

# Bike trail plan deserves our support

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To the editor,

As avid cyclists, we are always interested in how other communities safely provide for this healthy activity.

This summer we had the chance to experience the cycling communities in Traverse City, Minneapolis and Los Angeles. The common theme is that each has made a solid commitment to the development and maintenance of their non-motorized trail systems. Each city has multiple miles of safe, well maintained trails that attract all sorts of users, promote healthy lifestyles, create new jobs and promote local businesses.

Despite the fact that the Blue Star Trail is already in place in both Douglas and Saugatuck Township, and after many years of public requests, the current city council has yet to approve a safe continuation through Saugatuck.

Most concerning to us is the Lake Street/Blue Star Highway intersection that is remarkably confusing and seriously dangerous. Frankly, we are surprised that no cyclist nor pedestrian has been injured or killed there.

The Friends of the Blue Star Trail organization has done an amazing job interfacing with federal, state and local organizations to develop and fund a continuation of the Blue Star Trail through Saugatuck.

With the leadership and commitment of this organization, we are halfway to accomplishing our goal of safe cycling through Saugatuck and along the lakeshore.

Our hope for a resolution to the non-motorized trail in Saugatuck could be less than one month away as three candidates have professed their commitment to the Blue Star Trail in recent League of Women Voters interviews.

We need a healthy, vibrant, forward-looking community. On Nov. 3 please support completing a safe, non-motorized trail between Saugatuck and Douglas.

John and Barbara Ludlow  
Saugatuck