

Lower Township Offers Plan to Fill-In Bike Path Gap

ERMA- A gap currently exists between the bike paths of Lower and Middle townships shortening what could be a spectacular ride for cyclists.

Both bike paths end miles away from a connection point.

Lower Township is proposing a plan to offer cost savings in finishing the bike path to create a continuous bike trail extending from the Cape May-Lewes Ferry in North Cape May to the County Zoo in Cape May Court House.

Lower Township Mayor Michael Beck and council support working together with Middle Township Council to complete the bike path.

Lower Township Manager Mike Voll said he and Lower Township Planning Director Bill Galestock met with Middle Township officials last month to discuss jointly working on a project to complete the bike path.

Voll said the completed bike path could link bike paths in Delaware allowing cyclists to board the Cape May-Lewes Ferry, take the Cold Spring Bike Path to the Middle Township Bike Path and ride north all the way to the Cape May County Park and Zoo.

“That’s the ultimate goal of this project,” he said. “We’re working together in conjunction with our neighbors in Middle Township to make it happen.”

Galestock said Middle Township’s bike path currently ends near Indian Trail Road while Lower Township’s path ends at Lincoln Avenue, just short of Rio Grande. He said Middle Township’s section of the path would eventually extend south from Satt Boulevard in Rio Grande.

Galestock said both townships are seeking grant funding to complete their portions of the bike path.

Voll said he has offered the services of Lower Township’s Engineer George Curvan to design the remainder of the bike path and Lower Township’s Public Works Department to pave the trail. He said that would save taxpayers money in both townships.

“They could just pay us for our public works employees’ time and materials to pave it,” said Voll.

He said the project could be delayed if it gets bogged down with design and material costs. Ideally, the project would be completed in 2014, said Voll.

“I think it’s a homerun for both municipalities,” stated Jim Ridgway, assistant superintendent of parks and recreation for Lower Township.

Both townships are utilizing Atlantic City Electric right-of-way for the bike path.

(Photo from left to right: Mike Voll, Bill Galestock, Jim Ridgway)