

**TOWPATH TRAIL EXTENSION  
MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING**

Prepared by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made by and between the:

Board of Commissioners, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, hereinafter referred to as the “County;”

City of Cleveland, hereinafter referred to as the “City;”

Cleveland Metroparks, hereinafter referred to as “CMP;”

Cuyahoga County Engineer, hereinafter referred to as the “Engineer;”

Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, hereinafter referred to as “CPC;”

National Park Service, hereinafter referred to as “NPS;”

Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency, hereinafter referred to as “NOACA;”

Ohio Canal Corridor, hereinafter referred to as “OCC;” and

Ohio Department of Transportation, hereinafter referred to as “ODOT.”

**PROJECT SCOPE**

This MOU establishes an ad hoc Towpath Trail Partnership Committee, hereinafter referred to as “Committee,” which will be responsible for implementing the following:

1. Securing right-of-way and completing engineering and construction of the final +/- six miles of the Towpath Trail in Cuyahoga County, hereinafter referred to as the “Towpath;”
2. Completing activities related directly to the completion of the Towpath, including design/construction of trailheads, interpretive exhibits, right-of-way improvements, and environmental remediation/regeneration work; and
3. Securing necessary funding to complete the Towpath Trail and the related activities described in item 2 above; and
4. Upon completion of the Towpath, developing neighborhood connectors, as needed, to serve the neighborhoods west and east of the Cuyahoga River Valley, as well as the central business district and its environs, including the lakefront.

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43 **OTHER PARTNERS**

44 The partners represented on the Committee are committed to involving a wide range of additional  
45 public, private, and nonprofit partners in this project, such as but not limited to, property owners,  
46 business owners, and community development corporations.  
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50 **BACKGROUND**

51 The Towpath is the most important regional trail project to be completed in Cuyahoga County. The  
52 approximate fifteen miles of Towpath completed to date in Cuyahoga County are part of the 101-mile  
53 trail spine being constructed the length of Ohio & Erie National Heritage Canalway. The 101-miles  
54 of trail in the Canalway are part of the 460-mile Ohio to Erie Trail, which will connect Cincinnati,  
55 Columbus, and Cleveland.  
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57 The +/- six miles of the Towpath that is the subject of this MOU represents the final uncompleted  
58 section of the Towpath in Cuyahoga County.  
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60 The working guide for implementation shall be the *Towpath Trail Extension: Alignment & Design*  
61 *Study*, published in 2002 by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission, and incorporated herein by  
62 reference. This document was adopted by the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission on March 14,  
63 2002 and adopted by the Cleveland City Planning Commission on June 21, 2002.  
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65 The Committee partners were involved as a Steering Committee for the development of the *Towpath*  
66 *Trail Extension: Alignment & Design Study*.  
67

68 The Committee partners agree that of the two long-term routes shown in the *Alignment & Design*  
69 *Study* that will be implemented in the vicinity of properties owned by International Steel Group, Inc.  
70 (ISG), the first route to be implemented will be chosen based on land availability and through  
71 discussions with ISG and any subsequent property owners and developers.  
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73 The Towpath Trail Partnership Committee also agrees that of the three long-term routes shown in the  
74 *Alignment & Design Study* that will be implemented in the Flats area, the first route to be  
75 implemented will be the one utilizing the Scranton Peninsula.  
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79 **ROLES**

80 It is anticipated that the Committee partners will be involved in all phases of project implementation,  
81 such as design and securing project funding. In addition, all partners are expected to carry out their  
82 responsibilities in a timely manner. Primary responsibilities however, will be as follows:  
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***Board of Commissioners, Cuyahoga County, Ohio***

The County will make available land it owns or controls that is needed for the Towpath and the associated “ribbon” of land, and remain as the owner of record. The County may become the owner of record of other land for the Towpath and the associated “ribbon” of land, if necessary.

***City of Cleveland***

The City of Cleveland will generally be the owner of record for the land occupied by the Towpath and the associated “ribbon” of land. Exceptions to City ownership would involve land controlled or owned by the County, or land obtained by the County for the Towpath and the associated “ribbon” of land.

The City will make available existing public rights-of-way which are necessary for the project.

The City will make available land it owns or controls that is needed for the Towpath and the associated “ribbon” of land, and remain as the owner of record. The City may become the owner of record of other land for the Towpath and the associated “ribbon” of land.

The City will coordinate improvements to public rights-of-way that are directly related to the implementation of the project.

The City will manage in-house legislative or administrative approvals needed for the project, subject to authorization by Cleveland City Council of expenditures exceeding \$10,000.00.

The City will prioritize completion of neighborhood connectors.

Future land use and alignment changes are subject to approval and adoption by the City.

***Cleveland Metroparks***

CMP will provide day-to-day management after completion of the Towpath (i.e. maintenance, safety and security, interpretive services, etc.), subject to the terms and conditions of a lease or other written agreement to be approved by the Board and in accordance with the Ohio Revised Code.

***Cuyahoga County Engineer***

The Engineer will be responsible for managing the preparation of the plans and specifications of the project, environmental documentation, other design aspects, and construction.

The Engineer will provide assistance in property acquisition, if needed.

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127 ***Cuyahoga County Planning Commission***  
128 CPC will provide coordination and technical assistance functions for the Towpath.  
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131 ***National Park Service***  
132 NPS will provide technical assistance as requested.

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134 Cuyahoga Valley National Park will provide staff and programming support for future visitor  
135 services, subject to the availability of funds.  
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138 ***Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency***  
139 As the Metropolitan Planning Organization (MPO), NOACA will:

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141 Participate in the planning for the Towpath project;  
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143 Work with the sponsor, the Cuyahoga County Engineer, to advance the project to the region's  
144 Transportation Plan, consistent with Plan goals and objectives. This will be accomplished  
145 through Project Planning Review (PRR), which includes NOACA committee review, public  
146 involvement, intergovernmental review, and staff assessment;  
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148 When appropriate, program the project on the region's Transportation Improvement Program  
149 (TIP); and  
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151 When appropriate, prioritize the project for federal funding.  
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154 ***Ohio Canal Corridor, Inc.***  
155 OCC will provide staff to serve the Committee.  
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157 OCC will coordinate public outreach functions during the project implementation.  
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159 OCC will monitor and coordinate fund development strategies for the Towpath.  
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161 OCC will help in appropriate land donations, easements, and land acquisitions when necessary.  
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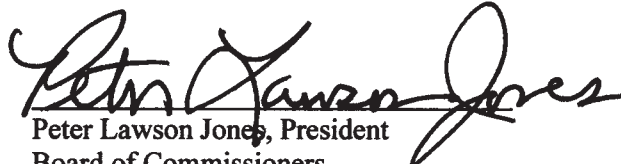
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164 ***Ohio Department of Transportation***  
165 ODOT will coordinate ODOT-sponsored projects with the Towpath project.  
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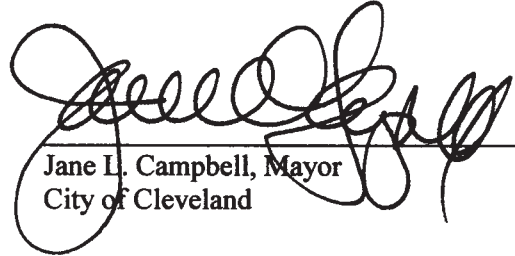
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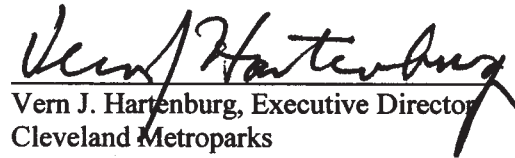
169 **SIGNATURES**  
170 The Towpath Trail Partnership Committee represented in this MOU hereto offer their signatures on  
171 this 16th day of October, 2004.


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Peter Lawson Jones, President  
Board of Commissioners,  
Cuyahoga County, Ohio

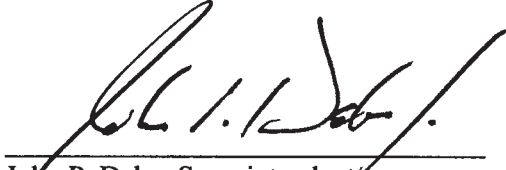
  
Jane L. Campbell, Mayor  
City of Cleveland


  
Christopher Ronayne, Director  
Cleveland City Planning Commission


  
Vern J. Hartenburg, Executive Director  
Cleveland Metroparks

  
Robert C. Klaiber, Jr. P.E., P.S.  
Cuyahoga County Engineer

  
Paul A. Alsenas, Director  
Cuyahoga County Planning Commission

  
John P. Debo, Superintendent  
NPS - Cuyahoga Valley National Park

  
Howard R. Maier, Executive Director  
Northeast Ohio Areawide Coordinating Agency

  
Lawrence Slenczka, Chairman  
Ohio Canal Corridor, Inc.

  
Tim Donovan, Executive Director  
Ohio Canal Corridor, Inc.

  
David J. Coyle, Deputy Director  
Ohio Department of Transportation - Region 12