

West Trail plan was thought out

The Commercial Record

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To the editor:

As President of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail, I write to rebut the suggestion in a recent article in the Local Observer and in a Letter to the Editor of The Commercial Record that there was a lack of planning for the Trail, which resulted in it being built on the wrong side of Blue Star Highway.

To the contrary, much planning was undertaken by the initial Visionary Committee that first planned the Trail. That group included engineers from the Allegan County Road Commission, Michigan Department of Transportation and others, as well as representatives of all the towns through which the Trail would pass.

The consensus of the group was that the west side presented the best route for the Trail for three main reasons:

- 1) It would provide better views of and access to Lake Michigan,
- 2) More of the commercial establishments are located on the west side, and
- 3) Substantially more of the potential users of the Trail are located on the west side, between the highway and the lake; it made no sense to require them to cross the highway to reach a trail on the east side.

Moreover, these factors are important to MDOT in evaluating a grant application. We also understand that Saugatuck Township designed its trail along Holland Street, to which our Trail will connect, to run along the west side because of better access to the Beeline Trail through Laketown Township to Holland.

Saugatuck Township also prefers the west side for the Blue Star Trail because it plans a stop at Alamanchier Park on the west side (again a positive factor for a grant application) and because there is a major 12-inch water main that runs along the east side.

John Adams
President Friends of the Blue Star Trail