August 11, 2009

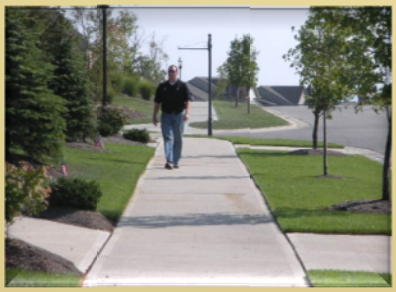
WEST CHESTER CONNECTIONS

Connecting

People

With

Places



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BACKGROUND

On March 28, 2006, the West Chester Board of Trustees adopted the plan, "A Vision for West Chester in 2025." Section 4.3 of the 2025 Plan provides as follows: *"We utilize multi-modal transportation to reduce automobile usage and congestion, and to facilitate transportation into, out of and around West Chester."*

In the spirit of the 2025 Plan, West Chester Community Development staff was charged by the Board of Trustees and the Township Administrator to create a connections plan for West Chester, utilizing a variety of pedestrian connection options including separate paths, sidewalks and wide shoulders. Pedestrian connectivity encouraged by this Plan includes all forms of transportation separate from motorized vehicles, such as walking and bicycling.

Staff conducted their initial analysis with the philosophy of "connecting people and places," and with an awareness of connectivity to adjoining communities and of the Miami-2-Miami regional plan. This West Chester Connections Plan is intentionally designed to be short and easy to review, understand and implement.

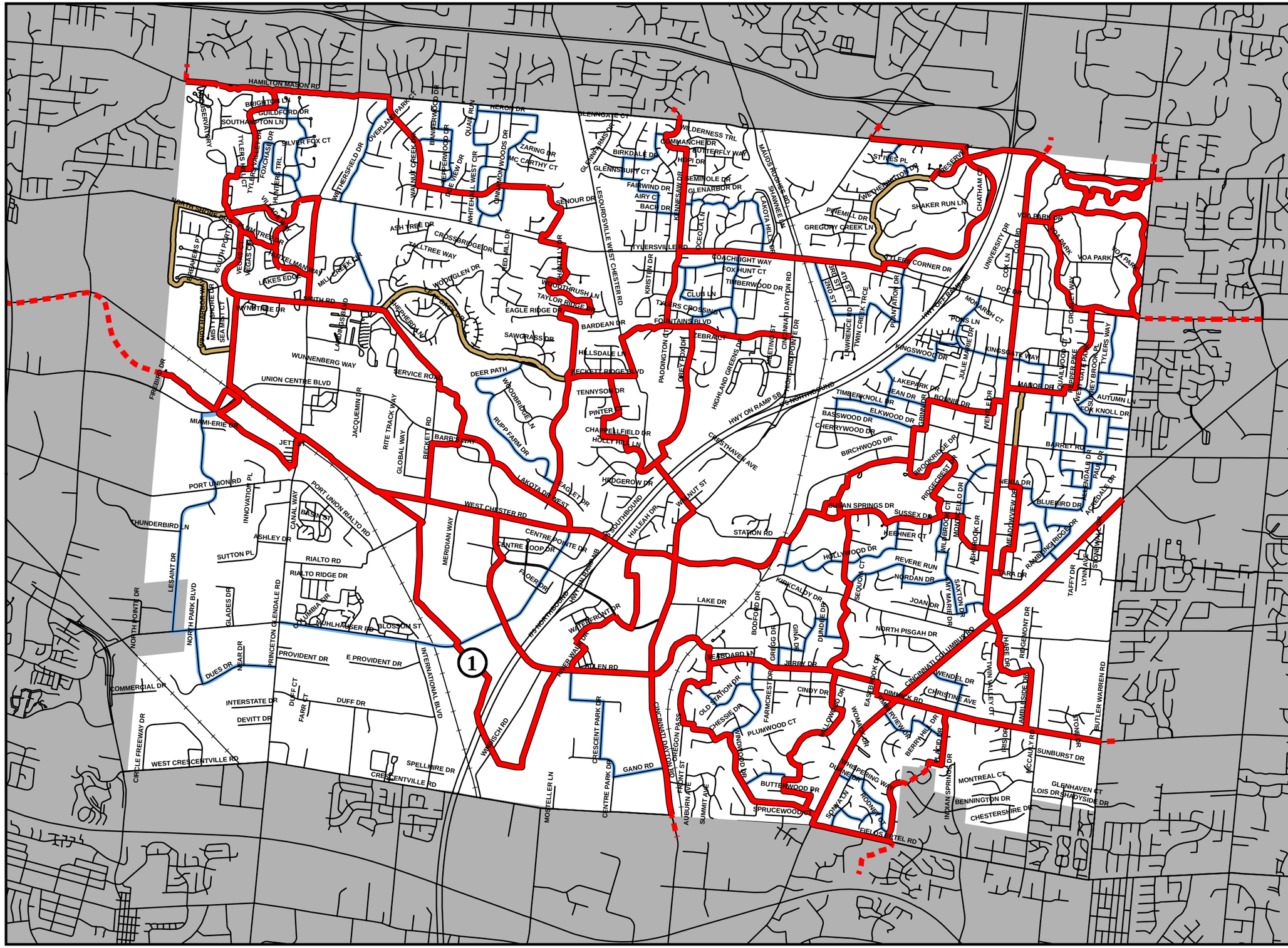
An important goal of this Plan is to allow citizens to enjoy West Chester without having to rely on the automobile. It is also intended to promote easy and safe pedestrian access to amenities in West Chester, such as shopping, parks, schools, library, etc., as well as to encourage activity, fitness and good health.

The Board of Trustees formed a citizen advisory group to assist staff in identifying key connections and routes. The committee was open to all interested. It met on a monthly basis to discuss ideas and locations of potential pathways, and also to provide input to staff.

Staff revised the Plan and expanded the proposed connections significantly based on the committee's input. Working papers are maintained in the Community Development Department archive explaining staff's reasoning of why committee recommendations were accepted, or in a few cases, determined not to be feasible.

The revised Plan was made available for further feedback from the committee, as well as any other interested person or group.

A public work session concerning the adoption of this West Chester Connections Plan was held by the Board of Trustees on October 14, 2008 where all interested persons were encouraged to speak on the Plan. The West Chester Connections Committee also held a public hearing on April 27, 2009. This Plan was adopted by the Board of Trustees on August 11, 2009.



West Chester OHIO

West Chester Connection

Other Jurisdiction

Private Pathway

Neighborhood Connectivity

1 Potential Conservation Corridor Pathway

2 Connections shown through private property will require the permission of the property owner.

N W E S

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 Feet

WC CONNECTIONS

WEST CHESTER TOWNSHIP
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9577 Beckett Road Suite 100
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513-874-6804 (fax)
www.westchesteroh.org

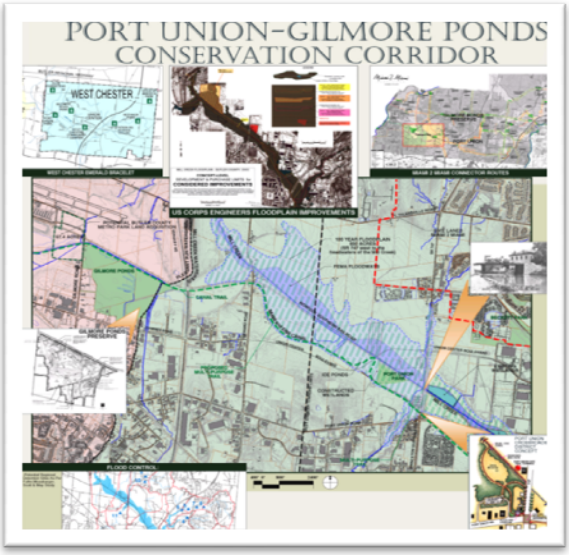
NEXT STEPS

1. The West Chester Connections Plan provides the framework for future infrastructure installation for pedestrian connectivity.

2. Staff will create and maintain an existing conditions trail map to track progress. This map will also serve as an information source for residents and visitors who want to use the connections that are in place.

3. Signage reminding motorists to "Share the Road" and generally to heighten awareness about ride share travel will be installed at key locations within the township.

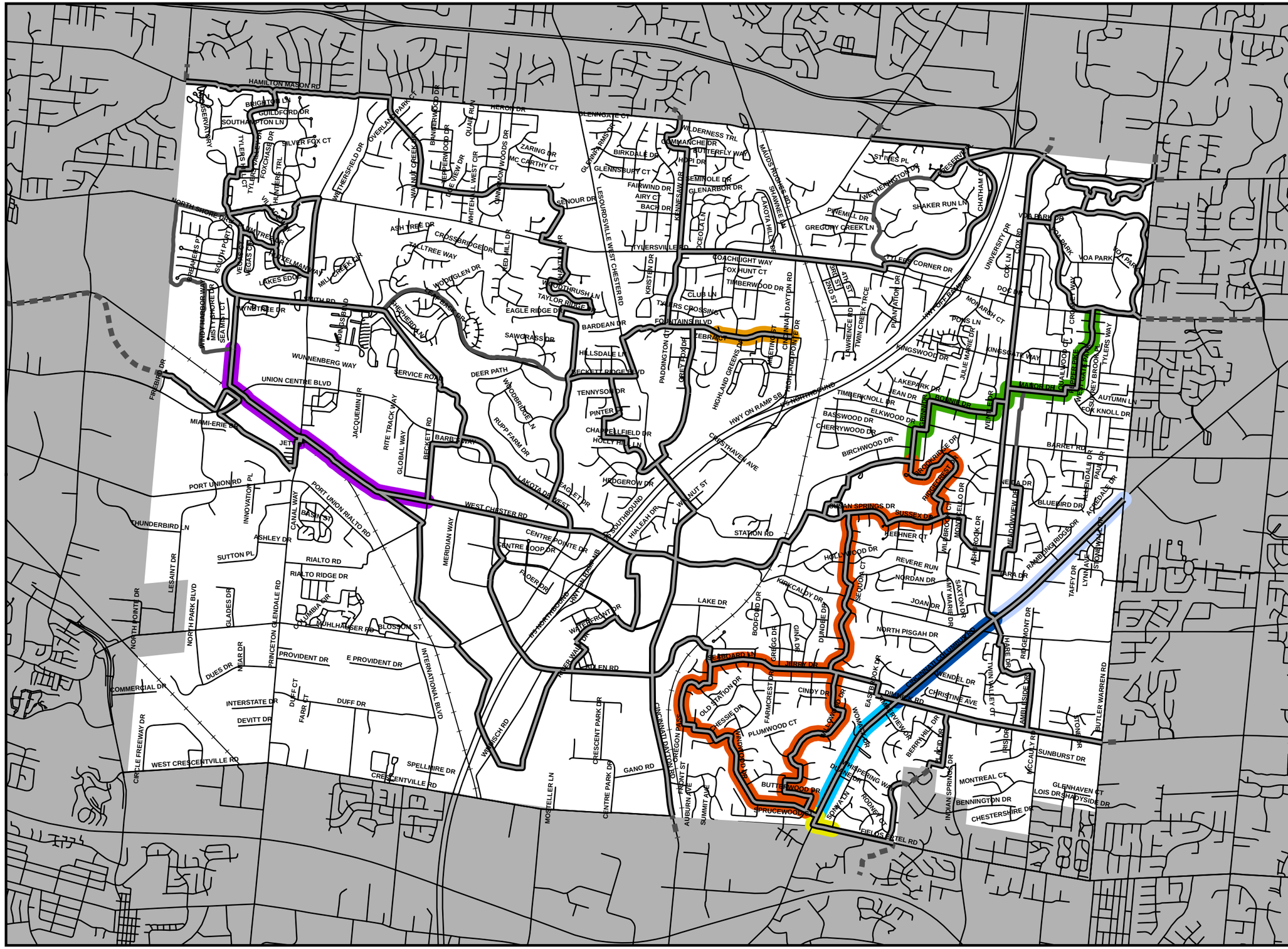
4. Staff will work toward the physical construction of the connections to result in realization of the Plan. Connection construction will hinge upon the availability of funding sources and special opportunities as they may arise. For example, certain grants may only be available for a particular type of connection, such as pathways through a conservation area;



or a connection may be complementary to a road project or private development. If there are no special circumstances, the connection may simply be most cost effective, such as connecting a large population center to a nearby destination through installing a small span of sidewalk.

5. The existence of this plan should not rule out other pathways or connections within West Chester. For example, citizens of a specific corridor or neighborhood may desire connections in their area. Where feasible, such additional paths and connections are to be encouraged by this Plan, not discouraged.

6. This Plan is a continuous evolving document that should be kept current through frequent updates and input by constituents. In that regard, the connection lines on the "WC Connections" plat contained within this Plan should not be viewed as the only route approved, but rather more conceptual in nature. If a better pathway becomes available that creates similar connectivity, then such an alternative pathway may be substituted.



WC CONNECTIONS

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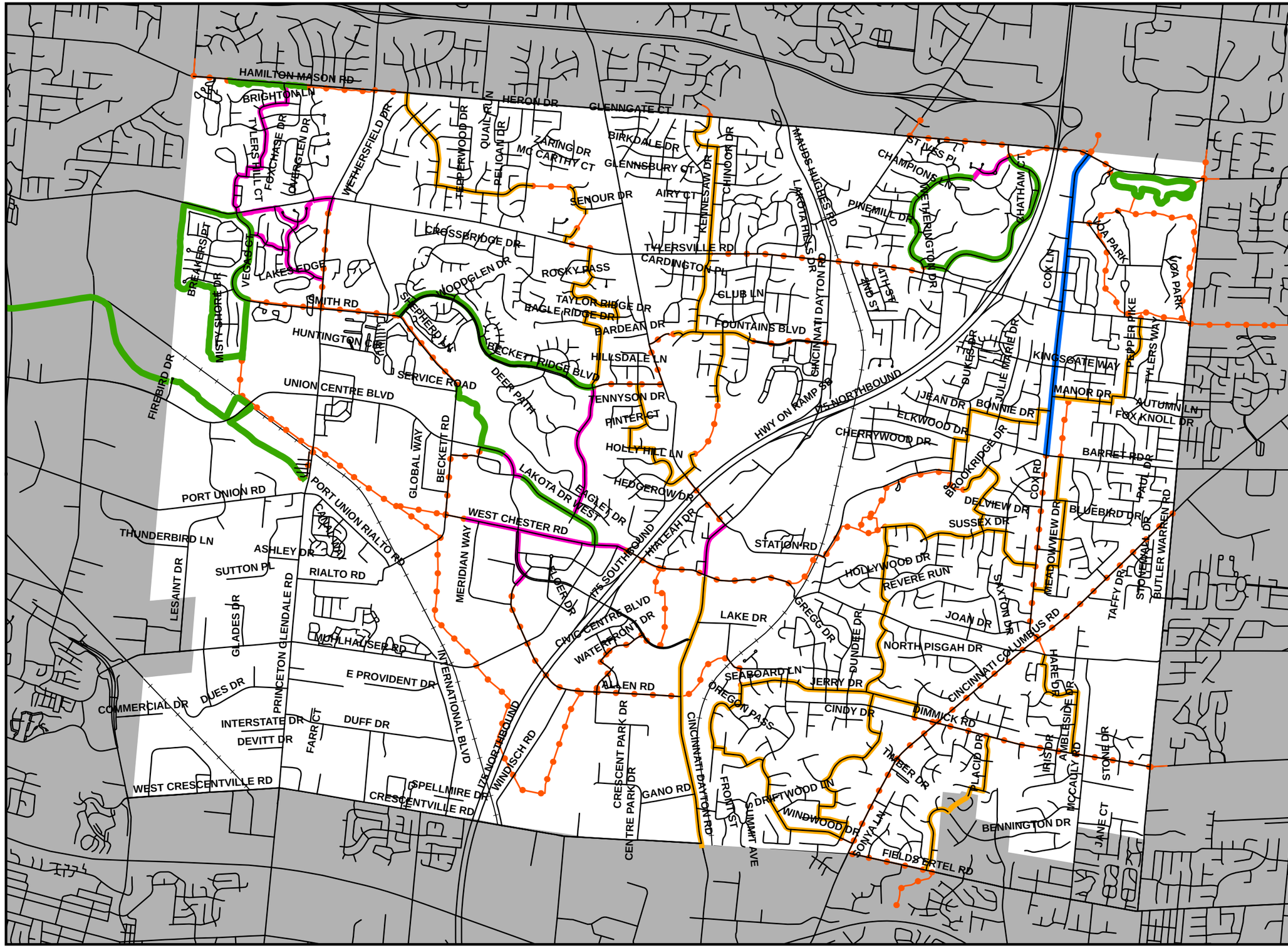

West Chester OHIO

EXISTING CONDITIONS

- Seperate Path
- Bike Lane
- Share The Road
- Sidewalk
- Future Connection

N W E S

0 1,000 2,000 3,000 4,000 5,000 6,000 Feet

Revised 8/11/09

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

West Chester Board of Trustees

- *George Lang*
- *Catherine Stoker*
- *Lee Wong*

West Chester Administrator

- *Judith Boyko*

West Chester Community Development Department Staff

- *Brian Elliff*
- *Bryan Behrmann*

West Chester would like to thank the following individuals for helping make this Plan become a reality and for their outstanding ideas to further connections in West Chester:

West Chester Connections Committee

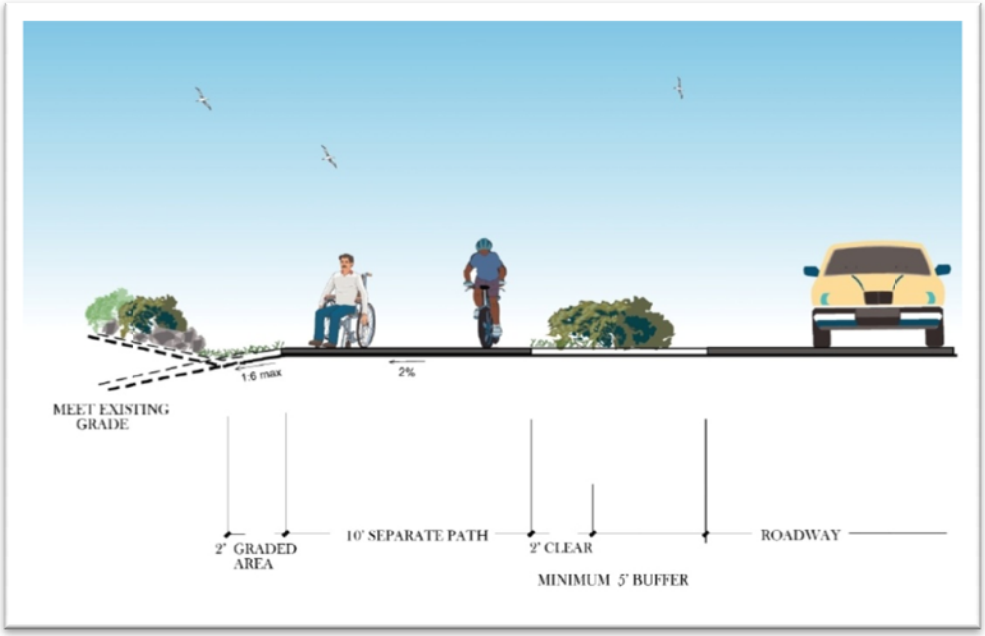
- *Walt Fick*
- *Paul Heintz*
- *Barb Hobe*
- *Maureen Parsons*
- *Judy Perkins*
- *Dan Remley*
- *Paul Szydlowski*
- *Tom VanMilligen*

- # APPENDIX

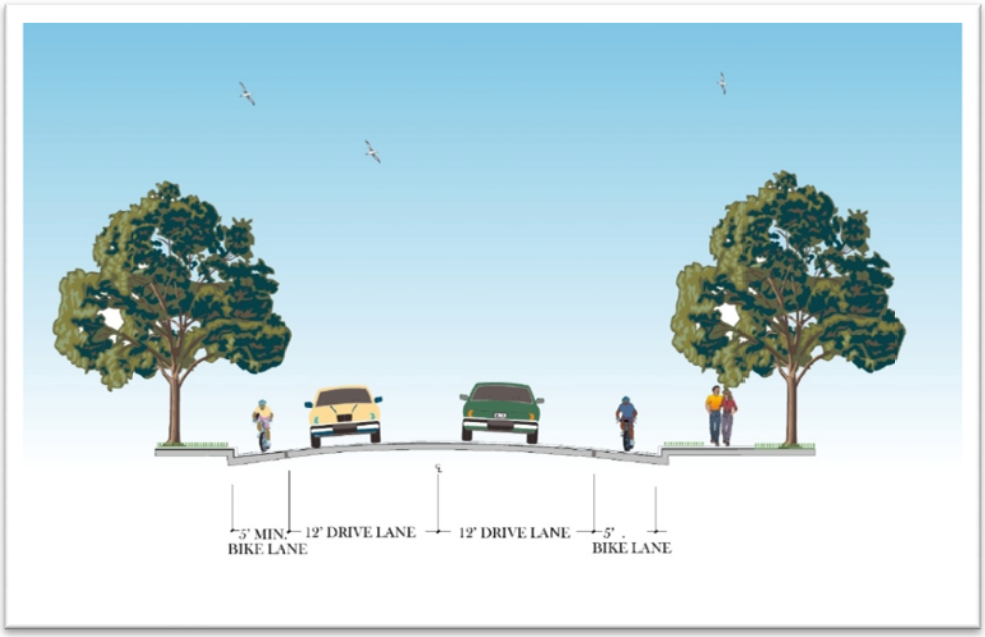
A. CONNECTION DESIGN GUIDELINES

For the purpose of the West Chester Connections Plan, four different types of connections are considered to be appropriate, which include a Separate Path, Bike Lane, Six Foot Sidewalk and Signed & Shared Roadway. The specific type of connection shall be determined on a case by case basis by the township, depending on the characteristics and surrounding area. The following is a list of each type of connection with an illustration of the expected design guidelines:

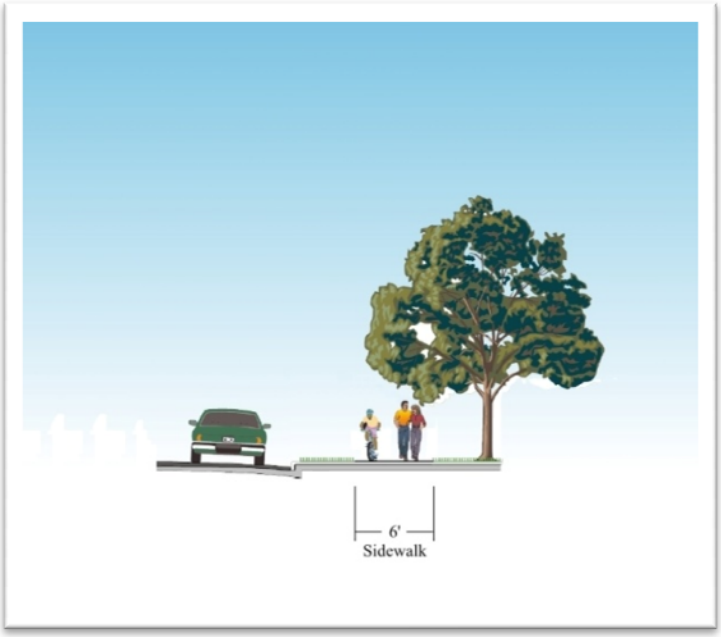
- **Separate Path**



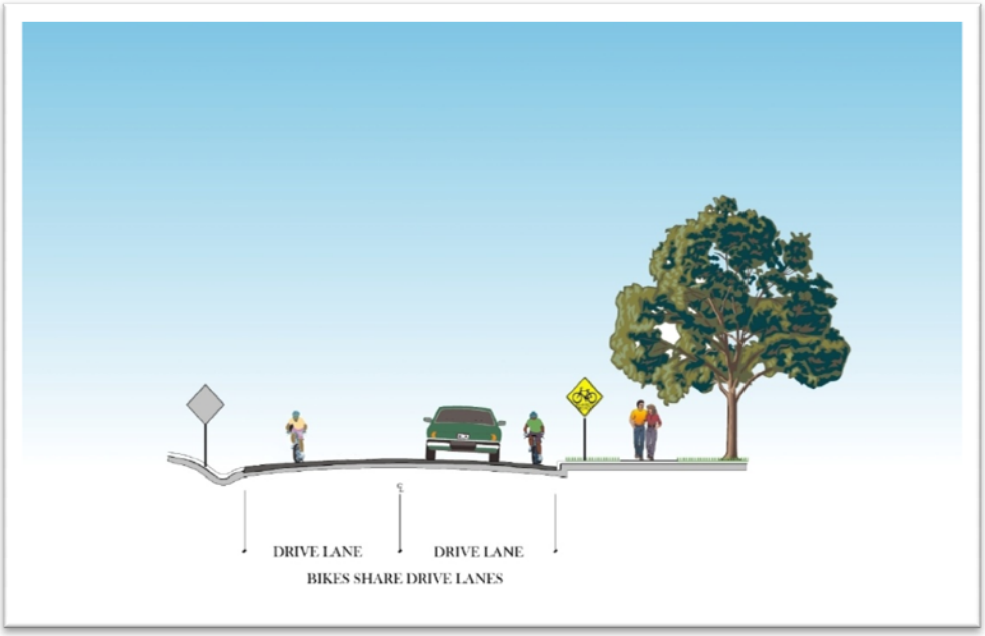
- **Bike Lane**



- **Six Foot Sidewalk**



- **Signed & Shared Roadway**



B. Connection Construction Standards

Regardless of the type of connection, to ensure the path is constructed to withstand normal use, the specific construction standard shall be determined by West Chester Township, in consultation with the Butler County Engineer's Office.