



For Immediate Release

October 16, 2026

Regional Trail Corporation Retains GFT Engineering Firm to Develop Specialized Remediation Plan for Kennywood GAP Trail Segment

Allegheny County, PA – The Regional Trail Corporation (RTC) today announced that it has formally engaged engineering firm GFT Infrastructure (formerly Gannett Fleming) to serve as the lead rockfall engineering firm for the Kennywood segment of the Great Allegheny Passage (GAP). GFT's Vice President and Geotechnical Practice Leader, Mathew Morris, P.G., is personally serving as the project manager overseeing the structural evaluation and design of a new remediation strategy.

The trail segment between the Whitaker flyover and the Port Perry flyover in West Mifflin has remained closed for safety following initial scaling operations by Rockstars Slope Stabilization, a specialized contractor. During that work, crews identified two exceptionally large, highly unstable rock formations that pose immediate safety hazards to workers and trail users, as well as to the trail itself and the rail lines below. Since those initial findings, two additional slide events have occurred along the slope, confirming the unstable nature of the hillside.

"Our highest priority remains the safety of trail users and contractors," said Mark Place, RTC Board Chair. "By bringing GFT on board directly to oversee engineering design and remediation management, we are ensuring this complex geological issue receives top-tier expertise. GFT has recommended a distinct engineering approach, and they are actively designing a targeted solution to permanently stabilize the slope so we can safely reopen this vital corridor."

Once GFT finalizes the engineering plan, contractors will work under direct contract with RTC to execute the remediation. The RTC Board of Directors re-confirmed that the trail segment will remain closed until all necessary repairs are completed.

To date, over 1,700 trail travelers have utilized the shuttle service with funding support from the Great Allegheny Passage Conservancy (GAP-C) to safely bypass the closed segment. Thanks to additional funding committed by GAP-C, that service (\$20/person between

Homestead and Duquesne) has been extended through the end of October, from 9 AM to 5 PM daily with pick-up and drop off remaining at the same locations.

Beginning November 1, it's recommended that travelers initiate, arrange in advance, and hire a shuttle from among the services listed at <https://gaptrail.org/where-to-go/sites-amenities/shuttles/>. The closest service to this segment closure is [Bill's Car and Transport](#), based in Pittsburgh.

RTC maintains its strong recommendation that cyclists **do not use State Route 837** as an alternative route. High traffic volumes, limited shoulder width, and vehicle speeds present serious hazards. Cyclists opting to use roadways do so at their own risk.

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About the Regional Trail Corporation:

The mission of the Regional Trail Corporation is to acquire, develop, manage and maintain appropriate trail and water corridors within southwestern PA in partnership with local trail chapters and councils to promote opportunities for recreation, volunteerism, education, tourism, economic development, and historic and environmental conservation.

The RTC manages sections of the [Great Allegheny Passage](#), the Five Star Trail, the Coal and Coke Trail, and the Westmoreland Heritage Trail. All are maintained, monitored and promoted by volunteers.