

Cyclists' safety at heart of Sewickley discussion

By TOM MCGEE (tmcgee@tribweb.com) Tribe LIVE

June 30, 2015 SEWICKLEY, PA — Sewickley leaders, and those from neighboring communities, are being asked for feedback on an initial proposal to improve safety for bicyclists.

John Orndorff of the Ohio River Trail Council updated Sewickley officials at its June meeting on efforts to create a bicycle route that would include the borough. Neighboring communities, including Glen Osborne, Edgeworth and Leetsdale, would be included along the route. Findlay-based Mackin Engineering Co. is working on an engineering study to find the best options.

Included in the proposal are suggestions for narrower lanes to slow traffic, making room for bicycles, and signs along the residential parts of Beaver Road. Orndorff said the proposal will aim to improve safety for the entire area.

“This is a community where people are walking and shopping and living,” Orndorff said.

In the Sewickley business district along Beaver Street, pavement markings would be placed to show the direction cyclists are expected to travel.

Jennifer Markus, president of Explore Sewickley — a nonprofit that works with local businesses — said efforts to keep bicyclists on the streets would be welcome.

“We need to do something about that because people ride on the sidewalks all the time,” Markus said.

The initial proposal included narrowing lanes on Beaver Street from 12 feet to 11 feet. The speed limit in that area, 25 mph, would stay the same.

“When you narrow the lane slightly, motorists tend to slow down,” Orndorff said.

He said the council is working to secure grant money to pay for anything related to the trail. He said Sewickley should provide feedback on what residents and officials would like to have included in the final proposal within the next month.

“If you want to have it, we're going to do our best to find the money,” Orndorff said.

Source: <http://triblive.com/neighborhoods/yoursewickley/yoursewickleymore/8585947-74/sewickley-orndorff-proposal#ixzz3IM251Gia>