

Time has come to support trail

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To the editor,

As cyclist and an avid environmentalist, I support the Friends of the Blue Star Trail and strongly urge Saugatuck City Council to approve the latest Trail design.

I've been a full-time and civically active Saugatuck resident for more than 18 years. Initially, I had questions similar to those of council regarding the trail's look and effect on the taxpayers.

During the last couple years, I have followed discussions between council and the Friends, attended information sessions and discussed the project with many other residents of both Saugatuck and Douglas. I am now convinced that the Trail will be a positive addition to the city and surrounding communities.

The engineers for both the city and Friends seem to have addressed all of Council's concerns regarding safety, aesthetics and the initial cost to build the short section of the trail through the city. The recent images of how the Trail will look are a big improvement.

I also believe that adding a traffic signal at Lake Street, which will operate seasonally, is necessary.

Council's latest concern that the trail will create a burden on taxpayers in the future is ill founded. Other cities, large and small, view bicycle trails as a recreational and transportation asset to be supported for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. The trail will be an integral part of our regional infrastructure network.

Kathleen Klage - Saugatuck