



Pittsburgh, PA: Allegheny Riverfront Green Boulevard Plan

Constructing Pittsburgh's "Front Porch"

Pittsburgh has had much to celebrate in recent years. An influx of young professionals and a burgeoning knowledge-based economy are revitalizing the city. Once a faltering steel town prototypical of decline in the "rust belt," Pittsburgh was recently named [America's Most Livable City](#) by *Forbes Magazine*. However, these gains belie the city's struggles with its waterfront. Burdened by aging, underutilized industrial properties, the 6.45 mile stretch of land along the Allegheny River is one of the largest undeveloped parcels of riverfront in the United States.

Residents old and new have made it clear that the Allegheny Riverfront must adapt to the city's shifting needs and desires. As indicated in the 2011 *Allegheny Riverfront Vision Plan*, the river is now envisioned as both an economic hub *and* the city's "front porch," a bustling public space where the bonds of the community are sealed.

Pittsburgh looked to HUD to help realize their *Vision* with an action plan for a "[green boulevard](#)," an ambitious, yet achievable effort that will preserve the riverfront's green space, while also creating room for bikes, pedestrians, and passenger and freight rail. Now backed by a Community Challenge grant and DOT TIGER II planning grant, Pittsburgh Mayor Luke Ravenstahl believes the winning combination of livability and economic development will keep Pittsburgh on the path to success. He says this of the plan:

"Imagine a riverfront destination that you can easily walk to, bike to, and take public transportation to - and you can easily envision a place that sustains and attracts new residents and businesses. I want to thank all of our partners in the federal government for recognizing the importance of this project that will spur economic development and ensure that Pittsburgh sustains its 'most livable city' status for years to come."

"Imagine a riverfront destination that you can easily walk to, bike to, and take public transportation to - and you can easily envision a place that sustains and attracts new residents and businesses." -Mayor Luke Ravenstahl

Description

The Allegheny Riverfront Green Boulevard Planning project will include the development of a plan to convert an existing six-mile freight line into a green riverfront rail and trail corridor extending from downtown Pittsburgh to the city's eastern edge.

Federal Grants

2010 HUD Community Challenge Planning Grant: \$675,000
2010 Transportation Improvements Generating Economic Recovery (TIGER) II Planning Grant: \$825,000

Local Partner Commitments

Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh: \$330,000
Allegheny Valley Railroad Company: \$250,000

Local Partners

Urban Redevelopment Authority of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh Department of City Planning Riverlife
Southwestern Pennsylvania Commission

Achievements

- Working to align new bicycle-pedestrian path along the entire six miles of right-of-way, creating important new bike/ped connections in a corridor that is home to thousands of residents.
- Incorporated hundreds of area stakeholders into their community process through public forums, interactive online activities, and subject-based working groups.

For more information visit:

<http://www.greenboulevardpgh.com/hud.gov/sustainability>



