Comments Requested for Proposed Multi-Use Trail Project in Chippewa Township WAY Heartland Trail Phase 4B (ODOT PID 125128)

Wayne County (October 14, 2026): The Wayne County Engineer's Office, in coordination with the Ohio Department of Transportation (ODOT), has proposed the construction of a 10-foot-wide multi-use trail from Coal Bank Road to Warwick Road in Chippewa Township. The project will include trailhead parking at Black Diamond Road and roadway safety improvements along Warwick Road to improve sight distance.

During construction, Warwick Road will be closed to through traffic for approximately 45 days with a likely detour route along Black Diamond Road, Fulton Road, and Fraze Road. Minor work will be performed along Coal Bank Road and Black Diamond Road with possible short-term lane closures. This section of the Heartland Trail (between Coal Bank Road and Warwick Road) will be closed to the public for the duration of construction activities. Access to all nearby properties will be maintained during all phases and signage will be posted to communicate detour routes.

Additional permanent and temporary right-of-way may be required for the safety improvements on Warwick Road. If right-of-way acquisition is necessary from your property, a real estate representative will contact you directly at a later date to discuss right-of-way needs, the acquisition process, and your rights under that process. Utility conflicts will be minimized but may be required due to grading. Utility impacts will be coordinated with providers prior to construction. Construction is estimated to begin in March of 2028 and is expected to be completed in August of 2028.

Environmental impacts are expected. It is anticipated that impacts to suitable wooded bat habitat may occur; however, any necessary tree removal will occur between October 1 and March 31 to protect these species during their summer roosting period. Impacts to waterways are also likely, and necessary waterway permitting will be obtained prior to construction. No other significant environmental impacts are anticipated.

We wish to inform you regarding this project, and we welcome your comments regarding social, environmental, and economic impacts. Comments can be submitted by mail, email, and by phone using the information below.

Scott A. Miller, P.E., P.S., Wayne County Engineer
Email: sam@wayne-county-engineer.com
Phone: (330) 641-8405
Mail: 3151 West Old Lincoln Way, Wooster, OH 44691

Comments should be submitted by **November 14, 2026**, to be documented in the public input summary report.