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PENNSYLVANIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISORS

news release

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Regional Trail Plan Receives Association's Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Award

Pine and Marshall townships and Bradford Woods Borough in Allegheny County and Adams, Cranberry, and Jackson townships in Butler County received the Excellence in Intergovernmental Cooperation Award during the 96th Annual Educational Conference and Exhibit Show of the Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors (PSATS), held April 22-25, 2018, in Hershey. The award is cosponsored by PSATS and the Pennsylvania Association of Councils of Governments (PACOG). The conference attracted attendees from every county in Pennsylvania except Philadelphia, which has no townships.

The association established this award to honor communities that are working together to find creative ways to complete projects and provide services more efficiently and cost-effectively.

The townships were honored for forming a task force to work together on connecting the various trails, sidewalks, parks, and recreational amenities in the individual communities. After working for years on their own trails, the five townships, along with Bradford Woods Borough in

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Allegheny County, decided to coordinate efforts and plan a regional trail network where none currently exists.

The new, multimunicipal and inter-county trail will be called the Commodore Perry Regional Trail, named after the north-south paralleling corridor Perry Highway (Rt. 19), which in turn is named for 18th-century naval officer Commander Oliver Hazard Perry.

“The trail route highlights the existing sidewalk and trails of the participating municipalities and the links needed to create a regional trail network,” Larry Kurpakus, Pine Township director of code administration and land development, says. “When completed, the trail will be more than 50 miles long and serve as a spine for ancillary sidewalks, trails, and bikeways. The project will use existing infrastructure as much as possible to accelerate the trail’s development in a smart and efficient manner.”

The completed trail will connect five municipal parks, as well as commercial districts and regionally significant recreational amenities, including Brush Creek, the Rachel Carson Trail, and Allegheny County’s North Park and its 3,000 acres of open space.

The long-range plan for the trail includes a secondary network of shorter paths to allow additional neighborhoods and commercial areas to connect to the trail network.

All six of the municipalities adopted the Commodore Perry Regional Trail Plan in 2017, and several of the communities have begun work on some of the trail sections.

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The Pennsylvania State Association of Township Supervisors represents Pennsylvania’s 1,454 townships of the second class and is committed to preserving and strengthening township government and securing greater visibility and involvement for townships in the state and federal political arenas. Townships of the second class cover 95 percent of Pennsylvania’s land mass and

represent more residents — 5.5 million — than any other type of political subdivision in the commonwealth.