

A person wearing a white t-shirt, white shorts, and a large green backpack is riding a bicycle away from the camera on a paved path. The path is surrounded by lush green trees and foliage. A wooden bench is visible on the left side of the path. The overall scene is bright and sunny, with dappled light on the ground.

**INGHAM COUNTY
REGIONAL TRAILS AND PARKS PLAN
PUBLIC INPUT MEETINGS**

October & November 2015

Purpose for the Meetings

- New County-wide millage passed in November 2014
- .5 mill per household over the next 6 years
- Yielding approximately \$3.5 million annually for a total of about \$20 million
- Will be used for a county-wide trails and parks network

Potential Expenditures

- Can be spent on:
 - New construction
 - Reconstruction
 - Preservation & Repairs
 - Operations & Maintenance
 - County Parks
 - Special Projects

Local Priorities and a Regional Vision

- Aim for completing local trail and park projects first but with a view towards the regional interconnected network
- Potential local projects: trailheads, restrooms, locally identified trail priorities
- Potential regional projects: uniform signage, connections to regional trails and parks, connections to other counties, water trail development

County Parks Planning

- National and state trends tie fitness and health to parks and recreation, including nonmotorized land and water trails and connectivity to parks.
- **Reminder:** The millage can be spent on County parks projects too (e.g., deferred maintenance projects, new improvements)
- The county parks and recreation master plan will be undergoing an update and public input process soon after the trails project is done
- Please complete the County parks survey handout tonight to help begin that process!

Project Team & Tasks

The team of Mannik & Smith Group and Michigan Trails and Greenways Alliance was hired to do the following:

1. Conduct an inventory and evaluation of all paved trails and trail bridges throughout the county
2. Conduct public meetings to receive input on:
 - Public demand for new trail connections
 - Public sentiment regarding millage expenditures
4. Bring best practices from Michigan and across the country to determine allocations and spending process.
5. Develop a capital improvement plan

Project Timeline

- Project will take place until February/March 2016
- Inventory and analysis is almost done
- Cost estimates will be determined
- Public input meetings have begun
- The Trails and Parks Task Force has been meeting and will continue to deliberate on the final process

Public Participation

Purpose

1. Inform public about the process for creating the plan
2. Input public demand for new trail connections
3. Gauge public perception on millage expenditure priorities

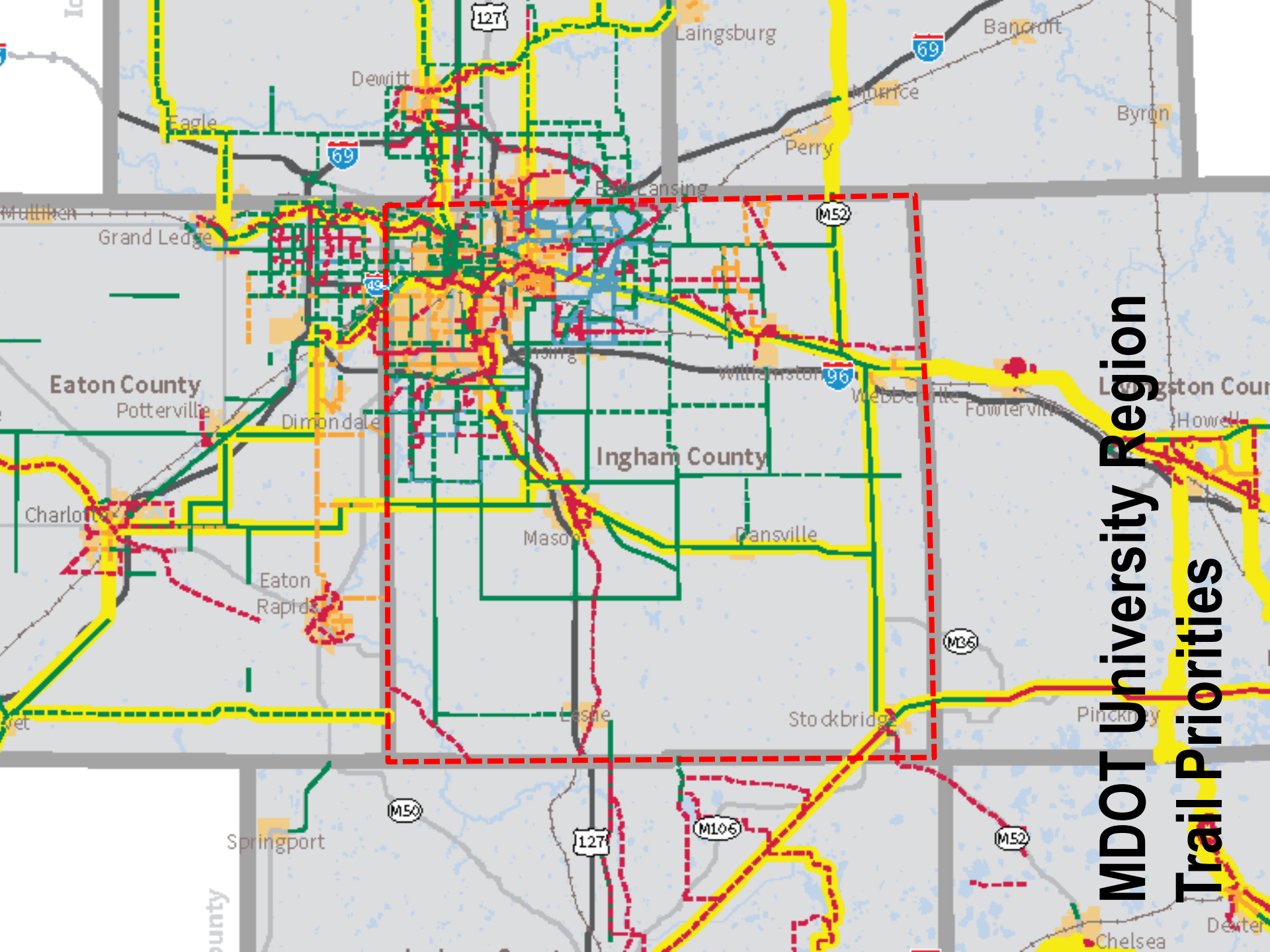
Public Input Meeting Format – Part A

A. Public Preference for Millage Expenditures

1. What does a high quality regional trail network and county parks system look like?
2. Add additional criteria to our list as well as expenditures that satisfy that criteria
3. Pick your top ten and weight them from 1 to 99 with 99 being the most critical

Priority Trail Corridors

- A lot of public input and prioritization has already happened over the past few years
- The most recent University Region nonmotorized plan gathered local priorities from nonmotorized and parks and recreation plans along with public input
- Every local nonmotorized and parks and rec plan has been assembled with public input



MDOT University Region Trail Priorities

Public Input Meeting Format – Part B

B. Priority Trail Corridors

- Make sure we've got everything including water trails
- Select your top 3 trail priorities
- Think of your personal favorite new project but don't forget to think county-wide (the Bigger Vision)
- Dot-voting on the map on yellow highlighted corridors or blueways
- If you are placing a dot on non-yellow highlighted corridors – identify specifics about it on the form

What's Next - Online Survey

- An online survey will be available soon on the Ingham County website within the next few weeks www.inghamcountyparks.org
- Tell anyone who cannot attend the meetings and wants to give input
- Further input about specific issues can be logged on the **Additional Comments** handout OR e-mailed to parks@ingham.org
- These will be logged in as part of the public input