**

1. East Whiteland Ecology Park and Battle of the Clouds
2. Route 401 safely access to.
3. Future Township Park on Swedesford Road and Exton Park
4. We'd like access as close as possible to Swedesford Rd. and Rt. 401 intersection

Trail Connection: **Paoli**

1. PAOLI (North Valley Rd., Airdrie Preserve or 252)
2. Paoli access, 252 on North Valley

Trail Connection: **Other**

3. Chester Valley Trail, Phase I + part from Frazer-->Exton
4. Chesterbrook Blvd., Old Eagle School Rd., West Valley Rd
5. Crosswalk markings and signage for motor vehicles
6. Exton Mall
7. GV [Great Valley] high -->Battle of the Clouds -->CV Trail
8. Highly concerned about the connection areas and fencing.
9. pathway from Winding Way
10. There is an old rail bed (the West Chester-Phoenixville line to Bacton Hill) that is accessible across from GV Middle School NW, paralleling Hillbrock. It crosses 401 near the Pet Cemetery, runs through the cornfield, across Bacton Hill Rd. and crosses S
11. Township Parks, West Valley Road
12. Uwchlan Trail in West Whiteland Park [Exton Park Site]
13. Contention Lane

Shopping Comments

This is a list of additional shopping destinations mentioned by some people in the survey. (Not everyone responded)

Places Listed to Shop

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Circuit City Shopping Center Swedesford Road- Exton Mall [2 mentions]- Exton Square, Main Street Exton, King of Prussia- Exton, Downingtown, etc.- Exton; Newly planned shops @ Route 29 [Uptown Worthington]- Gateway, Swedesford Rd Shopping Centers- King of Prussia- King of Prussia Mall | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ship [Road] to 29; Ship to Downingtown- Swedesford/Gateway- the new Wegman's place that's under construction [Uptown Worthington]- Uptown Worthington- Uptown/Main St.- Valley Fair, Gateway- Worthington shops and theater- Worthington Steel site- Worthington, Barnes & Noble (near Gateway) |
|--|---|

Trail Uses – Other

This is a list of other trail destinations as listed by some people in the survey. (Not everyone responded)

Other Trail Destinations Listed

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Worthington- will not use the trail [2 responses]- Bike to Phila.- Connect to SRT [Schuylkill River Trail – 2 mentions]- don't know access points so don't know- Entrance - North Valley Rd- Exit - Work - Great Valley Corp Ctr. - Great Valley Blvd- Future international bike races over macadam + screenings as in Europe- home to post office | <ul style="list-style-type: none">- horse back riding plus hiking- maybe for shopping, it depends- Rt. 401 to each end- SE Annex Post Office, the new shopping development - Malvern (O'Neil); recreation; running- Ship Rd to Chesterbrook Blvd - commuting to/from work- to go from home on Boot Road west of Rt. 100 |
|--|--|

Other Comments

Other comments that were made on the survey, sorted by type of comment. (Not everyone responded)

Comment Type: **Finish Trail**

1. Can't wait! This will be a great boon to quality of life in an already great county. Thank you for doing this.
2. Don't let anyone slow this project down.
3. Finally! We've been waiting forever for this. Please make it happen.
4. Finally! I moved to Down East Dec 96 and was told it would be done in 2-3 years. My son was 5 yrs. old.
5. Looked forward to family bike outings. In 2009-Chris will be 18. I'm sorry it took so long.
6. Get it Done!
7. Great to hear the County is strongly moving ahead with a vital recreational and commuter artery.
8. Great to see progress! Can't wait until it opens (my property backs up almost to trail property).
9. I worked on this 10 years ago.
10. It's about time!
11. I've been hearing about this trail for years. Please don't delay this project any more.
12. Keep up the good work!
13. Keep up the good work. Build quickly.
14. Move as fast as you can!
15. Looking forward to trail
16. Please email future meetings.
17. Please accelerate construction schedule as much as possible.
18. Please finish as soon as possible!
19. Please hurry we can't wait!
20. Thank you! Let's get it done!
21. This is a wonderful project and we are thrilled that is finally moving forward
22. This should be good...finish ASAP!
23. Try to speed it up to get it done sooner.
24. We are very very anxious for the trail to be available--the wait has been long and frustrating. Please more forward on schedule!

Comment Type: **Resident Concerns**

1. Concerned about fencing of trail to prevent access to my property. Crime and trespass of concern. Where parking and access.
2. I request to be contacted regarding my specific situation as my property backs up to the trail & is wide open to traffic & flooding.
3. I have several issues - accessibility to path thru my yard & behind SuperFresh, grading of trail, privacy problems, fencing design
4. I would like to see a natural barrier or fence erected between my property and the trail to ensure that my property is not used as an access point for the Doyle'sford estates neighborhood.
5. Need to meet w/ homeowners who have land to be used by this trail. These property owners must be protected from lawsuit due to increased use of these lands.
6. Not enough general discussion
7. Cutting off questions limited discussion and feedback of concerns
8. Trail is good idea - resolution of property owner concerns poor
 - a. Owning a property that will be adjacent to the trail I have several question
9. Please can you let me know what kind of notice residents will get before work commences on the trail sections adjacent to their property
10. I heard at the public meeting that some residents may "loose" some land (however small) to the trail project. When will residents affected in this way be notified & what mechanism is in place for compensation?
11. Pls. call me if you have access issues at Malin Station.
12. Since the sound wall regarding was done, water is now directed from a large area of the "railbed"

13. We homeowners adjacent to the trail would appreciate a meeting with Tom Ross, Esq. to discuss the widening of the track bed to 12' + 4' and the danger to our trees.

Comment Type: **Trail Surface**

1. Do not macadam Run off will damage lower elevation properties Macadam encourages ATV motor bike skating etc + macadam more costly to repair. Need parking near Ship & CFS Park Need Pervious paving if paved
2. We need better supervision - I see ATV's, m
3. Have you considered part paved for road bikes & middle unpaved for running, hiking, dog walking?
4. What can we the public do?
5. Please make sure stone on side of pavement is small so can be hiked on
6. I would prefer unpaved path.
7. Please consider the following:
8. Aesthetic of the walk bridge proposed over N. Valley Forge Road. Paint the bridge a color that will blend with the environment.
9. Solar-powered? Light/motion operated? For the short segment of the trail which sits between
10. Please do not pave it, especially the part already in use, shown in purple and blue on the overview map handout
11. Please email pdf of bridge over Church Rd. Thanks. [RE: Pratt Truss jpeg-JPM]
12. The goal of the trail planners is to connect one trail to another. As your trail goes through more rural areas, there would be more areas open to horse trailer parking and more rural connections. Since the trail is a planned 10-12' wide, there should be trees planted on Bacton-Ship Road
13. Post plans on chesco.org

Comment Type: **Access Points**

1. Access to trail from Park and Ride on Matthews Rd near 202
2. Need specific info on access points. Looking forward to access at VF Road - Devon - where pedestrian bridge to be installed.
3. North Valley Rd Entrance. See if PennDOT can implement traffic calming measures + lower speed limit
4. Should really try to connect to Chester Valley Trail and Schuylkill River Trail. Thanks.
5. The bridge that will span Valley Forge Rd - how high will the clearance be?
6. Will Contention Lane be an access point?
7. Trail should have as many access points as possible to encourage wide use. Most access points in neighborhoods do not require parking-should be able to ride bike from homes to the trail without using a car to drive to trailhead.
8. We do not want public access to trail from Winding Way - Malvern

Comment Type: **Against Trail**

1. I'm very against the entire concept. There are ample areas for exercise and walking already. I see it as an unnecessary expense for development and continuing maintenance. The possibility for crime, personal injury and vandalism are real and substantial

Comment Type: **Other**

1. Carol Aichele asked me to be on the County Parks and Recs Committee, particularly involving the bike trail.
2. Chair, Chester Co. Cycling Coalition
3. Chester County Trail Club Member
4. Have more meetings like this to update residents on progress once it has started.
5. Love to talk about planning a connecting trail along old rail line from near Middle School past Emmeorial Park [presumably Philadelphia Memorial Park Cemetery] to this trail.
6. Thanks for the map

We'd Like Your Input!

To assist the project team in understanding your personal ideas, concerns, and needs regarding the Trail running through your neighborhood, please complete and return the following survey. Please check all boxes which are applicable for each question. It may be returned at the conclusion of the workshops, or mailed. If the latter, please mail by 12/31/07 to: *Chester County Parks & Recreation, ATTN: CVT Survey, 601 Westtown Road, Suite 160, West Chester PA 19380.* Although it is optional, we would request that you provide your name, address, telephone and e-mail* so that we may contact you if we have an inquiry regarding your comments, need to respond to your questions, or advise you of future meetings. We will publish survey results of questions 1, 2, 3, and 5 on our website (www.chesco.org/ccparks) in early 2008 if there are sufficient responses.

1. What are your planned start and end points if you intend to use the trail?

- Trail segment use for recreation only
- Commute: home to work home to train station or bus stop home to school
- Shopping: home to
- Destinations: home to municipal park, library, church, restaurant, movie theater, etc.
- Other:

2. How will you use the trail?

- Walk Dog Walking Jog Bicycle In-Line Skate Cross-Country Ski
- Other:

3. Please advise us of any connections which are important to/from the Chester Valley Trail:

- 4. Did you find the workshops useful? Yes No Undecided
- Workshop Attended: December 3, East Whiteland Twp. December 4, Tredyffrin Twp.

5. Other Comments:

Contact Information (optional):

Name.....

Street Address Town

Telephone..... E-Mail.....

*Personal information obtained from this survey will not be disclosed in the survey results, nor will your personal information be used for any other purpose, or disclosed to anyone outside of Chester County government without your direct approval.

Executive Summary

There were 79 responses to our request for surveys from the two public meetings. From this information, a few comments can be made.

Planned Uses of the Trail – It should be of no surprise that the highest expected use of the Chester Valley Trail will be for recreational use, with 59 out of 79 responses. It should be noted that commuting and traveling from home to work accounted for 34 combined responses, and shopping and other destinations combined for 49 responses. Survey participants could select more than one response on the survey in the section.

Recreational Activities – We see similarly high responses from those that plan to walk on the Chester Valley Trail (56) and those that plan on biking (64). Dog Walking (24) and Jogging (27) come in at about half of the first two categories. Surprisingly, Cross Country Skiing (16) had more responses than In-Line Skating (14), which is unexpected considering the weather this region has in the winter.

Trail Connections – From the survey comments, there are several main areas where people would like to see trail connections. These include trail connections in the areas of Valley Forge National Park, the Valley Greene neighborhood, King of Prussia, and the Schuylkill River Trail. Future development, including the Worthington site, have also been requested as connections to the trail.

Trail Uses – The survey asked if there were shopping destinations that the user might make use of on the Chester Valley Trail, and there were a few common responses. These responses included shops in the Exton area, including the mall and Main Street, shops in the King of Prussia area, and to the developing Worthington site. Other trail uses included getting to the post office, bike races, and biking to Philadelphia; however many stated that they did not know how they would use the trail until they knew where the connections were located.

General Comments – There were 24 survey responses that were in support of the trail, and encouraged a quick development of the Chester Valley Trail, especially after waiting for a long period of time. There were 13 respondents that expressed some concern of the trail development, specifically with privacy, security, and the effect of construction to their property. Concerning trail development, there were some comments about trail surface, trail connections, and access points that will aid potential users in the utilization of the trail. There was one survey respondent that was totally against the trail being built.

Closing - The results of these public meetings met their goal of providing information to the citizens of the townships that the Chester Valley Trail will be traversing through. These meetings also provided a forum for people to share their support and concerns which can be used for continued development.