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THE LONG AND WINDING ... TOWPATH

I commend Michael Gill on "Trail of Years" (July 27), which provides an accurate update on the situation regarding the extension of the Towpath Trail and the role Ohio Canal Corridor is playing.

However, although it seems like 25 years, I must correct one thing — we've only been at this for 20 years.

I am hopeful that your readers have heard other related news from Washington, D.C. A TEA-LU (Reauthorized Transportation Bill) has passed with more than \$6 million earmarked to begin the formal work to design/build the Towpath Trail. Great news for Cleveland — a hard-fought team victory.

The biggest challenge that awaits relates to finding the necessary local match dollars to lever other federal transportation funds and state funding. We all await the decision by the city of Cleveland and Mitch Schneider to designate a [Tax Increment Financing] District on Steelyard Commons that will generate the much-needed local match funding. The TIF could generate upwards of \$5 million towards the Towpath and Canal Basin Park.

For those interested in an active role in helping to build the Towpath Trail: Sign up to run in our 2005 Towpath Marathon, Team Relay and/or 5K run. This year, Ohio Canal Corridor is introducing a "pledge component" where participants can solicit contributions to invest in a dedicated account to build the "local match" dollars we need to lever state and federal funds for the Towpath construction. Visit our Web site: www.ohiocanal.org.

Tim Donovan
Ohio Canal Corridor

Editor's note: The same story said that planner Richard Sicha works for the Northeast Ohio Area-wide Coordinating Agency, when in fact he works for the Cuyahoga County Planning Commission. We have already beaten ourselves ruthlessly, and rest assured we did not enjoy it.