



CODORUS GREENWAY

MERIT CRITERIA

Submitted by the Redevelopment Authority of the County of York

MERIT CRITERIA

OVERVIEW

The Codorus Greenway is a transformative, dynamic urban transportation project intentionally developed to improve York in several ways. The project's attributes directly meet the key merit criteria, demonstrating the impact it will bring to communities along the Codorus Creek corridor and beyond.



SAFETY

Protects non-motorized travelers from traffic-related fatalities and injuries. Reduces fatalities and serious injuries for disadvantaged communities. Mitigates systemic safety inequities.

- ▶ The project will create a much needed north-south connection for non-motorized users.
- ▶ Separated facilities provide a safe route for pedestrians and cyclists, reducing dangerous collisions.
- ▶ Mitigates systemic safety inequities by building a route connecting historically marginalized communities to important destinations, including the county's primary transit transfer station



ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY

Reduces emissions, reduces VMT, improves resiliency of at-risk sites, supports responsible land use and redevelopment of brownfield; address environmental justice issues

- ▶ The creation of a comfortable, attractive north-south connection will induce mode shift, reducing VMT and emissions.
- ▶ The Codorus Greenway will protect existing infrastructure and increase resiliency against extreme weather events along the corridor.

- ▶ The greenway will draw in new urban development and redevelopment of brownfield sites, strengthening walkability and cleaning up areas with contaminants



QUALITY OF LIFE

Increases accessibility and walkability, reduces transportation costs, removes barriers to economic and educational opportunities for underserved communities

- ▶ The implementation of a universally designed greenway creation increases accessibility and walkability.
- ▶ Providing a safe environment for active transportation and exercise will lead to improved public health in an underserved community.
- ▶ Addresses prior planning disparities by removing barriers to opportunity to an area of persistent poverty.
- ▶ By more intimately connecting people to the Codorus Creek, the greenway enhances the area's unique and natural beauty while providing valuable green space amenities.



MOBILITY + CONNECTIVITY

Increases transportation choices and accessibility; reduces car dependency, and incorporates the principles of universal design.

- ▶ New north-south route connects marginalized communities to important destinations via a non-motorized facility.
- ▶ Universally designed trail increases accessibility and connectivity.
- ▶ Makes York a more livable community for residents without car access



ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS

Improves access to employment opportunities, transportation options, and transportation security; boosts local economic strength

- ▶ The Codorus Greenway will better connect residents to economic opportunities and high-paying jobs, including those in downtown York and York College.
- ▶ New multimodal connections will increase transportation options and security.
- ▶ Increased attractions and infrastructure along the corridor will create increased revenue and opportunity for new businesses.
- ▶ The Greenway will link major existing and future employment centers along the Codorus Innovation Corridor, including York College’s Knowledge Park business incubator and the Susquehanna Commerce Center, the city’s largest office complex



STATE OF GOOD REPAIR

Restoration and modernization of infrastructure, address community vulnerabilities, maintenance track record

- ▶ Replacement of aging flood mitigation infrastructure is an investment in the project’s long-term sustainability and essential for the security of York.
- ▶ Infrastructure improvements directly benefit York’s most vulnerable populations.
- ▶ Existing Heritage Rail Trail is a testament to the high level of local maintenance and care.



PARTNERSHIP + COLLABORATION

Collaboration with other entities, equitable engagement, workforce development, DBEs

- ▶ YCEA has collaborated with several other public and private entities including York’s local and county governments, USACE, and state agencies including PennDOT, DEP, DCED, and DCNR.
- ▶ The equitable engagement approach effectively created a collaborative plan with buy-in from marginalized communities in York.
- ▶ Throughout the development of the Codorus Greenway, YCEA has helped connect residents to quality and high-paying jobs and fostered the creation of DBEs in adjacent neighborhoods



INNOVATION

Utilization of practices to meet key criteria, improved project delivery, and funding

- ▶ The Codorus Greenway uniquely merges important transportation infrastructure with climate change resiliency.
- ▶ YCEA’s engagement approach utilizes contemporary best practices, resulting in more equitable engagement and a better project delivery.
- ▶ The Codorus Greenway will improve innovation in York, attracting new development and linking to York College’s Knowledge Park, a major site of academic-industrial partnerships and R&D, and will increase readiness for new multimodal transportation options.

CRITERION: SAFETY



The Codorus Greenway provides safe and separated facilities for non-motorized travelers. This project provides an alternative to driving, and helps mitigate crashes in a high need area in York County

PROTECTING VULNERABLE USERS

People walking and biking are particularly vulnerable to serious and fatal crashes. In Pennsylvania, pedestrian-related crashes represent 2.7% of the total reported traffic crashes; however, they account for 12.9% of all traffic crash fatalities. Bicycle crashes represent 0.8% of the total reported crashes and 1.9% of all traffic fatalities. The best way to prevent serious injuries and fatalities for people walking and biking is to provide separate, high-quality facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists, and to focus on improving locations where the highest number of conflicts occur.

In 2020, York County ranked among the top ten counties in Pennsylvania with the most reported traffic crashes.¹ The county accounted for 3.8% of crashes in the state. In 2020, there were five pedestrian fatalities, ranking York County the eighth worst in Pennsylvania.

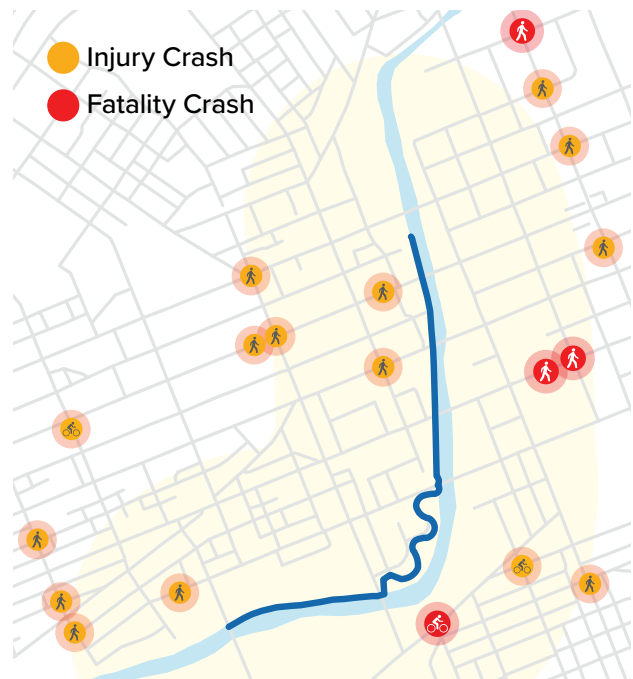
Map 2 shows crashes involving a pedestrian or bicyclist within a quarter-mile of the project boundaries, between January 2011 and December 2020. In total there were 379 crashes that caused an injury or fatality within a quarter-mile of the project: five fatal, 22 serious, 219 minor, and 138 where the injury severity could not be determined at the scene of the crash. **The Codorus Greenway will provide \$73.2 million in safety benefits.**

¹ Pennsylvania Department of Transportation. 2020 Pennsylvania Crash Facts & Statistics. <https://www.penndot.pa.gov/TravelInPA/Saf>

SAFE CONNECTIONS FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES

The Codorus Greenway directly supports transportation safety goals established by the City, County, region, and State agencies striving to reduce traffic injuries and fatalities. Separated trail facilities, such as this one, are the most accessible and comfortable for people of all ages and abilities to travel on. The York Area Metropolitan Planning Organization conducted an analysis of crashes between 2013 and 2017 in York County, and found a higher proportion of bicycle and pedestrian crashes are occurring in areas with non-white and lower income populations.²

Map 2. Injury and fatality crashes within one-quarter mile of project corridor



² York Area Metropolitan Council. 2021-2024 TIP Environmental Justice Analysis. <https://www.ycpc.org/DocumentCenter/View/2122/2021-2024-TIP-Environmental-Justice-Analysis-PDF?bidId=>



At its core, the Codorus Greenway is an environmental sustainability project, effectively reducing greenhouse gas emissions, increasing green space, and improving air and water quality. These elements bring impactful changes to environmental justice communities and important climate resiliency measures to York's most vulnerable populations.

ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCY

The stormwater management and flood mitigation elements of the Codorus Greenway bring critical infrastructure to a historic community threatened by climate change. York has a history of devastating storms and floods. The 1933 flood killed four people, critically damaged city infrastructure, and delivered millions of dollars worth of damage to development along the creek. In 1972, Hurricane Agnes caused flooding on the Codorus that caused \$10 million of damage in the City of York, took 3 lives, and led to the condemnation and demolition of dozens of homes in close proximity to the proposed Greenway.

Climate change is creating more volatile storms and less predictable weather patterns. The existing infrastructure along the Codorus Creek is insufficient to protect the City of York's communities from future extreme weather events. This increases the urgency to advance the Codorus Greenway project, which will result in increased capacity in stormwater retention and absorption. Flood impacts from channel widening will be mitigated by increasing flow capacity under the George Street bridge. The Codorus Greenway's emphasis on the waterway sets the stage for future flood resiliency improvements. According to the National Institute of Building Sciences, every \$1 invested in pre-disaster mitigation saves \$6 in damages. In York County, estimates from the National Risk Index estimate annual losses

from riverine flooding alone are equivalent to \$1.3 million. And even more assets are at risk - between agriculture, buildings, and other infrastructure there are \$75 Billion of York County's assets at risk of riverine flooding. An investment in the Codorus Greenway can help to prevent significant damage and asset loss.

URBAN COOLING

Average temperatures are projected to increase by 5.9 degrees by 2050, according to Pennsylvania's 2021 Climate Impact Assessment. By dramatically increasing access to green space for York residents, the Codorus Greenway provides a significant refuge for future generations subjected to a harsher climate. Trees and green spaces created as part of this project will help to lower local atmospheric temperatures. Studies have shown that trees can cool surfaces by as much as 45 degrees and are a crucial extreme heat mitigation tool.

MITIGATING YORK'S CLIMATE IMPACT

The Codorus Greenway will create an essential connection between several of York's neighborhoods and link to key destinations along the creek. The shared use trail along the Codorus will be a multimodal connection residents and visitors can utilize for transportation, and which will help shift York away from car dependency. This safe and attractive corridor will be essential to York's ability to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and encourage mode shift.

According to Pennsylvania’s 2021 Greenhouse Gas Inventory, transportation accounts for 24% of all greenhouse gas emissions¹ in the state. Based on trail counts from similar locations, this project is estimated to introduce new non-motorized transportation trips per day and reduce vehicle miles traveled on city streets.

Additional details on how the Codorus Greenway is taking an innovative approach to stormwater and water quality is included in the **Criterion: Innovation** section on page 25.

TAKING ACTION AGAINST INJUSTICE

Pennsylvania’s Department of Environmental Protection identifies York as an environmental justice community.² The communities along the Codorus Creek are primarily low-income and communities of color where the impacts of environmental injustices, including pollution and urban renewal, are observable. The Codorus Greenway includes several elements aimed at repairing these harmful conditions to create a healthier environment for residents.

¹ Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. (2021). *Pennsylvania Greenhouse Gas Inventory Report*.

² hPA Environmental Justice Areas. Department of Environmental Protection. <https://www.dep.pa.gov/443/PublicParticipation/OfficeofEnvironmentalJustice/Pages/PA-Environmental-Justice-Areas.aspx>

IMPROVING AIR QUALITY

Decreasing the number of motor vehicle trips will result in improved air quality. This project will directly impact rates of chronic respiratory illnesses and improve the health of residents along the greenway.

IMPROVING WATER QUALITY

While York has worked to reimagine its relationship with the Codorus Creek as a place for active transportation, recreation, and regeneration, the impacts of industry remain. The 278-square-mile Codorus Creek Watershed is designated as an impaired waterway by Section 303(d) of the federal Clean Water Act.³ Poor water quality has a direct negative impact on human health, including exposure to pathogens and harmful toxins, and on local wildlife systems. This project will include floodplain restoration that will act as a stormwater treatment BMP capturing an estimated 646,000 pounds of sedimentation, 13,323 pounds of nitrogen, and 1,776 pounds of phosphorous every year. These reductions will yield a significant improvement in water quality that represents nearly 16% of the county’s overall sediment reduction goals. Removing the phosphorous and nitrogen alone provides valuable ecosystems services; a recent study by the EPA allows us to estimate these services provide a benefit of approximately \$23,000 to \$75,000 each year.

³ DCNR Master Site Development Plan

CRITERION: QUALITY OF LIFE

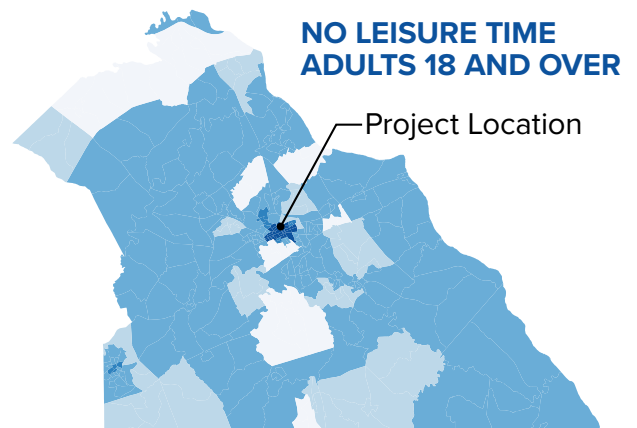
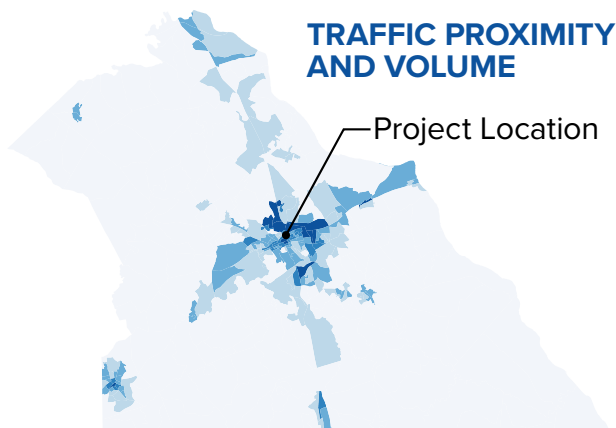
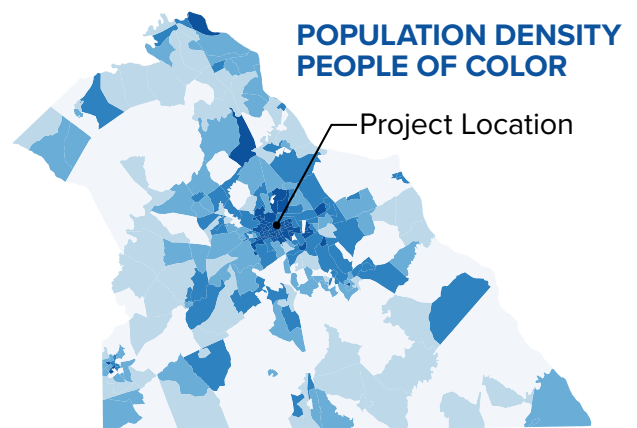
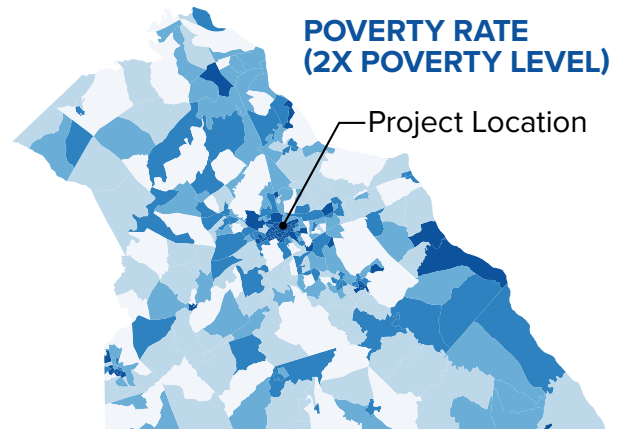


York was not built for everyone. This project is in close proximity with areas where residents have been historically marginalized and disinvested in. This project will reinvest in the area and promote healthy living by complementing several ongoing initiatives to spark revitalization and community investment along the Penn Street Corridor between York College's campus and the Penn Street Farmers Market.

HISTORIC DISINVESTMENT

The redlined areas in York were closest to the industrial areas along the Codorus Creek, which emitted harmful pollutants into the water and surrounding neighborhoods. When the factories closed down or relocated, the pollution stayed. The site of the paper mill was converted into a landfill. The land surrounding the Codorus was infilled with housing, which today feature some of the lowest income housing in the City of York.

During previous flooding events, the City of York condemned entire blocks of primarily black-owned homes, demolished the buildings, and sold the properties to white homeowners who later vacated the homes and abandoned the neighborhood during “white flight” from the City in the 1970s and 1980s. These same blocks and neighborhoods are directly adjacent to the creek and will be directly served by the Codorus Greenway, representing some of the first investment in the diverse neighborhoods since the period of historic evictions displaced entire black neighborhoods.



PRIORITIZING EQUITY

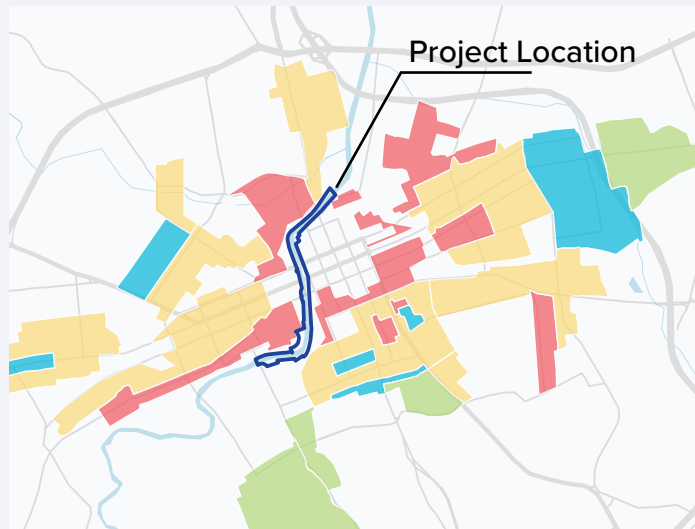
The median household income in the surrounding block groups is \$37,640, nearly half the median income for the county as a whole. The elevated burden of transportation costs for low-income households is compounded by the fact that low-income people generally have higher transportation costs. The Codorus Greenway creates much-needed affordable and safe transportation options for people living within the immediate area, and the surrounding communities who travel to the City of York for essential and recreational purposes. An estimated 18,199 people travel into the City of York for work, while only 2,379 people live and work in the city.¹ The Codorus Greenway connects to the rabbit transit transfer center via West King Street. This provides an essential transit link to jobs and fresh food, especially for households without access to a motor vehicle.

¹ U.S. Census Bureau. LEHD Origin-Destination Employment Statistics Data (2002-2019)

In addition, the project area restores public space along the waterfront and provides opportunities for development. At the southern end, the York City Housing Authority is currently refurbishing affordable housing units that will be among the primary beneficiaries of the new multi-modal connections created adjacent to the site.



York Housing Authority Development - Homes at Thackston Park II



“Best” “Still Desirable” “Definitely Declining” “Hazardous”

More often called redlining maps, this map reflects where lenders considered valuable land to be. The areas near the Codorus were dominated by industrial land uses, and the surrounding neighborhoods were given the lowest rating: “Hazardous”. Typically these low-rated areas were the only places where Black and immigrant families could secure financing. Researchers today demonstrate that formerly redlined areas continue to see disinvestment. The Codorus Greenway actively reinvests in underserved neighborhoods.



To provide a key north-south connection to major destinations, to create a trail that would serve non-motorized travelers of all ages and abilities, and to provide an affordable transportation option and link to city and regional transit.

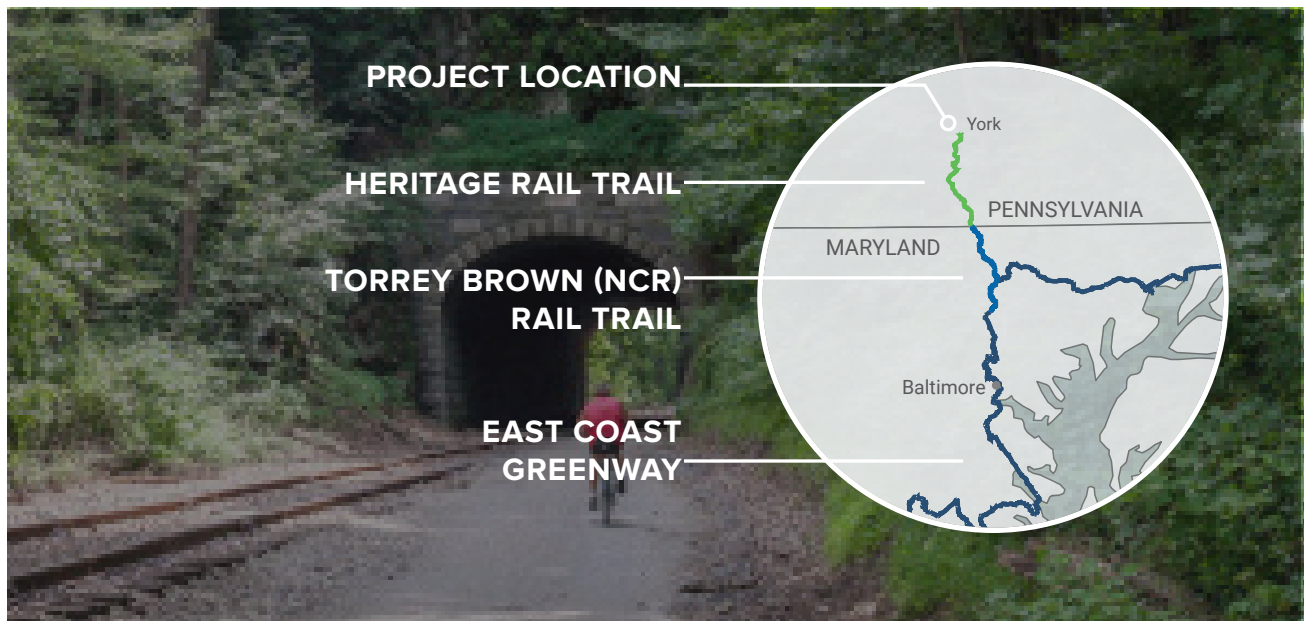
CONNECTION TO THE HERITAGE RAIL TRAIL

The Heritage Rail Trail is a unique and beloved asset for the region, with 21 miles of off-road shared use path connecting York County to Baltimore and the East Coast Greenway. The route includes a Northern Extension, which connects the northern edge of York City to Central York High School and the popular John C. Rudy County Park. The Codorus Greenway will provide a crucial connection for neighborhoods in the City of York to be able to easily access the Heritage Rail Trail network. This improvement is critical for York’s most marginalized communities, where access to a car is less common.

THE IMPACT OF ACTIVE TRANSPORTATION FACILITIES

While walking and bicycling are common outlets for exercise and recreation, many Yorkers use walking and biking as their primary means of transportation out of necessity. In the census block groups surrounding the project boundaries, 29% of people do not have access to a motor vehicle. Implementation of the Codorus Greenway will create a new safe, attractive route for residents who need it most. At King Street, the Greenway will connect to a planned two-directional cycle path along more than one mile of King Street that will serve as a major east-west artery for cyclists, who will be able to seamlessly connect to the Greenway.

Map 3. Regional Trail Connections with the Codorus Greenway



IMPROVING LIVABILITY FOR ALL AGES AND ABILITIES

The Codorus Greenway will create a separated facility along the creek, with bike and pedestrian facilities separated from motor vehicle traffic. This will significantly benefit children and elderly people, along with people with disabilities, by creating an accessible and comfortable place to travel. Low-stress facilities are much more impactful for inducing mode shift and increasing the number of people who feel comfortable cycling .

York County has prioritized investments that would improve livability for older adults. York County is a member of the AARP's Livable Communities age-friendly network. Increasing the ability of York County's residents to age in place through the trail improvements in York County is a major goal within York County's Age Friendly Action Plan.

OVER 20 YEARS...



The motor vehicle trip replacement factor for all active mode trips is **0.36**, meaning we can expect new bike and pedestrian facilities to **replace 36% of car trips.**



The Codorus will **replace 1,396,900 total vehicle miles** and provide **\$11,740,000 in health benefits** related to increased physical activity.

INTEGRATION WITH EXISTING AND PROPOSED SYSTEMS

The local transit system, rabbittransit, serves York City and County. The Codorus Greenway connects people living west of Codorus Creek to the transit center. The project will support the York County existing and proposed bicycle network. The Codorus Greenway complements rabbittransit's Downtown Transfer Center current renovation project to improve ADA accessibility, safety and security and a greater roof clearance to accommodate CNG bus height. [The transfer center renovation is a partially funded USDOT project.](#)



Codorus Greenway will provide a key connection for residents to the downtown Transfer Center in York.

CRITERION: ECONOMIC COMPETITIVENESS + OPPORTUNITY



The grant applicant, and key project advocate, is the YCEA. Their mission includes investing in economic growth in York County. Notably, the York County Economic Action Plan, which serves as the economic development of the county's comprehensive plan, identifies completion of the Codorus Greenway as a countywide priority project because of its significant economic implications for the City of York and the rest of the county.

JOB OPPORTUNITIES AND ACCESSIBILITY

Currently, inconsistent pedestrian facilities and roadway crossing treatments, combined with auto-centric roadways, cause barriers to safe travel for those who do not own a vehicle, including many lower-income residents of west York. As a smaller urban area surrounded by a large and low-density county, transit options are limited for a lot of Yorkers who face inconvenient and inconsistent transportation services. This project will invest in multimodal connections to help strengthen the local economy and improve commutes across York. The project area is adjacent to major destinations and employment centers including York College, downtown dining and shopping areas, the YMCA, and grocery stores. This project will provide facilities to make trips more accessible, safe, and comfortable for active transportation users.

INVESTING IN THE WATERFRONT

The City of York is committed to utilizing the Codorus Creek as an asset to increase the city's economic draw by orienting new development and directly connecting people with the unique waterway. This includes the development of the York Plan 2.0 Innovation District, a brownfield site slated for development as a future robotics facility, York College's Knowledge Park, and at least

\$150 million in other development along the Codorus Innovation Corridor linked by the Codorus Creek. The project corridor also intersects with two federal opportunity zones, a designation the YCEA is using to leverage investment in real estate and operating businesses. The Codorus Greenway will tap into a proven method of improving business development for entities looking for attractive places to site their companies and find quality employees.

This project contributes to the York county Economic Action Plan's goal to enhance York County's sense of place. This goal will increase tourism spending, business patronage, and event attendance. The Codorus Greenway is a major project within the YCEA's Trail Town Program, which connects seven towns in York County along the Heritage Rail Trail and other regions trails and promotes economic development between the towns. The Trail Town Program is supported by the Bloom Empowerment Center, which provides grants to eligible businesses and nonprofits in any of the York County Trail Towns, including York City. The Bloom Empowerment Center focuses on historically disadvantaged businesses providing services to trail users or otherwise leveraging the trail, creek, and greenway.

SUPPORTING NEW BUSINESSES ALONG THE CODORUS



York College Knowledge Park



*The York History Center:
opening in 2023*



*J.D. Brown Center for
Entrepreneurship*

CREATE OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL RESIDENTS

Across York County, there are disparities when it comes to employment rates and wages among white, African American, and Hispanic residents. Though there are roughly the same number of people working or looking for work (Labor Force Participation) across race and ethnicity in York County and the City of York, unemployment rates for African American and Hispanic residents are much higher than for white residents in all geographies.

The YCEA has aligned its work on the Codorus Greenway and other major development projects with its leadership of the Pathways to Prosperity workforce development coalition. YCEA leads this collaborative effort of more than 40 workforce development providers

and partners to address inequities in the current talent pipeline. These include a special emphasis on overcoming barriers to workforce participation, including childcare and access to transportation. In the last three years, YCEA has worked directly with the Federal Reserve Bank of Philadelphia to document transportation inequities in York County and how they prevent workforce participation. We envision the Codorus Greenway to help address the inequities. YCEA also plans and leads multiple week courses for DBEs to prepare them to participate in public bids for construction contracts and other development opportunities, and we have empowered several new DBEs to launch or expand businesses to benefit from publicly-funded projects, such as the Codorus Greenway

CRITERION: STATE OF GOOD REPAIR



The Codorus Greenway provides a beautiful and vegetated flood channel without impairing the existing flood protection capacity. Innovations in green infrastructure will decrease maintenance costs. Replacing car trips with bicycle and walking will alleviate road wear and tear.

ALLEVIATING ROAD WEAR AND TEAR

The proposed improvements will induce a mode shift that will ultimately result in reduced vehicle miles traveled (VMT) and overall congestion. The expected decrease of VMT will reduce roadway maintenance costs.



THE PA DEPARTMENT OF
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
ESTIMATES AN
8% increase
IN PRECIPITATION BY 2050

REPLACING AGING INFRASTRUCTURE

The Codorus Greenway project area is located entirely within the USACE flood protection channel. The Codorus Greenway proposes a modification of the USACE flood protection project as originally designed in the late 1930s. With the changing climate, the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection estimates an 8% increase in precipitation by 2050, primarily in the form of more frequent heavy and extreme rainfall events. This reinforces the need for reliable stormwater infrastructure and flood mitigation efforts, such as the ones demonstrated in this project.

ENVIRONMENTAL STEWARDSHIP

The Codorus Greenway will return land from a contaminated state to one that supports a functioning and sustainable habitat. Stream cleanup and restoration efforts will include stabilization techniques using a combination of live or dormant plant materials in conjunction with other materials such as rocks, logs, brush, geotextiles, and natural fabrics. Once cleanup is complete, YCEA will ensure that operation and maintenance activities are implemented through responsible stewardship.

MAINTENANCE

The YCEA will oversee design, construction, and maintenance. Currently, the USACE maintains the levee system throughout the project study area, although they will not provide maintenance for new elements of the project (such as channel widening). To ease the pressure from city departments, the site master plan recommends the formation of a new entity to oversee maintenance and may ultimately reduce ongoing maintenance costs for the USACE.

The Codorus Greenway will provide stormwater benefits that could actually reduce long-term maintenance costs.

CRITERION: PARTNERSHIP + COLLABORATION



This transformative project for York has been long supported by elected officials, professionals, stakeholders, and the public.

COMMUNITY SUPPORT

YCEA's approach to public engagement has focused on bringing the community together to develop a collaborative and inclusive vision surrounding the Codorus Greenway. These efforts helped merge the century-old greenway concept with the current needs of the community, to develop a project designed to effectively serve the communities along the corridor.

Outreach regarding the Codorus Greenway over the past five years included:

- ▶ Multiple large public events, including open houses and charrettes, at churches, neighborhood centers, and other gathering spaces throughout the community
- ▶ Dozens of stakeholder meetings, which included representatives from community groups, industry, landowners, government agencies, and more
- ▶ Five committee meetings to guide outreach and ensure everyone interested in the Codorus Greenway project was able to be heard
- ▶ Significant public relations campaigns to share updates and social media engagement to solicit public comments and facilitate dialogue virtually

The Codorus Greenway master plan team acted with care to ensure people from traditionally underserved groups were heard from. Public events were advertised in both English and Spanish. The project team held a community meeting at the Shiloh Baptist Church, which has a long tradition of social activism and community awareness. One of the livestream events partnered with a community group called The Movement of York, who promote economic equality in York City. At each event, bilingual YCEA staff were on hand to offer translation services.

While generating excitement and support across the community, this level of community outreach also resulted in the development of a thorough community-based plan. By bringing York together to collaborate on a vision and goals for the Codorus Greenway, these efforts also produced a sense of ownership and buy-in. This approach to engagement helped the project gain the support of Pennsylvania Governor Tom Wolf and several state and local representatives, who understand how important the Codorus Greenway is for improving transportation equity in the City of York.

KEY STAKEHOLDERS

Stakeholders have been supportive and have played a critical role in pushing forward the project, as well as providing implementation support by working with the project team to address and minimize adverse impacts. In addition to local stakeholders, elected officials across local and state governments have lent their support.

- ▶ City of York General Authority
- ▶ York County Planning Commission
- ▶ York County History Center
- ▶ City of York administration, Mayor and Council
- ▶ York County Commissioners
- ▶ Redevelopment Authority of the County of York
- ▶ York Redevelopment Authority
- ▶ York College of Pennsylvania
- ▶ York City School District
- ▶ rabbittransit
- ▶ Conewago Canoe Club
- ▶ Housing Authority of York
- ▶ York County Community Foundation
- ▶ The Women’s Giving Circle
- ▶ Logos Academy
- ▶ Watershed Alliance of York
- ▶ Better York
- ▶ U.S. Senator Bob Casey
- ▶ PA Department of Conservation and Natural Resources
- ▶ PA Department of Transportation
- ▶ PA Department of Community & Economic Development
- ▶ PA Department of Environmental Protection
- ▶ PA Representative Carol Hill-Evans (95th)
- ▶ U.S. Congressman Scott Perry (10th)





CRITERION: INNOVATION

YCEA is uniquely successful at building consensus through public-private partnerships, with dozens of projects delivered in the last 15 years amounting to more than \$250 million in total project costs. For the Codorus Greenway, their close collaboration with the USACE fuels the innovative green infrastructure improvements this project proposes.

INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES

This project includes green infrastructure strategies that extend beyond what is typically found in trail projects. The Codorus Greenway will restore the vegetated channel terrace and wetlands as part of a restored streambank and more natural-looking flood control structures.

INNOVATIVE PROJECT DELIVERY

The Codorus Greenway exemplifies the strong public-private collaboration that makes this project unique. This grant, along with previous planning efforts, brings together an impressive number of local, regional, and state partners. This includes the City of York, the regional planning commission, local businesses, the USACE, and elected officials. In particular, the YCEA stands out as a uniquely effective nonprofit development agency particularly for the size and rural character of York County.

INNOVATIVE FINANCING

The YCEA has already secured approximately \$25 million in match funding for the Codorus Greenway. Future funding for maintenance could include a private capital campaign, a small sales tax or improvement district so that the residents and businesses directly benefiting from the creek would fund its ongoing maintenance and improvement. Endowment growth for the maintenance entity may be supported by charitable donations commemorated with plantings, benches, pavers, and similar items. Other funding sources may include advertisements, naming rights, facility rentals (canoe/kayak), and programming revenue (annual events). YCEA is also exploring green impact bonds and other outcome-based financing that would monetize the stormwater improvements the project offers to fund its future maintenance.

