

82 Greenlinks, Detroit, Michigan

DETROIT, MI - Plans are underway to bring a sustainable, livable environment to this city with the Corktown-Mexicantown Greenlinks project. The concerted efforts of urban architects, McIntosh Poris Associates and 511 Design are to bring in an extensive network of bicycle and pedestrian pathways that will connect the city's blighted areas to the widely-anticipated West Riverfront development.

With a \$100,000 grant from the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, the project developed by the Greater Corktown Development Corporation will provide nearly 15 miles of landscaped pathways. These will include 7.3 miles of bicycle lanes, 3.3 miles of off roads, shared-use routes, and 3.1 miles

of signed bicycle routes. The network will ultimately be connected to various greenway links that are being planned in seven other counties in Southeastern Michigan.

The Detroit bicycle lanes will provide a vital link to facilitate the multi-cultural Mexicantown and Hubbard communities to access the city's cultural, civic, business, and entertainment attractions. McIntosh Poris Associates, a local architecture firm that has been taking a critical role in revitalizing Detroit, joined 511 Design in this proactive plan to promote a healthy lifestyle and an environmentally smart transportation system that increases accessibility.

"Greenlinks directly addresses all the issues

our firm has envisaged throughout the past decade — urban vitality, livability, density, and mobility," says Michael Poris, AIA, principal of McIntosh Poris Associates. "These are the planning ideas that are at the heart of Detroit. Greenlinks gets people moving again."

The architects' proposed design transforms some of Detroit's bleakest, most under utilized roads and passages into vibrant corridors that will be landscaped, repaved, planted, and supplemented with appropriate bicycle lanes, pathways, and signages. The target area which fronts the Detroit River is bounded by West Grand Boulevard to the west, Martin Luther King Boulevard to the north, and the Lodge Freeway to the east.



(left) Final development showing infrastructure improvements, bike lane routes, signage routes, Southwest Detroit Riverfront Greenway, parks, and schools.

(right top) A bridge connecting 14th Avenue across the rail right-of-way would extend the importance of 14th Avenue as a bicycle commuting route.

(right bottom) Vernor Highway bike lane.



