EXECUTIVE SUMMARY
A vision to enhance and connect Akron's Towpath Trail

The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail is a world-class recreational resource and it is the centerpiece of the Towpath Trail. The Towpath Trail follows the historic route of the Ohio & Erie Canal, from shores of Lake Erie in downtown Cleveland, through the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, to the rural landscape of New Philadelphia, Ohio. Akron and Summit County were the first city and county in Ohio to complete the entire length of the Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail.

The Alta Planning + Design team was hired to evaluate existing conditions and identify opportunities to enhance the Towpath Trail and develop safe on-road connections. The iTowpath Community Engagement Project examined how individuals and families currently utilize the Towpath Trail and how they want to use the Towpath Trail in the future.

Through consultation with the City of Akron, Summit County, Summit Metro Parks, and many community partners, the iTowpath Community Engagement Project is working towards creating a diverse and inclusive Towpath Trail that enhances the city’s economic development, stimulates community and economic development, and creates a legacy for future generations.

ACCESS & ACTIVATION ANALYSIS

VISION: The Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail attracts and retains young professionals and talent who use active transportation alternatives, provides a key spine linking Akron’s recreational and entertainment destinations, and stimulates community and economic development including restaurants, shopping and lodging.

ENHANCING THE TOWPATH THROUGH DESIGN

MISSION

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ACCESS

ASSETS

Identify destinations and community assets

Quaker And Ash
A mural and an arch provide an attractive gateway to the Towpath Trail

Underpasses
Trail underpasses can become more inviting through paint and improved lighting

Akkron Zoo Connector
Onroute bike facilities on Bartges St can connect the zoo to the Towpath Trail

ACTIVATE

Highlight public access along the Towpath Trail

Wayfinding
Wayfinding concept to help people walking and biking navigate the Towpath Trail

CONNECT

Connect community destinations to the trail

http://facebook.com/OhioErieCanal
@towpathtrail, instagram.com/towpathtrail/
The TOWPATH Community Engagement Project identifies opportunities to enhance, activate and connect the popular Ohio & Erie Canal Towpath Trail to community assets like the Akron Art Museum and Akron Zoo and neighborhoods like Highland Square, North Hill and the University of Akron. The Executive Summary includes a sample of proposed projects that are the result of the feedback and contributions of residents of Akron and Towpath Trail users. The TOWPATH map is a conceptual plan that is designed to inspire new ideas about how to enhance and activate the Towpath Trail and identify community connections to neighborhoods and local attractions.

Working in partnership with the City of Akron, Downtown Akron Partnership, Summit Metro Parks, Summit County Government, AMATS, Summit Metro and our community partners, we shall make Akron a destination for young professionals and talent, stimulate community and economic development and create a legacy for future generations.

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

**Community Connections**

**Freedom Trail**

**Study Area**

**TOWPATH Community Engagement Project**

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