



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

Appleton We Energies Trail Phase 1  
Project ID 4984-01-80/81

### **1. What is the scope of the project?**

The City of Appleton and the Wisconsin Department of Transportation (WisDOT) are proposing to construct a multi-use asphalt trail with related site improvements within City right-of-way and a We Energies Corridor in Appleton. The project will also include the installation of signage and roadway crossing improvements. Wayfinding signage and on-road bicycle accommodations will also be included in the project.

### **2. What are the project limits?**

There are on-road and off-road segments of trail within the project.

- The off-road segments include the following (1.3 miles):
  - Within the We Energies corridor from S. wheatfield Drive to S. Schaefer St.
  - Replacing the existing 5' sidewalk with a 10' pathway on the east side of S. Schaefer Street.
  - Through a city-owned property at the eastern end of Schaefer Circle
  - Follows existing shared-use path to the south to the intersection with E Plank Road
- The on-road bicycle segments (with sidewalk) include the following:
  - S Oneida Street to E Roeland Avenue to S. Wheatfield Dr.
  - S. Schaefer St. Schaefer Circle intersection east to existing to City parcel as noted above
  - Lake Park Road – E Plank Road- to Bus Stop 2097

### **3. How wide is the We Energies Corridor?**

The We Energies Corridor is 100' wide.

### **4. What is meant by multi-modal or shared use trail? Are ATVs/UTVs and snowmobiles allowed?**

This would be a non-motorized trail with bicyclists, pedestrians, etc. No motorized vehicles except maintenance vehicles would be allowed. E-bikes and scooters will be allowed in accordance with City of Appleton Park Policy.

### **5. What is the timeline for the project?**

The project is currently in concept design. With the current timeline, bidding the project would be anticipated to occur in winter 2023-2024, with construction beginning in the spring of 2024 and completion late summer.

### **6. What is the anticipated cost of construction and how is it funded?**

The construction cost is estimated at \$1.03 million. Planned funding includes a WisDOT grant of \$516,292, and City and private funding of \$516,138 is currently planned.

### **7. What regional connectivity does this trail offer?**

The trail connects to north-south bike corridors within the City of Appleton at the west end of the project at Oneida Street and on the east end of the project at Lake Park Rd. Future expansion of the trail to the east will provide connections to established trails in the Village of Harrison and a future connection to High Cliff State Park.



**8. Why do we need more trails since we have plenty of sidewalks in this area? Why construct this trail in this location? It is not scenic and includes utility poles and people's backyards.**

Although sidewalks provide for pedestrians, they do not provide an off-road facility for bicyclists. Off-road trails provide a safe facility that is separated from automobiles for users of all abilities – in walking, running, biking, etc.

For just this section, the trail will provide a safe-of-road facility with direct access to the nearby school and park along with various other nearby community destinations.

The trail will offer opportunities for additional travel for those without automobiles to more directly access various community destinations. It will also allow for reduction in automobile emissions and reduction in Single Occupancy Vehicle Use.

**9. Will the construction of the trail cause drainage patterns to shift and introduce more water into my backyard?**

The trail project **will not** introduce additional water to adjacent properties. Swales and other stormwater devices will ensure that the pathway does not negatively impact stormwater and can potentially reduce some existing ponding. Through preliminary discussions with some adjacent neighbors that have reached out, specific areas have been reviewed in greater detail and will be addressed as part of the pathway project. We encourage you to contact the project team with specific location-based concerns.

Related, formal geotechnical investigations, data gathered in preliminary site visits, and information passed on from adjacent residents & We Energies will all be considered in the final pavement structure and layout that is developed for the trail .

Please note that the project will not be re-grading the entire corridor and grading cannot extend onto adjacent properties.

**10. I am concerned about people being behind my backyard within the We Energies corridor.**

Many adjacent residents have noted that people are already utilizing the corridor unofficially. By formally building a trail, it provides the following:

- a safe, accessible off-road facility for citizens to connect with various Points of Interest (POIs) that are directly adjacent to the corridor.
- more eyes are on the corridor, thereby reducing negative behaviors that adjacent residents have expressed concern over currently happening.

The We Energies (formerly Wisconsin Michigan Company Power Company) corridor was developed in 1962. Residents are welcome to place additional screening or fencing on their property.

The City is reviewing potential limited pollinator plantings for habitat that could double for separation in some areas (and also could help with drainage). If you are interested in learning more, please contact us.



**11. Will the project include pathway lighting?**

No, this is not allowable per We Energies license use.

**12. Who will be maintaining the corridor?**

The City of Appleton will be maintaining the corridor.

**13. I am concerned about increased crime based on the addition of the trail and some of the housing in the area.**

The City of Appleton Police department conducted a very specific investigation into this when this was expressed as a concern. The overall crime rate in this specific corridor is consistent with the Southern district as a whole. The police department noted that this appears to be a perception.

**14. I have a dog who currently uses the We Energies corridor as an extension of my backyard. With the construction of the trail and more people in the corridor, there is potential that my dog would then run after them and bark.**

Residents are expected to follow City ordinance and pets are to stay within personal property. It is at the discretion of the property owner as to how this is accomplished—with training, on lead, or within fenced in property.

**15. I am concerned for safety/liability within this corridor. What happens if a person climbs a We Energies tower and gets hurt? Who is responsible for that?**

Climbing a We Energies pole or ATC tower is illegal and currently signed very specifically as well. The current corridor has these signs posted as well. We Energies has allowed trails within their corridors throughout the state and they have not encountered issues with this. If someone were to climb it and get hurt, that liability would be on the climber.

**16. The corridor shows multiple roadway crossings mid-block. I am concerned for safety of these as there are no crosswalks or signage.**

The project will include formal crossings and trail and roadway signage with appropriate advance warning as well. The City of Appleton traffic department will be involved in reviewing all plans. Mid-block crossings are used effectively in other parts of the city on low- traffic, residential roadways similar to the proposed corridor.

**17. If I have specific questions on the project that are unanswered at the meeting or the FAQs, who do I contact?**

You can contact Tom Flick at the City of Appleton or Lynda Fink at KL Engineering.

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