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## Biking trail might be coming

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Proponents lobbying for years for a bicycle trail between Lunken Airport in the East End and downtown got some help from Cincinnati City Council on Wednesday – a law agreeing to let them continue working on a temporary trail while the city works on a permanent one.

A trail along the idle part of the Oasis rail line could be in use within about two years if the rest of the planning and fund-raising go as quickly as hoped, said supporter Jeff Schloemer. The private groups pushing for the trail, including the non-profit Ohio River Way and young professionals' Trail Yeah!, have started collecting money.

The temporary project will cost more than \$1 million, said Councilman Jeff Berding, who wrote the motion to support the private effort. Council's unanimous action was the key in helping the supporters move forward, he said, because it will help them in negotiating the legal agreements needed to use the rail property. The rail line is owned by the Southwest Ohio Regional Transit Authority.

"This was a huge step in the right direction for getting this done," Schloemer said.

Berding and Monzel said they hope this becomes the first step in extending the trail to the West Side and up the Mill Creek Valley. Berding said the city was "blessed to have such passionate" activists willing to work so hard.

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