

PARTNERSHIP FRAMEWORK · SAFE STEITZ INITIATIVE

Safe Steitz Initiative: Partnership & Cost Sharing Framework

A proposed framework for shared responsibility between Concord Township, Liberty Township, and Delaware County for the Safe Steitz Pathway Connection.



419
Households
 served

1,180
Residents
 impacted

318
Children <18
 in service area

3
Stakeholders
 public partners

“The Safe Steitz Pathway Connection is not solely a Concord Township project, a Liberty Township project, or a Delaware County project. It is a shared public safety, connectivity, and access initiative.”

PURPOSE

Why a collaborative model.

- ✓ This is a regional connectivity and public safety initiative.
- ✓ It improves access to a county-owned public asset.
- ✓ It enhances pedestrian and bicycle safety.
- ✓ It benefits residents and businesses across multiple jurisdictions.
- ✓ A collaborative funding and ownership model is the most equitable path forward.

WHO BENEFITS

Three stakeholders, one corridor.

<p>Concord Township</p> <p>Largest group of identified beneficiaries</p> <p>335 households · 943 residents · 254 children</p> <p>Safer access to the library, children's programming, community events, public services, restaurants, retail destinations, and future corridor amenities.</p>	<p>Liberty Township</p> <p>Host township for the corridor and destinations</p> <p>84 households · 237 residents · 64 children</p> <p>Hosts the Liberty Township Branch Library, Johnson's Ice Cream, Parlor Doughnuts, FOMO Pizza, Liberty Beer & Wine, Hoseki Sushi, and other commercial destinations. Benefits from improved local mobility, business accessibility, and pedestrian safety.</p>	<p>Delaware County</p> <p>Operator of the public asset served by the connection</p> <p>Part of the Delaware County District Library system · serves multiple townships</p> <p>The Liberty Township Branch is part of the Delaware County District Library system. The project improves access to a county public asset and supports attendance, children's programming, educational access, and equity of access to public services.</p>
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~80% of identified residents live in Concord Township; the remaining 20% live in Liberty Township — the host of the corridor, library, and commercial destinations.

EXISTING ACCESS CHALLENGE**A safety gap shared by all three.**

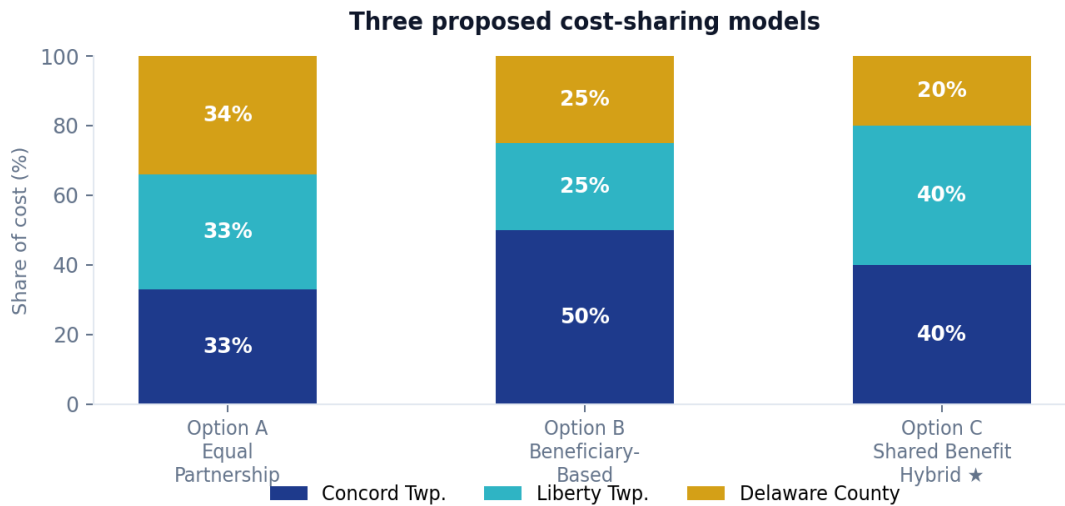
- ! Library and impacted neighborhoods are on the same side of Steitz Road.
- ! Residents currently have limited safe options.
- ! The Liberty Grand alternative requires crossing Steitz Road twice.
- ! The roadway is posted at 45 MPH.
- ! The alternative adds 0.3 miles and ~20% to some trips.
- ! Shoulder travel is unsafe and lacks dedicated pedestrian/bicycle infrastructure.

SHARED BENEFITS JUSTIFY SHARED RESPONSIBILITY**Each entity gains something distinct.**

Entity	Primary benefit
Concord Township	Safe access for the majority of residents and families served
Liberty Township	Improved safety, connectivity, and access to township destinations and businesses
Delaware County	Improved access to a county-owned library serving residents from multiple jurisdictions

COST SHARING MODELS

Three options for an equitable split.



OPTION A

Equal Partnership

Concord · Liberty · County → 33% / 33% / 33%

ADVANTAGES

- ✓ Simple
- ✓ Easy to communicate
- ✓ Recognizes shared ownership
- ✓ Avoids disproportionate burden

OPTION B

Beneficiary-Based Allocation

Concord · Liberty · County → 50% / 25% / 25%

ADVANTAGES

- ✓ Reflects that ~80% of identified households are in Concord Township
- ✓ Aligns investment with user concentration

Challenge: May place too much burden on where residents live rather than where the infrastructure and destination exist.

OPTION C · ★ RECOMMENDED START

Shared Benefit Hybrid

Concord · Liberty · County → 40% / 40% / 20%

ADVANTAGES

- ✓ Recognizes Concord Township as the primary source of users
- ✓ Recognizes Liberty Township as the host of the corridor, library, and commercial destinations
- ✓ Acknowledges Delaware County's ownership/operation of the library
- ✓ Creates a balanced framework that encourages partnership rather than assigning responsibility to a single entity

ADDITIONAL PARTNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES

Contributions don't have to be only financial.**Concord Township**

- ✓ Funding contribution
- ✓ Grant administration
- ✓ Community outreach and engagement

Liberty Township

- ✓ Funding contribution
- ✓ Easement coordination
- ✓ Right-of-way management

Delaware County / DCDL

- ✓ Funding contribution
- ✓ Grant support
- ✓ Engineering support
- ✓ Project advocacy
- ✓ Public engagement and awareness

RECOMMENDED DISCUSSION FRAMEWORK

“The objective should not be determining which entity is solely responsible for the project. Instead, the discussion should focus on how three public entities can collaboratively improve access to a county asset that serves residents from both townships while supporting local businesses and improving safety along an increasingly active corridor.”

“The question is no longer whether residents would use such a connection, but how the responsible stakeholders can work together to deliver it.”

SOURCES & METHODOLOGY

Underlying data behind the framework.

Delaware County Auditor GIS

Residential parcel data within the study area

U.S. Census Bureau

Demographic data for population and age estimates

Geoapify Routing API

Bicycle distance and travel-time calculations

Delaware County District Library

Liberty Branch operational context

Percentages in cost-sharing options are proposed starting points for discussion, not binding allocations. Final cost-sharing terms would be determined by participating entities.