

**Brilliant Branch Rails-to-Trails Project Request for Proposals
Addendum No. 1
Pre-Proposal Meeting
April 7, 2026**

Meeting Minutes

Attendees

1. Ann Ogoreuc, Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
2. Lauren Connelly, Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
3. Alan Sisco, Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
4. Jaclyn Karolski, Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
5. Eric Setzler, City of Pittsburgh Department of Mobility and Infrastructure
6. Lilly Freedman, Pittsburgh Urban Redevelopment Authority
7. Tony Miga, Aspinwall RiverTrail Park
8. HDR – Monica O’Neil
9. HDR – Kevin O’Connor
10. E. Holdings – Janai Williams
11. E. Holdings – Alexis Meier
12. E. Holdings – Amy Wiles
13. U Lead – Brigette Bethea
14. Evolve EA – James Hollister
15. Evolve EA – Christine Mondor
16. Urban Engineers – Ernie Kuhs
17. Urban Engineers – Angelo Waters
18. TPD – Katherine Kelly
19. TPD – Mike Mudry
20. TPD – Amanda Purcell
21. TPD – Nate Hokenbrough
22. KCI – Daphney Sweger
23. KCI – Leanne Doran
24. KCI – Brian Krul
25. Colliers Engineering & Design – Bradley Kughn
26. Toole – Kristin Saunders
27. Toole – Addie Weber
28. Toole – Alazar Feleke
29. Toole – Christina Keyser
30. Toole – Lindsay King
31. Stahl Sheaffer – Devin Lansberry

32. DLZ – Jamie North
33. DLZ – Daniel Davis
34. WRA – Eric Meyer
35. WSP – John Nicholson
36. AECOM – Andy Waple
37. AECOM – Lisa Brozey
38. AECOM – Lori Rossetti
39. Volkert – Joel Kirzner
40. Volkert – Oliver Boehm
41. Volkert – Thomas Vena
42. NV5 – Matt Ludwig
43. NV5 – Casey Ross
44. Pashek + MTR – Sara Thompson
45. Pennoni – Leon E. Jeziorski III
46. Pennoni – Darlene Schock
47. Pennoni – Linda Kaplan
48. WRT – David Ostrich
49. SAI – Erin Engel
50. SAI – Lance Andrews
51. Whitman, Requardt, & Associates, LLP – Sherry Hockenberry
52. McCormick Taylor – Ken Rich
53. McCormick Taylor – Carrie Machuga
54. RETTEW Associates, Inc. – Laurel Sciukas
55. RETTEW Associates, Inc. – David DiGioia
56. RETTEW Associates, Inc. – Matt Lokay
57. RETTEW Associates, Inc. – Jeanette Keylor
58. AKRF – Megan Schmidt
59. Michael Baker – Jamia Matthews
60. Michael Baker – Justin Miller
61. Michael Baker – Lance Chimka
62. GPD Group – Jim Hewitt
63. Mackin – Brandi Rosselli
64. TRC – Joel Schmoyer
65. ACTS – Marty Malone
66. ACTS – Andy Balchin
67. ACTS – Michelle Underwood
68. Axias – Thomas Joseph
69. Dave Fawcett

- 70. John Stephen
- 71. SmithGroup – Jen Miller
- 72. EPD – AJ Schwartz
- 73. EPD – Jacob Siegel
- 74. OHM – Gina Baker
- 75. JLP + D – Vanya
- 76. Lochner – Jeremy Marshall
- 77. Merritt Chase – Nina Chase

Meeting Summary

Project Partners

- Redevelopment Authority of Allegheny County
- Allegheny County Executive’s Office
- Allegheny County Department of Public Works
- City of Pittsburgh – Mayor’s Office, DOMI, City Planning, URA
- Allegheny RiverTrail Park
- Aspinwall Borough
- O’Hara Township
- Sharpsburg Borough

Brilliant Branch Overview

RAAC purchased the Brilliant Branch rail line from Allegheny Valley Railroad in April 2025. Efforts to acquire the branch for trail purposes go back about 10 years - and were initiated by the Allegheny RiverTrail Park. Their option to purchase the line was transferred to RAAC a few years ago.

Collectively the 3.6-mile line is known as the Brilliant Branch, but it is comprised of 4 branches.

The line has been railbanked which means AVR could re-activate rail service at some point in the future. We will not be able to change the grade or topography of the corridor that would prevent reactivation of rail service. We will need AVR’s permission for installation of any permanent structure, however, if they re-activate service, we would have to remove those structures at our expense. Installation of typical trail amenities is allowed.

The line includes 8 structures. Please refer to the summary table in the RFP for more information on each of the structures, which date back to the early 1900s. The summary information was taken from the Surface Transportation Board abandonment filing. We will want to confirm the bridge characteristics as a part of this process.

The line also includes nine public highway-rail crossings. Seven of those have already been suspended by the PUC. Two crossings remain active due to AMTRAK.

As part of the purchase and sales agreement, an easement was executed between AVR, RAAC, and AMTRAK. AMTRAK uses this area to turnaround its trains so that they face the correct direction for departing the AMTRAK station downtown. The easement area is the first 1,962 feet of the line – generally to the deadend of Lyric Street.. It is 26' wide – 13' from track center line. There is a bumping post at the northern end of the easement area.

The easement agreement allows for up to two trail crossings to be constructed within the easement area with AMTRAK approval. It's a pretty wide area – so we will be able to fit a trail alongside the track.

AMTRAK is responsible for inspecting and maintaining the Lincoln and Silver Lake crossings to FRA standards.

Scope of Work

The project is a three-phase consultant agreement.

Task 1 – Engagement and Planning

- The first subtask of Task 1 is very important because up to this point we have not done any outreach and engagement on this project. We know that people are very interested in the project and ready to provide input. We'll be looking for input for such things as trail features, amenities, neighborhood access, and environmental issues.
- Engagement mechanisms may include, but not be limited to in-person and virtual public meetings, key person interviews, focus group meetings, community organization meetings, and a project website (using Engage Allegheny), among others.
- Subtask 1B will include a thorough existing conditions assessment so we can understand any constraints, environmental conditions, and adjacent neighborhood characteristics going forward.
- Subtask 1C will result in the creation of a short-term plan and a longer-term plan for implementation. The short-term plan is what do we need to do to convert the corridor to trail, with access points and trailheads using what RAAC owns today. The longer-term plan may require partners to implement or help implement additional elements. That may include acquiring property for additional access points, implementing neighborhood access routes, and other trail elements such as art and landscaping. The consultant will develop a cost estimate for PE and final design the short-term plan. The consultant will also provide planning level estimates for those additional elements or follow-up studies identified in the long term plan.

Task 2 – Preliminary Engineering

The following elements are anticipated to be part of the preliminary engineering phase for the short-term plan.

- Prepare trail alignment plans and cross sections.
- Prepare a topographic survey.
- Conduct preliminary structural assessment and concepts for each of the bridges.
- Develop preliminary grading, drainage, and utility relocation plans.
- Identify permitting requirements and initiate agency coordination (e.g., PA DEP, Army Corps of Engineers).
- Refine cost estimates based on preliminary design.
- Provide support for grant applications (plans, estimates, maps).
- Update public and stakeholders on refined design.

Task 3 – Final Design Elements

The following elements are anticipated to be part of the Final Design phase of the short-term implementation plan.

- Prepare final construction plans, specifications, and cost estimates (PS&E package).
- Finalize structural bridge design.
- Provide signage, striping, ADA accessibility, landscaping, lighting, and trail amenities design.
- Coordinate with utility companies and include utility relocation plans as needed.
- Secure necessary permits and clearances.
- Provide support for grant applications (plans, estimates, maps).
- Update public and stakeholders on final design and implementation process.

Request for Proposals

1. Due Date: May 7, 2026 by 3:00 PM
2. Page Limit – 40 pages
3. Detailed Cost Proposal for Task 1 and related Task 4 only. Labor, overhead, and profit rates for Tasks 2 and 3 (and related Task 4)
4. 15 hard copies – 1 electronic copy
5. M/W/DBE and VOSB Goals - MBE: 13 percent, WBE: 2 percent, VOSB: 5 percent
6. Submit questions no later than April 17 at TrailPlanning@alleghenycounty.us

Proposed Timeline

Publish RFPP – March 27, 2026

Q&A Session – April 7, 2026

Fieldview – April 13, 2026

Proposals Due – May 7, 2026

Selection Committee Review and Evaluation of Proposals – May 7 to May 21, 2026

Consultant Interviews (if needed) – Week of June 1, 2026

Contract Award – June/July 2026

Questions and Answers

The following is a summary of the questions received at the meeting.

- Will the railroad be leaving the ballast?
 - Yes, the ballast will remain, but the crossties and track will be removed.
- Can the attendance list from this meeting be included?
 - Yes, the attendance list is part of the meeting minutes.
- Can you share the bridge inspection reports?
 - Yes. The most recent inspections conducted by AVR are available upon request at TrailPlanning@alleghenycounty.us.
- Are cover pages and divider pages included in the page count for the proposal?
 - No
- Will the presentation from today be shared?
 - Yes. The presentation is available upon request at TrailPlanning@alleghenycounty.us.
- Is there any known soil or groundwater contamination within the area of work? Should testing and/or remediation be included in the scope of work?
 - A Phase 1 ESA was done during Allegheny Rivertrail's Park's initial negotiation for purchase of the rail line. During internal review, it didn't look like there was contamination within the corridor. The Phase 1 ESA is available upon request to TrailPlanning@alleghenycounty.us.
- Do you anticipate NEPA clearance?
 - Yes, we anticipated utilizing federal funding for construction, so NEPA clearance will be required.
- Will resumes and project pages count towards the proposal page count?
 - Yes
- Do all project examples have to be recently completed or can they be currently ongoing?
 - Project examples can include projects that are currently underway.
- Are bridge plans available for all structures?
 - No, we do not have bridge plans.
- Are MBE/WBE/VOSB goals required?
 - Participants should try to utilize these firms to help us meet our goals, so they are strongly encouraged.
- Do you know if the bridge was tested for lead paints?
 - No

- When was the last time the bridges were inspected?
 - They were inspected within the last four years for rail use, not trail use.
- In the past bridge inspection reports, were the piers inspected and do you expect underwater inspections to be necessary?
 - We do not know if the piers were inspected. You can use your judgement if you think that underwater inspections will be necessary.
- What is the date we can expect the follow-up materials and answers to our questions from today?
 - We will post answers and requested materials from this meeting by the end of day Friday, April 10, 2026.
- Does the RFP specify what type of multi-use trail this project will have?
 - We will get input from the community and stakeholders on this. It will also depend on corridor width. We do not have any current expectations on how the corridor will be laid out.
- Do you expect an economic redevelopment plan as part of the long-term vision?
 - That will come out of the beginning of this process for what our partners would like to see. The County doesn't have regulatory land use powers in the communities that this trail goes through, but the municipalities may be interested in studying how to generate economic development from the trail.
- Could you provide the Allegheny County Department of Public Works Trail and Pedestrian Bridge and Tunnel Inspection Program Procedures?
 - Yes. The procedures are available upon request at TrailPlanning@alleghenycounty.us.