



February 20, 2018

To Whom it may Concern:

The Casco Township Board strongly supports the Blue Star Bike Trail Project. The trail is to be located along the fastest growing area in the township. The six miles of Lake Michigan Shore has always been highly sought after property for residential development and tourism. The advent of municipal water and sewer has enabled the area to accommodate more development and more people.

Many of these people are participants in the Friends of Blue Star Trail. Casco Township has housed the Friends of Group for a number of years and our Township Hall is the official address of the organization. They have given their donations of time and money to bring the project along this far. There has been much effort by many entities and the Friends of group has coordinated activities and tasks in an effective manner.

In addition, the trail will provide a very attractive and safe access (immediately adjacent) to the Casco Nature Preserve. This is a newly developed 20 acre township park with stair access to Lake Michigan.

The trail project should enhance the value of the entire area and provide a very attractive amenity for not only current residents but those looking to relocate and the many summer tourist. Also, the economic impact will be significant and provide any investment with a nice rate of return.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allan Overhiser". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Allan Overhiser

Casco Township Supervisor

TOWNSHIP OF GANGES
County of Allegan

Mary Puglise, Clerk
1904 64th Street
Fennville, MI 49408
(269) 543-8316

Tom Doane, Assessor
1904 64th Street
Fennville, MI 49408
(616) 485-7740

John Hebert, Supervisor
2107 68th Street
Fennville, MI 49408
(269) 543-4634

Cindy Reimink, Treasurer
6438 119th Avenue
Fennville, MI 49408
(269)543-3451

Tasha Smalley, Zoning/Bldg
111 Grand Street
Allegan, MI 49010
(800) 626-5964

February 22, 2018


Jeanne Van Zoeren, Princ.
7205 Point Betsie
South Haven, MI 49090

Dear Ms. Van Zoeren:

The Ganges Township Board met on Tuesday, February 13, 2018. At that open meeting, a motion was presented and such motion carried, to continue to support the construction, through Ganges Township, of the proposed non-motorized trail (which approved portion shall be owned solely by the County of Allegan, and not by Ganges Township).

The Ganges Township Board, in conjunction with Allegan County Road Commission, supports your application for grant funds.

Sincerely,



Mary Puglise, Clerk
Ganges Township

cc: John Hebert



March 2, 2018

Friends of the Blue Star Trail
7104 107th Ave.
South Haven, MI 49090-9678

Dear Friends of the Blue Star Trail:

This letter is written in support of your attempt to obtain funding for the Blue Star Trail through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund. This endeavor to connect the trail will significantly enhance the experience and usability of the trail for our residents and visitors, alike.

Developing non-motorized transportation routes are essential elements for the wellbeing and quality of life for residents and an indispensable economic development tool for the communities in Allegan County. These trails are also a popular recreational activity, attracting visitors and enhancing their overall travel experience.

The connected 23-mile trail system called the Blue Star Trail that connects South Haven to the Saugatuck/Douglas area is a collaborative effort of local, regional, and state agencies. The Blue Star Trail is a critical north-south link in the overall non-motorized and green infrastructure network in Southwest Michigan and West Michigan regions. The City of Douglas has identified the provision of non-motorized transportation facilities and greenways as a priority in the future planning the City as well as throughout Allegan County and Southwest Michigan in order to improve connectivity between communities, places of interest and destinations and enhance quality of life and recreational opportunities for residents and visitors in the region. This effort benefits all of the communities, businesses, residents and visitors.

The City of Douglas is a supporter of the Friends of the Blue Star Trail, the Friends' endeavors to facilitate non-motorized transportation routes within our area and expanding throughout the state, and of the initiative to obtain MNRTF funds to further this process. Thank you for the insight and effort to undertake this project.

Sincerely,

William LaFevere
City Manager



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William LaFevere
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