

Comments to Metro RTA's Planning/Marketing/Rail Committee

03/17/21

Good morning and Happy St. Patrick's Day! You may notice that my wife reminded to wear my green shirt today.

My name is Ron Brubaker. I live at 7593 Partridge Meadows Drive East, Hudson, Ohio, 44236-1360. I am with TASCforce, LLC, the organization that is advocating for the Veterans Trail to be built on Metro's Akron Secondary Line. I would like to give you a brief report on our activities since December of last year when the local papers carried an article about a small, start-up company wanting to reactivate this rail line.

Since then, we have:

1. Met with reporters from the local newspapers **and** the Hudson Life magazine and gotten articles published explaining the reasons why we oppose the rail activation.
2. Given presentations to the city councils of Hudson, Stow, Silver Lake, Cuyahoga Falls, and Akron discussing the reasons for opposing rail service and asking them to submit letters supporting the trail. To date Hudson, Stow, and Silver Lake have done so.
3. Met with Cuyahoga Falls Parks and Engineering Departments to encourage them to request TASA funding for a beautiful one-mile section of the trail that crosses and follows the Cuyahoga River. We have been told that they are pursuing that.
4. Given presentations to the Rotary Club and the Lifelong Adult Ministry group at St Mary's Church - both in Hudson. We are scheduled to present to the Stow/Munroe Falls Rotary Club on April 7th. And we have requested opportunities to speak at upcoming meetings of the Northhampton-Cuyahoga, Cuyahoga Falls and Akron Rotary Clubs.
5. Perhaps as a result of our advocacy, Stow City Council on March 11th passed a resolution formally declaring their support for the trail. It was sponsored by Councilman Mario Fiocca and passed 7 to 0.
6. And on Monday March 15th, the Weeping Willow Homeowners Association in Hudson submitted a letter supporting the trail and opposing rail service.

In our experience through these activities, any discussion of the trail proposal is always met with an overwhelmingly positive response and with much excitement.

Back in December and January, we were hearing that Metro RTA was **committed** to the trail and **not** considering rail reactivation. Later we were told it **was** being considered. So our main concern is, when will Metro RTA make a final commitment to the trail and what is the timeline for next steps toward making the trail a reality?