

*The Indianapolis Star March 6, 2003 Thursday City final Edition*

Copyright 2003 The Indianapolis Star  
All Rights Reserved  
The Indianapolis Star

**March 6, 2003 Thursday City final Edition**

**SECTION:** CITY STATE; TALKING POINTS Q&A; Pg. 3B

**LENGTH:** 461 words

**HEADLINE:** Trail would link history, culture

**BYLINE:** TIM EVANS

**BODY:**

City, business and civic leaders have been discussing the possibility of establishing a **cultural trail** that would connect pedestrians with sites and activities in the Downtown area. The Indianapolis Star talked with Metropolitan Planning Organization manager Michael Dearing about the concept.

What is the **cultural trail**?

It is envisioned as a dedicated bicycle and pedestrian trail that would link the cultural resources and districts of the regional center of Indianapolis, connect with the developing Indy Greenways system and further the principles of a walkable city.

Where would the trail go?

The concept is for the trail to be a loop connecting with existing greenways and Downtown. No route has been finalized, but we are looking at connecting sites like the World War Memorial, IUPUI, White River State Park, the state office building, the Eli Lilly campus and Downtown's cultural, arts, historic and business districts.

Would the trail require relocation and demolitions of businesses or homes?

We believe it could be done on existing rights of ways with little impact on business and residential districts.

What are the benefits of the trail?

The connectivity it would provide is the biggest thing. It would be a hub connecting all of the things we have to offer Downtown and providing opportunities for people to experience and learn about the history of the area. We also hope it would bring more people Downtown.

Why is the MPO involved?

We are trying to get people out of their cars . . . to cut down on pollution and traffic congestion. One of our jobs is to define ways to improve the way people get around on foot. There also are associated benefits, such as the health advantages from walking and bicycling.

How can people get involved in the planning?

A workshop is scheduled for March 17 at the Arts garden to get public input on the concept. There will be two sessions, at 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m., to enable as many participants as possible to explore the idea and to make recommendations on how to implement it.

What will you do with the information?

A follow-up workshop will be held April 28. If we hear a lot of good, positive feedback and come up with answers on how to pay for it, we will then look at how to move forward.

-----  
Michael Dearing


Title: Metropolitan Planning Organization manager, head of effort to explore concept of developing a **cultural trail** through Downtown.

Get involved: Workshops are planned for 2 p.m. and 6:30 p.m. March 17 at the Artsgarden to get public input.

Quote: "The concept of the trail is still in development. . . . If there is a favorable community response and we can find the funding, something could happen in as soon as two years."

-- Tim Evans

**LOAD-DATE:** March 7, 2003

:  
— Source: [News & Business](#) > [News](#) > [By Individual Publication](#) > | > [Indianapolis Star](#)   
— Terms: **"cultural trail"** ([Edit Search](#))  
— Mandatory Terms: **date from 10/29/2002**  
— View: Full  
— Date/Time: Wednesday, October 29, 2003 - 10:16 AM EST  
:

[About LexisNexis](#) | [Terms and Conditions](#)

[Copyright ©](#) 2003 LexisNexis, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved.