

Southern Indiana Wheelmen Donates to Monon South Trail

BORDEN – A generous donation from Southern Indiana Wheelmen bicycling club has brought the campaign to add public restrooms along the Monon South Trail closer to reaching its goal.

The Southern Indiana Wheelmen (SIW) delivered a check for \$3,305 Wednesday to the Town of Borden and Radius Indiana. The town plans to restore the 1900–era Borden State Bank building by turning it into a new public restroom facility. The former bank, which also served as Borden Town Hall, is in an ideal location for serving the trail. It is located across from the trailhead, is close to Borden Town Hall and Borden High School. The Borden trailhead offers several amenities, including seating, shade and access to 24–Hour Trail Snacks & Drinks.

“We are so grateful to everyone who donated, shared our campaign, and cheered us on. This truly is a community effort!” said Brenna LaDuke, Town of Borden development coordinator.

“We have been looking for funding for this building since 2018, and we are thrilled that it is finally coming to fruition,” LaDuke said. “This project isn’t just about fixing up a building – it’s about preserving the history of the Old Borden State Bank, strengthening our downtown, and creating a space the whole community and visitors can enjoy for years to come. We are currently looking to complete the project by fall of 2026.”

The town launched a fundraising campaign on Patronicity in January with a goal of raising \$48,000. Successful campaigns are matched dollar for dollar by the Indiana Housing and Community Development Authority’s CreatING Places program. The effort to raise funds for the building’s renovation received a \$250,000 grant from Soln Tourism in 2025.

“We’re very excited to be able to contribute to this,” said Peggy Bannon, president of the Southern Indiana Wheelmen. Bannon explained the Southern Indiana Wheelmen had its annual awards banquet and the winners of the 50/50 raffle decided to donate their winnings to the Borden Bank campaign. Club members Tony Young and Jeannie Garrison–Young challenged the SIW to match their donation.

Bannon said the club agreed to match their gift with \$1,000 and went one step farther. “We put it out to the club to donate and we collected more donations,” she said. In all, the Southern Indiana Wheelmen gift came from 21 contributors.

The Monon South Trail has barely been open a year. Bannon said the cycling group has already logged many miles on the southern sections of the trail. “Weather permitting, we’re here every other Wednesday,” she said. “We’re always looking for something different and the Monon South Trail is beautiful and it’s safe.”

Cyclists can get a 25-mile out-and-back ride on the Monon South, 28 miles if they start at Deam Lake State Recreation Area.

Renovation is expected to begin in mid-May.

Phase 1 construction completed 20 miles of trail in the communities of Mitchell, Orleans, Campbellsburg, Salem, New Pekin and Borden. Last month Radius Indiana received \$1 million federal funds to build a trailhead in Mitchell. When completed, the Monon South Trail will span about 60 miles.