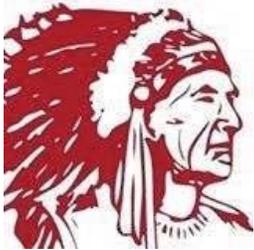


## Building a path to class

By Jane Beathard For The Madison Press

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A proposed asphalt walking path across London City Schools property between Sheffield Boulevard and state Route 38 received an informal go-ahead from the board of education on Tuesday.

Members of the local Safe Routes To School committee, led by Madison County Engineer Dave Brand, presented plans to construct a 10-foot wide, multi-use walking and biking path connecting housing on Sheffield Boulevard with access to London Elementary School.

Estimated cost of the proposed path is \$97,350. Federal, state and other grants will cover the amount, Brand said.

“We try to take the cost burden off local partners,” Brand said.

Committee member Wayne Roberts of Friends of Madison County Parks & Trails said a 20-foot easement on Sheffield Boulevard, recently acquired from Vision Development, Inc., pushed the project to the forefront. Ohio Edison, which owns a similar easement on the land, supports the effort.

When constructed, the path will connect with a similar multi-purpose trail near the school complex on Elm Street, Roberts said.

Brand said construction of similar walking and biking paths as part of the federal Safe Routes To School program are already underway throughout the city and county.

County information officer Rob Slane said paved paths can reduce school busing routes, along with associated costs to the district.

The City of London will eventually assume legal oversight of the proposed trail. Maintenance will fall to the school system.

Brand expects to apply for Safe Routes To School funding in April 2015 for the project. He will seek formal school board approval for an easement by March.

In other routine meeting business on Tuesday, school board members:

- Hired Dillan Shumaker as the district’s technology director through July 2016. Shumaker’s annual salary is \$61,000. Shumaker comes to London from Springfield Catholic Schools and was one of three finalists for the technology director’s position, Superintendent Tom Ben said.
- Agreed to post the position of Boys’ Freshman Basketball Coach for the 2014-15 season. Eleven students are interested in participating in the sport, Ben said.